

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR 10/20

1. These three observers of the city use different tactics to get their respective messages across to the reader, ranging from sermonizing to satire. What tactics did you find most persuasive? How have these approaches held up over time?
2. “Environmental determinism” is the idea that the built environment – buildings, roads, sidewalks, parks and public spaces – shapes human social relations and individuals’ mental states and behaviors. How do the three readings this week presume some degree of environmental determinism? What are the supposed behavioral and social effects of different kinds of urban environments, according to these authors?
3. What sort of commentary do these writers make on the lives of women in urban and suburban environments? What about these places makes women’s experiences different than those of men? How has this changed over time?
4. What are these authors telling us about urban diversity – ethnic, economic, and racial? Are there characterizations reflective of urban reality?
5. Why do you think these authors are having these kinds of responses to cities and suburbs? What would you guess about their backgrounds and biographies that would make them respond this way? What do their responses tell you about the broader historical moment in which they are writing?