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.

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 21. 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 30 (see list of suggested journals, below).

**Third,** an annotated bibliography is to be submitted by November 13. 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.

**Fourth,** the *first* draft of the short paper is due on November 25th. 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.

**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 11.

**Presentations:** Beginning on December 7 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 2.

**Required Books.**

**Topic and Reading Schedule**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introducing the Class – Q &amp; A</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>Writing a Research Paper I:</td>
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<td>Getting Started and Structure</td>
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<td>Examining Urban Issues</td>
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<td>Theories about Cities and Urban Life</td>
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<td><strong>Film:</strong></td>
<td><em>Understanding Cities</em> (HT 151/U47 2003/DV)</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Cities and Modes of Production</td>
<td>K2, Ch. 1-3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Growth Machine – Regime Theory</td>
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<td>Commodification, Proletarianization, &amp; Urbanization</td>
<td>K2, Ch. 4, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Cities in World History - Historical Development of Cities</td>
<td>K1, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>Greece, Rome, &amp; Medieval Cities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stages of American Urbanization</td>
<td>K1, Ch. 4</td>
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<td><strong>Film</strong></td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Cities, Suburbs and Metropolitan Areas</td>
<td>K1, Ch. 5</td>
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<td>Metropolitanization: Spatial Structure of U.S. Cities</td>
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Week 5
**Film**
*Short Paper Topic Submitted -- Due Monday, the 21st*

Writing the Research Paper II:
Policy vs. Theory Relevance

Week 6
Cities in Europe

Suburbanization, Political Fragmentation

Week 7
*Take Home Exam I Distributed Monday, Oct. 5*
*Guest Speaker*

Cities in the Third World
Cities and Urbanization in Low Income Countries
*Take Home Exam Due Beginning of Class, Friday, Oct. 9*

Week 8
Globalization and Cities
Immigrants in the City: Immigration and Cities

Week 9
Race/Ethnicity, Class, & Gender in Cities
Residential Segregation - Gentrification, Suburbanization

Community, Ethnicity, New Urban Reality
Sweatshops, Homelessness
*List of 8 References Submitted Friday, Oct. 30*

Week 11
Elements of an Effective Oral Research Presentation I:
Knowing Your Audience
Urban Economy
City Governments
*Guest Speaker*

Week 12
Urban Economic Development
*Guest Speaker*

*Annotated 8-Reference Bibliography Submitted Friday, Nov. 13*

*Take Home Exam II Distributed Wed., Nov. 11*
| Week 13 | Federal Urban Policy and Planning – Future Planning | K1, Ch. 14, 16  
**Take Home Exam II Due Beginning of Class Monday, Nov. 16**  
Urban Policy and Planning – Meeting with another class | K2, Ch.16-20  
**Speaker**  
Week 14 | Heat Wave | K3: pp. 1-78  
**First Draft of the Paper Due Wed., Nov. 25**  
(Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving break) | K3: pp. 79-128  
**Guest Speaker**  
Week 15 | Heat Wave | K3: pp. 129-184  
**Speaker or Film** | K3” pp. 185-242  
Week 16 | Presentations (Presentations will be individual or group, depending on class size) |  
**Final Draft of Paper Due Friday, Dec. 11 and Take Home Exam III Distributed **  
**Final Exam Exam III Due , 12:30PM** |

**Required Books.**
2. **“K2”**: Nancy Kleniewski, ed., *Cities and Society*.

**Relevant Websites (just a few of many)**
The Community and Urban Section of the ASA:  [http://www.commurb.org/](http://www.commurb.org/)  
The Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network:  [http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/)  
The Urban Affairs Association:  [http://www.udel.edu/uaa/](http://www.udel.edu/uaa/)  
The Urban Institute:  [http://www.urban.org/](http://www.urban.org/)  
The Urban City for Local Government and Urban Development:  [http://www.urbanicity.org/](http://www.urbanicity.org/)  
Data and Information:  [http://www.urbanicity.org/](http://www.urbanicity.org/)  
U.S. Census Bureau:  [http://factfinder.census.gov/](http://factfinder.census.gov/)  
Housing Patterns:  [http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ressseg.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ressseg.html)
Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research:  
http://www.albany.edu/mumford/  
Bill Frey’s Demographics Page: http://www.frey-demographer.org/  

Urban and Community Social Science Specialty Journals (a partial list):  
Cities  
City and Community  
City Journal (see http://www.city-journal.org/index.html) policy centered  
Cityscapes: A Journal of Policy Development and Research online at:  
http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/cityscapes.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  
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  
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”  
Urban Studies