Reflective Essay

This class was probably the one I was anticipating the most. I was not sure what to expect but that just added to my curiosity. Before this course, I was accustomed to people speaking about the fall of Detroit using negative tones. However, this class introduced an entirely new way of seeing the fall of Detroit. This course helped me to understand not only the structure of urban cities, but the mindset and priorities of the people who live there and those who abandoned the city in favor for the quiet suburbs.

I learned best through Dean Herron’s lectures and the passport events. In my opinion, the readings were long and hard to get through. The pieces themselves were tedious and hard to understand at times, and remembering the works for essays and the exam was challenging. Also, considering how many different pieces we read, differentiating between the various authors and their philosophies was difficult. However, Dean Herron’s lectures were interesting and, for once, I was excited for Monday morning every week. Herron can break down concepts and put them in terms that are easily comprehendible. The passport trips and local trips during seminar were my favorite, they got us out into the city and put the course into context. These trips solidified the main concepts for me. The Redford Theater was my favorite trip and I loved *Modern Times.* I can see myself returning to the theater for their Saturday showings.

Overall, I had a love hate relationship with this class. I loved the concepts and the city, but I hated the readings-which were a huge chunk of the course. However, this course is incredibly valuable for students to understand the philosophy behind the demise of Detroit. With this knowledge, students can take part in the revival of the city.