Cities and Communities

SOC 4085/6085

Fall 2011

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Office hours: 12:05PM-1PM TTh

Course Description. This course examines how cities and city life are shaped by social, cultural, political, and economic forces operating at many different levels. It also deals with how diverse groups of residents of particular urban places relate to what their cities are like and how they change. Finally, the course also explores how different urban environments, such neighborhoods, influence the lives of city residents. Topics covered include the emergence of cities in different historical periods, spatial aspects of urban growth, urban power and politics, social diversity and inequality, and various issues currently confronting cities, such as residential segregation by race and class, immigrants, concentrated poverty, affordable housing, homelessness, sprawl, gentrification and urban renewal/displacement, and urbanization in low-income countries of the world.

Objectives. Students will become familiar with basic information on the sociology of cities, and the course will provide the conceptual and theoretical tools to understand and analyze major social issues facing cities today. They will also learn to apply general principles of urban sociology to specific cities, and they will be able to critically evaluate urban social policies. They will learn to apply social science theories and knowledge about urban/community issues to specific aspects of urban/community change, to locate social science scholarship on such issues, to synthesize different sources of such scholarship, and to communicate as both social scientists and as educated members of the public. Group discussions, expert guest speakers, in-class exercises, individual presentations and traditional lectures will be used to achieve these learning objectives. The course will culminate with student presentations to the class on some important urban issue on which they have researched and developed a position or policy paper.

4000/6000 Aspects. Courses that meet jointly at the advance undergraduate/graduate level typically have somewhat different requirements for the two groups of students. In the case of this course, that is no exception. The assignments listed on this syllabus are for the undergraduates. The graduate students will do the reading assigned here plus advanced reading, to be announced. In addition, they will be asked to make brief, oral presentations on the supplemental reading they are assigned. The expectation is that a graduate student will make one short presentations (about 10 minutes) about every three weeks. In addition, the requirements for the term papers for graduate students will be somewhat more detailed.

Evaluation. Students will be evaluated on the basis of three examinations, the written research project and presentation, any special assignments that might be made (e.g., group work, etc.), and class participation. The examinations and paper each count for 20% of the final grade, class participation, including paper-based presentations and other possible special assignments will count for an additional 20% of your grade. (Thus the paper and presentation together count for about 35% of the final grade.)

No extra credit work is available. Reading should be completed by the time of class on the day that it has been assigned. Most of the information in class will deal with general principles of urban sociology, and most of the reading assignments cover specific examples of urban social structures and
processes. Exams will cover both. **Since the material presented in class does not duplicate the content of the reading, it is important that students both complete all the reading and attend class.** Exams will require students to integrate diverse materials from class and reading in answering general questions, and it is extremely doubtful that satisfactory examination scores can be obtained without good understanding of both.

**WebCT:** The syllabus, assignments, announcements, etc. will be posted to WebCT. Students are advised to check WebCT frequently for any changes or announcements pertinent to this class. Additionally, newspaper articles, journal articles or other media corresponding to course material will be periodically posted to WebCT. Though not specifically assigned in the reading assignment list below, students will find useful and relevant information in these articles and are encouraged to read them. Class Links on WebCT will provide useful information when writing your short paper and preparing your class presentations.

**Online Resources:** The online exercises at the conclusion of each chapter have been expanded by the inclusion of websites for further research and Info Trac College Edition search terms. *Cities, Change and Conflict* has a website. It can be reached through [http://sociology.wadsworth.com](http://sociology.wadsworth.com). Though the online exercises at the end of each chapter are not required, the exercises are a useful compliment to the textbook.

**Accommodations for Disabled Students.** If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as I have outlined it or which will require academic accommodations, please notify me in the first two weeks of the course. To do so, you may make an appointment to speak with me in my office, or come by during office hours. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted along with the request for special accommodation. Contact the Center for Disabled Student Services (160 Union, 581-5020) to facilitate requests.

**Academic Honesty.** It is assumed that the work you submit to me is your own work, and when you have used the ideas of others you have properly indicated that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university.

**Research Paper and Presentation.** A research paper dealing with some aspect of *urban sociology* is required. One objective of the paper assignment is to acquaint students with social science journals and social science research, and another key objective of the paper is to use it as a basis for making a public presentation of an academic and/or public policy nature. The paper will be accomplished in several steps.

**First** a topic must be chosen and submitted for approval. Possible topics include those listed below as class topics, those covered in the reading, or others that seem to have relevance to cities and city life. The topic is to be turned in writing on September 20. It should consist of two or three sentences in which the topic is suggested, why it is interesting, and how it is relevant to a class like this.

**Second,** once approved, you will locate eight journal articles that deal with this topic, and you need to submit a list of them (cited in the style of the *American Sociological Review*) on October 27 (see list of suggested journals, below). For students enrolled at the 6000-level, the minimum number is 16 articles.

**Third,** an annotated bibliography is to be submitted by November 10. This involves short summaries of each article in addition to the simple citation. The short summaries should not quote or
paraphrase the abstract for the article. Instead they should include (a) a short description of the author's objectives (e.g., what was the major question(s) the author was trying to illuminate?), (b) a brief discussion of the general theoretical approach; (c) a description of the nature of the data on which the conclusions were based and how the data were collected. Was it a survey, experiment, qualitative case study, theoretical or polemical treatment, or what? (d) a short summary of what the author(s) found and/or concluded. Each summary should be preceded by the full reference, being careful to properly format the reference and have it in alphabetical order by author’s last name. Both 4000-level and 600-level students need submit summaries for eight articles. But, 600-level students are expected to include at least all 16 of their articles in the development of their paper.

Fourth, for 4000-level students, the first draft of the short paper is due on November 22nd. In this paper, the topic is to be discussed using the eight references in an integrated way to inform this discussion. The paper should include an introduction of the topic, a discussion of the research you have found including its principal findings and controversies, and a conclusion--and a bibliography. The paper may be either one based only on a review of the research literature on a topic or it may include, in addition, data that you find and bring to bear on the topic. Below are some websites and journals that you might find useful in developing your paper. For 6000-level students, there will be no similar pre-review of the term paper.

Fifth and finally, once the "redlined" copy of the draft is returned to you, you will begin revising it accordingly, with the final draft due on December 8.

Presentations: Beginning on December 6 you should be prepared to make a short, in-class presentation on your research paper. These will be rather short: ten minutes or so, depending on the number of students in the class. The presentation should describe the theme of the research paper and highlight what you found out about the topic. You should have a one-page (300 word) written essay on which to base your presentations. Of course you are encouraged to embellish your presentation with Powerpoint, overheads, hand-outs, and other such enhancements. We will discuss the elements of good presentations around November 1.

**Required Books.**
2. Book 1 TBA: A case study of a U.S. city issue
3. Book 2 TBA: A case study of a city issue in a low income country

**Topic and Reading Schedule**

Lectures will not necessarily correspond with reading assignments – class attendance is important.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading Schedule (Due on this date)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introducing the Class – Q &amp; A</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>Getting Started and Structure</td>
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<td>The Rise of Cities</td>
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<td>Theories about Cities and Urban Life</td>
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<td><strong>Film:</strong> Understanding Cities (HT 151/U47 2003/DV)</td>
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Week 2
30Aug-1Sept
The Rise of Cities and Modes of Production
Greece, Rome, & Medieval Cities
L&S: p 27-78

Week 3
6/8-Sept
Urban Culture, Community/Society
Stages of American Urbanization
Film
L&S: p. 79-144

Week 4
13/15 Sept
Urban Space: Cities, Suburbs and Metropolitan Areas
Metropolitanization: Spatial Structure of U.S. Cities
Suburbanization, Political Fragmentation
Downtown & Development Strategies
Urban Renewal, Metropolitan Policy Issues
L&S: p. 145-206

Week 5
20/22-Sept
Film
**Short Paper Topic Submitted -- Due Tuesday, the 21st**
4000: Writing the Research Paper II:
Policy vs. Theory Relevance
6000: Short Presentations on supplemental reading
Book1 TBA

Week 6
27/29-Sept
Suburbanization, Political Fragmentation
Downtown & Development Strategies
Exam I Thursday, Sept. 29
Book1 TBA

Week 7
4/6-Oct
Planning Theory vs. Urban Sociology Theory
Guest Speaker
Cities in the Third World
Cities and Urbanization in Low Income Countries
L&S: p. 301-348
Book1 TBA
K1, Ch. 7

Week 8
Fall Break

Week 9
18/20-Oct
Globalization and Cities
Immigrants in the City: Immigration and Cities
Reading TBA

Week 10
25/27-Oct
Race/Ethnicity, Class, & Gender in Cities
Residential Segregation - Gentrification, Suburbanization
Community, Ethnicity, New Urban Reality
Sweatshops, Homelessness
**List of 8 References Submitted Thursday, Oct. 27**
Reading TBA

Week 11
Urban Politics, Governance, and Economics
L&S: 207-255
1/3-Nov 4000: Elements of an Effective Oral Research Presentation I: Knowing Your Audience 6000: Special Presentations

City Governments & Unfilled Social Need
**Guest Speaker**

Week 12 Urban Economic Development L&S: 256-300

**Guest Speaker**

**Annotated 8-Reference Bibliography Submitted Thursday, Nov. 11**

Study Questions by Nov. 10


**Exam II, Nov. 18**

Urban Policy and Planning K2, Ch.16-20

**Speaker; Guest Speaker: Jayme Day, Homelessness in Utah**

Week 14 Third World Urbanization Book2 TBA

**First Draft of the Paper Due Tues., dec 9** Book2 (cont.)

(Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving break)

Week 15 Book Book2 (cont.)

Week 16 Presentations (Presentations will be individual or group, depending on class size)

**Final Draft of Paper Due Thursday, Dec. 16 and Exam III Study Qs. Distributed**

**Last Exam Exam III TBA**

**Relevant Websites (just a few of many)**

Fannie Mae’s Housing Policy Debates: http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd.shtml
Community and Urban Section of the ASA: http://www.commurb.org/
The Cyberhood (Urban Affairs Assn.): http://www.thecyberhood.net/
Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/
Urban Affairs Association: http://www.udel.edu/uaa/
The Urban Institute: http://www.urban.org/
Urban City for Local Government and Urban Development: http://www.urbanicity.org/
Data and Information
U.S. Census Bureau:  [http://factfinder.census.gov/](http://factfinder.census.gov/)
   Housing Patterns: [http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/resseg.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/resseg.html)
Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research:  
   [http://www.albany.edu/mumford/](http://www.albany.edu/mumford/)

**Urban and Community Social Science Specialty Journals (a partial list):**

*Cities*

*Cities* and Community

*City Journal* (see [http://www.city-journal.org/index.html](http://www.city-journal.org/index.html)) policy centered

*Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research* online at:  
   [http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/cityscape.html](http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/cityscape.html) from HUD.

*Community Development Journal*

*Comparative Urban and Community Research*

*FieldWorks* “shares practical information on noteworthy programs and useful resources” 
   Online from HUD at [http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/fieldworks.html](http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/fieldworks.html)

*International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*

*Journal of Affordable Housing & Community Development Law.*

*Journal of Contemporary Ethnography.*

*Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*

*Journal of Housing and Community Development.*

*Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*

*Journal of Urban Affairs*

*Journal of Urban Economics*

*Journal of Urban Health*

*Journal of Urban History*

*Recent Research Results* (RRR) RRR contains short summaries of reports recently published under the auspices of PD&R.  Online from HUD at [http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/rrr.html](http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/rrr.html)

*Regional Science and Urban Economics.*

*Research in Community Sociology.*

*Research in Urban Policy.*

*Rural Sociology*

*Urban Affairs Review*

*Urban Education*

*Urban Geography.*

*Urban Research Monitor,* “a useful reference tool developed by HUD USER, makes it easy for researchers, policymakers, academicians, and other professionals to keep up with the diverse and ever-expanding literature on housing and community development.”  Online from HUD at [http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/urm.htm](http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/urm.htm)

*Urban Studies*