

Cities and Communities

SOC 4095/6085

OSH 113

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Michael Timberlake

426 BEH S

Phone: 801 581-8132

Email: timber@soc.utah.edu



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 as 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.

I am creating an online presence for the course in CANVAS, which you can get to through your Campus Information System login under “my courses”. Here, I will be putting some of the PowerPoint lectures, various relevant hyperlinks (e.g., to radio pieces from NPR, streamed films, etc.), and some pdf documents.

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.

CANVAS: The syllabus, assignments, announcements, etc. will be posted to CANVAS. Students are advised to check CANVAS from time to time 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 CANVAS. 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. You also may find helpful hints that will provide useful information when writing your short paper and preparing your class presentations.

Students with Disabilities: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

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 18. 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 25 (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 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. 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 27. 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 _.

Presentations: You will make a "virtual" presentation on your paper via CANVAS. This presentation will be a PowerPoint presentation on your topic that communicates what you have learned about your topic from your research. It should have an introduction letting us know why the topic is important, a summary of what you have learned about the topic, and some conclusions, including recommendations, if relevant, based on what the research indicates. Imagine preparing this presentation for a community group, a neighborhood group, a social club, or church group. You should post this before December 1.

By December 4 you should have closely "read" 3 of your classmates PowerPoint presentations, and write down some notes, comments, and questions. Look at the presentations of the three class members who follow your name on the list of People in the class (on CANVAS). (If your name is near the end of the list, then go back to the beginning of the list to get your three.) In class on December 4 and 6, you should be prepared to share aloud your comments/questions/suggestions when the class meets. .

Required Books.

1. Edward Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*. Penguin 2011. ISBN 978-0-14-312054-4. \$16.00

2. William Julius Wilson, *When Work Disappears*. 1997. Vintage. ISBN: 978-0-679-72417-9 (0-679-72417-6) \$17.00
3. Eric Klinenberg, *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. 2003. University of Chicago Press. Paperback. ISBN 0-226-44322-1 \$15.00
4. Xuefei Ren, *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China*. University of Chicago Press. Paperback.

Topic and Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is exact, the topic schedule may vary from that listed here. Lectures will not necessarily correspond with reading assignments – class attendance is important. Films and speakers are tentative.

Date	Class Topic	Reading Schedule (Due on this date)
Week 1	Introducing the Class – Q & A Writing a Research Paper I: Getting Started and Structure The Rise of Cities Theories about Cities and Urban Life Film: <i>Understanding Cities</i> (HT 151/U47 2003/DV)	Syllabus Begin Glaeser
Week 2	The Rise of Cities and Modes of Production Greece, Rome, & Medieval Cities	Continue Glaeser
Week 3	Urban Culture, Community/Society Stages of American Urbanization Film	Finish Glaeser
Week 4	Urban Space: Cities, Suburbs and Metropolitan Areas Metropolitanization: Spatial Structure of U.S. Cities	Begin Wilson
Week 5	Film **Short Paper Topic Submitted -- Due Tuesday, the 18th** 4000: Writing the Research Paper II: Policy vs. Theory Relevance 6000: Short Presentations on supplemental reading	Continue Wilson
Week 6	Suburbanization, Political Fragmentation Downtown & Development Strategies Urban Renewal, Metropolitan Policy Issues	Finish Wilson

Exam I Thursday, Sept. 27

Week 7 Planning Theory vs. Urban Sociology Theory Begin Klinenberg
Community Organization/Disorganization
Film on effects of urban sprawl on Katrina:

[e² | design: season three, episode 5 - New Orleans: The Water Line](#)

Episode 5. New Orleans: The Water Line -- The storm surge of Hurricane Katrina could have been mitigated had New Orleans' wetlands remained undeveloped. Now, citizens of the city's Lower Ninth Ward have begun the restoration of Bayou Bienvenue, which runs along the devast...

Week 8 Spring Break

Week 9 Globalization and Cities Continue Klinenberg
Immigrants in the City: Immigration and Cities

Week 10 Race/Ethnicity, Class, & Gender in Cities Finish Klinenberg
Residential Segregation - Gentrification, Suburbanization

Guest Speaker: John Flynt, Salt Lake City Emergency Management
October 25???

Community, Ethnicity, New Urban Reality

****List of 8 References Submitted Thursday, Oct. 25****

Week 11 Urban Politics, Governance, and Economics Read for Paper
4000: Elements of an Effective Oral Research Presentation I:
Knowing Your Audience/ 6000: Special Presentations

Social Needs: What local governments and NGOs do

**Guest Speaker: Mike Akerlow, Housing and Community Development
Oct 30???**

Week 12 Urban Economic Development Read for Paper

Guest Speaker: **Mike Evans and Gina Corina, Utahns Against Hunger
November 8.**

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

Study Questions by Nov. 8

Week 13 Federal Urban Policy and Planning – Future Planning Read for Paper

Urban Policy and Planning

Speaker; Guest Speaker: Jayme Day, Homelessness in Utah

Exam II, Nov. 15

Week 14	Third World Urbanization	Begin Zhang
	(Nov. 22-25 Thanksgiving break)	Continue Zhang
Week 15	Book First Draft of the Paper Due Tues 27th	Finish Zhang

Week 16 Presentations (Presentations will be individual or group, depending on class size)
Exam III Study Qs. Distributed

****Final Draft of Paper Due Tuesday, Dec. 11 ****

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/>

Geography of Diversity 2000: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/atlas.html>

Housing Patterns: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/resse.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/>

Federal Statistics: <http://www.fedstats.gov/>

United Nations Statistics: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

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

Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research online at:

<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>

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