

Reading Response Journals: In-class writing assignment questions

EXAPLES – Weeks 1 to 6

1. What makes a neighborhood a community?
2. What is the “street ballet”?
3. What were some of Whyte’s findings about seating and plazas? What did you find surprising about Whyte’s findings?
4. What is your urban ritual?
5. What does it mean to study cities from the perspective of political economy?
6. How do the homeless become criminalized?
7. What is environmental racism?
8. What is capitalism? Describe the transition from merchant to industrial to global economy?
9. Define the characteristics that make a small town different from modern urban society?
10. What does Davis criticize about L.A.?
11. How has L.A. been militarized?
12. What does Davis mean by urban apartheid?
13. Explain the transition from commercial to industrial to corporate capitalism. How is this different from my explanation of the shift from merchant to industrial to world capitalism?
14. What are some differences between the neoclassical explanation and political economic explanation of urban growth and patterns?
15. What is zoning and who is responsible for it? What is restrictive zoning?
16. How does metropolitan growth mean largely suburban growth?
17. What contributed to the shaping and forming of suburbs?
18. Explain gentrification.
19. What is Fordism?
20. Describe some of the differences between the design, urban planning and growth of cities in Western Europe compared to the United States.
21. How was Soviet style urban planning different from Western cities?
22. What are global cities?
23. What are some characteristics of cities in the developing world?