Theme. This seminar will deal with research, theory, and methods in relation to the study of community social organization, with an emphasis on the political economy of community change, including macro-community processes such as urbanization. We will read scholarship which aims at revealing and explaining the social, economic, political and cultural forces underlying the reproduction of, and social change within, communities (including cities). The changing roles of cities in the world-economy will be studied, as will be social relations within communities and interrelations among them.

Objectives. The seminar is designed to provide an overview of theory and research in the broad subfield of urban sociology. The seminar should help to prepare graduate students to initiate independent research in these areas and teach college courses in urban sociology.

Seminar Organization. We will conduct the course as a seminar in which the participants alternate in leading a discussion on each reading. In addition to the oral presentation, the person introducing the reading will also prepare 1-2 page written summaries for distribution. In addition, each of us will share responsibility for engaging in informed discussion of the reading and topics we will be covering. Generally, I will not "lecture". Instead, we will talk with each other about the themes of the seminar in light of the reading we are doing in common. (See guidelines for seminar presentations, below.)

Evaluation: In addition to the weekly preparation for discussion, I will base evaluation on take-home essay examinations and a term paper. The term paper topic will be developed in consultation with me and should be closely related to some area of research covered on the syllabus. A likely and acceptable choice would be a literature-based paper in which you identify the strengths and weaknesses of a particular line of research, trace the history of a key concept, address a theoretical debate, or engage in some other analytical activity. Empirical papers are fine, too, but you should check with me early in the semester and get my approval for your topic.

Reading. In addition to the reading common to all seminar participants, listed immediately below, there will be occasional individual assignments from the supplementary reading lists (which should also be used as a starting point for individual research projects).

required from the bookstore:


**Guidelines for seminar presentations:**
Hints for how to do a "good" job on assigned reading for seminar presentation:

1. Thoroughly read the assignment. *Study* it.

2. Immediately after reading it, write a one or two paragraph summary of it.

3. Prepare a separate presentation based on this summary. This should include the following items:
   a. A succinct statement of what you think the author's main purpose is. To what body of information (e.g., “literature”) does this book or article relate? Is it methodological, theoretical, substantive, etc.?

   b. A succinct statement on what the author's main points are. What does the author claim is true (or not true) about the issue at hand? What new concepts, data, or interpretations does the author introduce?

   c. A succinct statement summarizing the rationale, "logic", "data", etc., that seem to have led the author to make these claims. That is, What is the basis for the claims that are made?

   d. A discussion of how the piece relates to other readings, classroom material, other views with which you are familiar, or of how it relates to the general thrust of the course, or to the particular topic that we are covering.
      1. Can the piece be criticized on the basis of one or more of these comparisons?
      2. Is the piece particularly useful in relation to these other sources of information.

4. Anything else you want to say, critical or otherwise.

**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.

**Accommodations for Special Needs.** 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.

**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/](http://www.commurb.org/)


Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network: [http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/)

Urban Affairs Association: [http://www.udel.edu/uaa/](http://www.udel.edu/uaa/)

The Urban Institute: [http://www.urban.org/](http://www.urban.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 Speciality Journals (a partial list):**

*Cities*

*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*

*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*

*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)

*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.html

Urban Studies

Course Outline, with Schedule and Assignments

Deadlines
September 28 Paper Topic Approval
October 5 Read Core Community Study (See Appendix)
October 19 Bibliography Approval
October 26 Distribute Midterm
November 2* Midterm Exam Due
November 16 Read Periphery Community Study (See Appendix)
December 7 Paper Due; Distribute Study Questions
December 14 Take Final Exam

The readings listed below under the various topics and dates below are presented for a number of different reasons. All seminar participants will be required to read some of them, some will be assigned to only one seminar member, and some are there for your information only. Some topics have much more complete coverage of readings than others. Finally, I have tried to list all the urban/community related pieces that appeared between early 1995 and now in the following top journals in sociology: American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, The Sociological Quarterly, Demography, and Rural Sociology. You should be aware that there are several excellent social science journals that deal exclusively with urban/community research. Included among them are Urban Affairs Review (formerly Urban Affairs Quarterly), Urban Studies, Journal of Urban Affairs, and International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (which I think is particularly good). There are also many other social science journals that frequently publish urban/community-related research, such as Social Problems, Social Science Quarterly, American Political Science Review, and International Sociology. In accumulating references for your paper, you should scour these journals. I’ve tried to list readings under themes that I want to cover, but there are several recent research pieces that are important, but lie outside of the themes included in this seminar. Many of these are in the tradition of urban ecology research within sociology, though others represent new lines of thought, such as ‘gender and cities’. Some deal with cultural and ‘post-structural’ aspects of cities and communities.
Topics Covered on the Syllabus:

1. The rise of cities
   a. Pre-19th Century Urbanization
   b. Capitalism, Industrialism, and Urbanization
   August 31-September 14
2. Urban & Community Theory
   September 21-28
3. Race/Ethnicity and Immigrants in U.S. Communities
   a. racial segregation and inequality
   b. Immigrants
   c. Race/ethnicity and Urban Violence and Crime
   October 5-12
4. Poverty and Community
   October 19
5. Context matters: social networks, regions, neighborhoods, and local cultures.
   October 26
6. Community identity & attachment, meaning and everyday life
   October 26
7. Housing and homelessness
   November 2
8. Environment and Community
   November 2
9. Community power, politics, policy and governance
   November 9
10. Urban/Community Restructuring and Transformation
    November 9
11. The Global Context
    a. Urbanization
    b. Urbanization and Communities of the Periphery & Semiperiphery
    c. World Cities, Global Cities and Megacities
    November 16-December 7

Appendix:
1. Methods of Community and Urban Research
   a. Miscellaneous
   b. Measuring residential segregation
2. Community Studies
   a. U.S. and other higher income countries
   b. Lower income countries

Topical Bibliography and Schedule. *indicate assigned readings; others are fyi only.

1. The rise of cities. August 31, September 7 & 14

*Castells Reader, Part I
*Cronon, whole book

a. Pre-19th Century Urbanization


b. Capitalism, Industrialism, and Urbanization


2. Urban & Community Theory September 21 & 28

*Castells Reader, Part II


Dear, Michael, “Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a Debate.” City and Community 1(1) 2002:5-32.


Gans, Herbert, “Some Problems of and Futures for Urban Sociology: Toward a Sociology
of Settlements.” *City & Community* 8(3) 2009: 211-220.


*Urban Affairs Quarterly* 24:163-87.


White, Katherine Curtis, and Avery Guest, “Community lost or transformed: urbanization and social ties.” *City and Community* 2(3), 2003: 239-259.


### 3. Race/Ethnicity and Immigrants in U.S. Communities October 5 & 12

a. **racial segregation and inequality**


Hanlon, Bernadette, “A Typology of Inner-Ring Suburbs: Class, Race, and Ethnicity in U.S. Suburbia.” City & Community 8(3) 2009: 221-246.

Harris, David, “‘Property values drop when blacks move in, because...’: racial and socioeconomic determinants of neighborhood desirability.” American Sociological Review 64(3): 461-479, 1999.


Krysan, Maria and Reynolds Farley, “The residential preferences of blacks: do they explain persistent segregation?” Social Forces, 80(3), March 2002: 937-980


Stewart, James, and Joyce Allen-Smith, eds., *Blacks in Rural America.* Transaction Publishers, 1995


### b. Immigrants


c. Race/ethnicity and Urban Violence and Crime


4. Poverty and Community October 19

*Klinenberg, the book


(B)rown, Ralph, Xia Xu, and John Toth Jr., “Lifestyle options and economic strategies: subsistence activities in the Mississippi Delta.” Rural Sociology 63: 599-623.


Elliott, James, “Social isolation and labor market insulation: network and neighborhood


Gundersen, Craig and James P. Ziliak, “Poverty and macroeconomic performance across space, race, and family structure.” Demography 41(1), February 2004: 61-86.


Baumer, Eric P., Steven F. Messner, and Richard Rosenfeld, “Explaining spatial variation in


   Fitzpatrick, Kevin and Mark LaGory, “‘Placing’ health in an urban sociology: cities as mosaics of risk.” City and Community 2(1), 2003: 33-46.


6. Community identity & attachment, meaning and everyday life


7. Housing and Homelessness


8. Environment and Community


9. Community power, politics, policy and governance November 9


Silver, Hilary, “Obama’s Urban Policy: A Symposium.” Introduction to a special issue of *City & Community* 9(1) 2010: 3-12, but see many of the pieces in this issue.


**10. Urban/Community Restructuring and Transformation**


Florida, Richard, “Cities and the Creative Class.” *City and Community* 2(1), 2003: 3-20. (Also see responses by Milligan and Squires.)


11. The Global Context

* Castells Reader, Part III

**a. Urbanization**


b. Urbanization in the Periphery & Semiperiphery

Abu-Lughod, Janet "The Islamic city: historic myth, Islamic essence, and contemporary relevance." (in Amirahmadi and El-Shahs, below.)


Bairoch, Paul, Chapter 28, "The causes of the urban explosion in the Third World"; Chapter 29, "The Consequences of the Urban Explosion in the Third World."


Silver, Hilary, “Divided Cities in the Middle East.” Introduction to Symposium on topic, City & Community 9(4) 2010.


22


c. World Cities, Global Cities, Megacities and Global Networks


Ma, Xuilian L. 2010. City and State Relations under Globalization. PhD. Dissertation, Department of Sociology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.


Appendix:

1. Methods of Community and Urban Research
   a. Miscellaneous


      Vallentine, Bettylou, methodological appendix to *Hustling and Other Hard Work*.


      Wellman, Carrington, and Hall, "Networks as personal communities," pp. 130-184 in Wellman and Berkowitz


   b. Measuring residential segregation


2. **Community Studies**

a. **U.S. and other higher income countries**


Howell, Elliot, *Hard Living on Clay Street*.


Vallentine, Bettylou, *Hustling and Other Hard Work*.


Also see books listed under Race/Ethnicity and U.S. Communities.

b. Lower income countries


