

Sociology 476-0-22: Urban Sociology and Urban Problems
Syllabus – Spring 2011 (Version of 3/17/2011)
Wednesday 11 – 1:50, Parkes Hall Room 222

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Course description: This seminar is a graduate-level introduction to urban sociology with a focus on urban social problems. Topics covered include classic urban sociological theories, post-industrial urban economies, urban social networks, suburbanization, segregation, poverty, crime, subcultures, schooling, and public policy. Classes will be mostly discussion with occasional short lectures. The course will focus on U.S. cities with selected comparisons to Western Europe. The course assumes no background in urban sociology, but basic knowledge of classic sociological theory (Marx, Weber, Durkheim) and basic social science methods would be helpful.

Course requirements:

1. A term paper due at the end of the quarter (50%).
2. Active and prepared participation in all class discussions (30%).
3. Co-leading one or more class discussions during the course of the quarter (20%).

Term Paper:

The term paper may be one of three types:

(1) A research design (proposal) for a future empirical study on a topic related to metropolitan studies. The paper should include a literature review and a design for a study you could do. Partial or pilot results can also be included if available.

(2) An original research study on a topic in metropolitan studies, usually continuing work that is partly completed or improving a prior research project. This may involve taking an existing paper you have written in another context (in another course, or as a master's paper) and improving it.

(3) A critical review of the literature on some problem or issue in urban sociology.

Proposal: A two-page proposal for the paper is due April 22nd by 5 PM. If you propose to work further on an existing paper, you are required to turn in a copy of the prior paper with your proposal.

Leading class discussions: Each student will be assigned to lead discussion with another student a few times during the quarter. The discussion leaders are responsible for guiding the discussion and should send out a few discussion questions on the readings via e-mail by Monday at 9 PM. The instructor will also act as a discussion leader each week.

Readings: The schedule below lists a first set of readings, the core readings for each week, and a set of additional readings. All students are expected to complete the core readings before each class. For students who intend to focus on a particular topic in their paper or other work, the additional readings are recommended. The instructor will often summarize or cite some of the additional readings in short lectures in class.

The core readings for each week will be available on the course blackboard site (aka "the course management system"), with the exception of readings from three books ordered listed below. You should be able to access the blackboard site from

<https://courses.northwestern.edu/>

Books ordered (in the NU bookstore):

Briggs, Xavier de Souza, Susan Popkin, and John Goering. 2010. *Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty*. Cambridge, MA: Oxford University Press. \$15.73 new from Amazon, \$9.99 Kindle Edition.

Glaeser, Edward. 2011. *The Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Happier, and Healthier*. New York: Penguin. \$19.70 new from Amazon; \$14.99 Kindle Edition.

Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Knopf. \$10.85 new from Amazon (cheap used copies also available); \$11.99 Kindle Edition.

Preliminary Schedule

(Note: Some changes will likely be made as we go along.)

Week 1, March 30: Introduction to the course

Week 2, April 6: Classic Urban Sociological Theory

Park, Robert. 1915. "The City: Suggestions for the Investigations of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment." *American Journal of Sociology* 20(5): 577-612.

Mumford, Lewis. "The Culture of Cities" in Kasinitz, Philip (ed). 1995. *Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times*. New York: New York University Press.

Simmel, Georg. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Pp. 324-339 in Donald Levine, ed., *Georg Simmel on Individuality and Social Forms*. 1975. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *The American Journal of Sociology* 44(1): 1-24.

Gans, Herbert. "Urbanism and Suburbanism as Ways of Life" in Kasinitz, Philip (ed). 1995. *Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times*. New York: New York University Press.

Additional:

McKenzie, R.D. 1924. "The Ecological Approach to the Study of Human Community." *American Journal of Sociology* 30(3): 287-301.

Park, Robert and Ernest Burgess. 1921. *Introduction to the Science of Sociology* (pp. 27-42,; 783-799). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Du Bois, W.E.B. 1899. *The Philadelphia Negro*. New York: Cosimo Classics.

Week 3, April 13: Subcultural and Political-Economic Theories

Fischer, Claude. 1975. "Toward a Subcultural Theory of Urbanism." *American Journal of Sociology* 80(6): 1319-1341.

Castells, Manuel. "Is there an Urban Sociology?" Pp. 33-59 in C.G. Pickvance (ed.). *Urban Sociology: Critical Essays*. 1976. London: Tavistock Publications.

Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: The University of California Press. Chapter 3, "The City as a Growth Machine" (pp. 50-98).

Logan, John, Rachel Whaley, Kyle Crowder. 1997. "The Character and Consequences of Growth Regimes: An Assessment of 20 Years of Research." *Urban Affairs Review* 32(5): 603-630.

Additional:

Fischer, Claude. 1995. "The Subcultural Theory of Urbanism: A Twentieth-Year Assessment." *American Journal of Sociology* 80(6): 1319-1341.

Wellman, Barry and Barry Leighton. 1979. "Networks, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Approaches to the Study of the Community Question." *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 14: 363-390.

Fischer, Claude. 1984. *To Dwell Among Friends: Personal Networks in Town and City*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Stone, Clarence. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1968-1988*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.

Week 4, April 20: Changing Urban Economics and Geography

Fishman, Robert. 1990. "Megalopolis Unbound." *The Wilson Quarterly* 14(1): 24-45.

Sassen, Saskia. 1991. *The Global City*. "Overview", Chapter 10 ("A New Urban Regime?") and Epilogue (pp. 345-363).

Glaeser, Edward. 2011. *The Triumph of the City*. Introduction, chapter 1, chapter 2.

Additional:

Jackson, Kenneth T. 1985. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Florida, Richard. 2002. *The Rise of the Creative Class*. New York: Basic Books.

Alderson, Arthur S. 2004. "Power and Position in the World City System." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:811-851.

Week 5, April 27: Theories of "The Urban Crisis"

Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Knopf. Chapters 1-5. (My assumption is you have probably read this before. If not, you may have a lot of reading for this week.)

Reviews of *When Work Disappears* by Douglas Massey, Bonnie Thornton Dill, Sara S. McLanahan. *Contemporary Sociology* 26(4): 416-422.

Sugrue, Thomas J. 1996. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Conclusion ("Crisis: Detroit and the Fate of Postindustrial America")

Jargowsky, Paul. 2003. "Stunning Progress, Hidden Problems: The Dramatic Decline of Concentrated Poverty in the 1990s." Brookings Institution Living Census Series.

Glaeser, Edward. 2011. *The Triumph of the City*. Chapter 3.

Harding, David J. 2007. "Cultural Context, Sexual Behavior, and Romantic Relationships in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods." *American Sociological Review* 72(3): 341-364.

Additional:

Wilson, William Julius. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2-3.

Quillian, Lincoln. 2003. "The Decline of Male Employment in Low-Income Black Neighborhoods, 1950-1990." *Social Science Research* 32: 220-250.

Quillian, Lincoln. 1999. "Migration Patterns and the Growth of High-Poverty Neighborhoods, 1970-1990." *American Journal of Sociology* 105(1): 1-37.

Kyle Crowder, Scott J. South. 2005. "Race, Class, and Changing Patterns of Migration between Poor and Nonpoor Neighborhoods." *The American Journal of Sociology* 110 (6): 1715-1763.

Jargowsky, Paul A. 1997. Pp. 29-58, 116-184 in *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Small, Mario. 2009. *Unanticipated Gains: The Origins of Network Inequality in Everyday Life*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7.

Pattillo-McCoy, Mary. 2000. "The Limits of Out-Migration for the Black Middle Class." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 22(3): 225-242

Week 6, May 4: Segregation.

Massey and Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapter 4 ("The Continuing Causes of Segregation.")

Massey, Douglas S. 1990. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." *American Journal of Sociology* 96:329-357.

Ingrid Gould Ellen. 2000. *Sharing America's Neighborhoods: The Prospects for Stable Racial Integration*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapters 2, 8.

Orfield, Gary, and Chunmei Lee. 2005. "Why Segregation Matters: Poverty and Educational Inequality." Report of the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University. Selections.

Logan, John R., and Brian J. Stults. "Racial and Ethnic Separation in Neighborhoods: Progress at a Standstill." Retrieved 3/22/2011 from <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report1.pdf>

Rugh, Jacob S., and Douglas Massey. 2010. "Racial Segregation and the American Foreclosure Crisis." *American Sociological Review* 75(5): 629-651.

Additional:

Jargowsky, Paul. 1996. "Take the Money and Run: Economic Segregation in U.S. Metropolitan Areas." *American Sociological Review* 61:984-998.

Quillian, Lincoln and Devah Pager. 2001. "Black Neighbors, Higher Crime? The Role of Racial Stereotypes in Evaluations of Neighborhood Crime." *American Journal of Sociology* 107(3): 717-67.

Quillian, Lincoln and Devah Pager. 2010. "Estimating Risk: Stereotype Amplification and the Perceived Risk of Criminal Victimization." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 73(1): 79-104.

- Krysan, Maria, Mick Couper, Reynolds Farley, Tyrone Forman. 2009. "Does Race Matter in Neighborhood Preferences? Results of a Video Experiment." *American Journal of Sociology* 115(2): 527-559.
- Mouw, Theodore. 2000. "Job Relocation and the Racial Gap in Unemployment in Detroit and Chicago, 1980 to 1990." *American Sociological Review* 65: 730-753. (E*)
- Farley, Reynolds and William Frey. 1994. "Changes in the Segregation of Whites from Blacks during the 1980s: Small Steps toward a More Integrated Society." *American Sociological Review* 59: 23-45.
- Clark, W.A.V. 1986. "Residential Segregation in American Cities: a review and interpretation." *Population Research and Policy Review* 5: 95-127.
- Schelling, Thomas. 1971. "Dynamic Models of Segregation." *Journal of Mathematical Sociology* 1: 143-186.
- Bruch, Elizabeth and Robert Mare. 2006. "Neighborhood Choice and Neighborhood Change." *American Journal of Sociology* 112: 667-709.
- David Harris. 1999. "Property Values Drop when Blacks Move in, Because . . . ": Racial and Socioeconomic Determinants of Neighborhood Desirability." *American Sociological Review* 64: 461-79.
- Cutler, David, Edward Glaeser and Jacob L. Vigdor. 1999. "The Rise and Decline of the American Ghetto." *Journal of Political Economy* 107(3): 455-506.
- Yinger, John. 1995. *Closed Doors, Opportunities Lost: The Continuing Costs of Housing Discrimination*. New York: Russell Sage. Chapters 2-5.

Week 7, May 11: Crime.

- Sampson, Robert and Byron Groves. 1989. "Community Structure and Crime: testing Social-Disorganization Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 94:774-802.
- Sampson, Robert J, Stephen Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. 1997. "Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy." *Science* 277: 918-924.
- Sampson, Robert J. 2004. "Neighborhood and Community: Collective Efficacy and Community Safety." *New Economy* 11:106-113.
- Duneier, Mitchell. 1998. *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux. Selections.

Additional:

- Bursick, Robert and Gramisk. 1993. *Neighborhoods and Crime*. New York: Lexington Books.
- ME Pattillo-McCoy. 1999. *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril among the Black Middle Class* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Peterson, Ruth and Lauren Krivo. 2010. *Divergent Social Worlds: Neighborhood Crime and the Racial-Spatial Divide*. New York: Russell Sage.

Week 8, May 18: Neighborhood Effects

- DeLuca, Stefanie, and Elizabeth Dayton. 2009. "Switching Social Contexts: The Effects of Housing Mobility and School Choice Programs on Youth Outcomes." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 457-91. Read the first half of the article on neighborhoods, pp. 457-473.
- Briggs, Xavier de Souza, Susan Popkin, and John Goering. 2010. *Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty*. Cambridge, MA: Oxford University Press. Chapters 3, 5, 9, 10.

Clampet-Lundquist, Susan and Douglas Massey. 2008. "Neighborhood Effects on Economic Self-Sufficiency: A Reconsideration of the MTO Experiment." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(1): 107-43. Read the abstract, introduction, and conclusion; quickly skim the rest.

Ludwig, Jens, with Jeffrey Liebman, Jeffrey Kling, Greg J. Duncan, Lawrence F. Katz, Ronald C. Kessler, and Lisa Sanbonmatsu. 2008. "What Can We Learn about Neighborhood Effects from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment? A Comment on Clampet-Lundquist and Massey." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 144-88. Read the abstract, introduction, and conclusion; quickly skim the rest.

Sampson, Robert. 2008. "Moving to Inequality: Neighborhood Effects and Experiments Meet Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(1): 189-231.

Solon, Gary, Marianne E. Page, and Greg J. Duncan. 2000. "Correlations between Neighboring Children in Their Subsequent Educational Attainment." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 82(3): 383-392. Read the abstract, introduction, and conclusion; quickly skim the rest.

Additional:

Popkin, Susan James E. Rosenbaum, Patricia M. Meaden. 1993. "Labor Market Experiences of Low-Income Black Women in Middle-Class Suburbs: Evidence from a Survey of Gautreaux Program Participants." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 12(3): 556-573.

Katz, L, J. Kling and J. Liebman. 2007. "Experimental Analysis of Neighborhood Effects." *Econometrica* 75: 83-119.

Katz, L., J. Kling, J. Ludwig. 2005. "Neighborhood Effects on Crime for Female and Male Youth: Evidence from a Randomized Housing Voucher Experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120: 87-130.

Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne, Greg J. Duncan, Pamela Klebanov, and Naomi Seland. 1993. "Do Neighborhoods Influence Child and Adolescent Development?" *American Journal of Sociology* 99(2):353-95. (JS)

Christopher Jencks and Susan Mayer, "The Social Consequences of Growing Up in a Poor Neighborhood," in Laurence Lynn and Michael McGeary, editors, *Inner-City Poverty in the United States*, National Academy Press, 1990, pp 111-186.

Week 9, May 25: Immigration.

White, Michael and Jennifer Glick. *Achieving Anew: How New Immigrants Do in American Schools, Jobs, and Neighborhoods*. Selection.

Waters, Mary. 1999. *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams, American Realities*. Chapter 7.

Smith, Robert Courtney. 2006. *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Chapters 1, 2, Conclusion.

John R. Logan and Charles Zhang. 2010. "Global Neighborhoods: New Pathways to Diversity and Separation." *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (4): 1069-1109.

Recommended:

John R. Logan, Richard D. Alba, and Wenquan Zhang. 2002. "Immigrant Enclaves and Ethnic Communities in New York and Los Angeles" *American Sociological Review* 67 (April):299-322.

Iceland, John. *Where We Live Now: Immigration and Race in the United States*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Optional Topics: We could substitute one of these for topics above or cover one on June 1st.

Problems and Solutions (?) for Urban Schools

Rothstein, Richard. *Class and Schools*. 2004. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute and Teachers' College Press. Selections.

Tough, Paul. 2008. *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books. Selections.

Dobbie, Will and Roland Fryer. 2009. "Are High Quality Schools Enough to Close the Achievement Gap? Evidence from a Social Experiment in Harlem." NBER working paper #15473. Selections.

Pallas, Aaron, Gotham Schools Blog Post "Just How Gullible is Andersen Cooper?": <http://gothamschools.org/2009/12/07/just-how-gullible-is-anderson-cooper/#more-28650>

Pallas, Aaron, Gotham Schools Blog Post "Just How Gullible is David Brooks?": <http://gothamschools.org/2009/05/08/just-how-gullible-is-david-brooks/>

Saporito, Salvatore, and Deenesh Sohoni. "Mapping Educational Inequality: Concentrations of Poverty among Poor and Minority Students in Public Schools." *Social Forces* 85(3): 1227-1253.

Additional:

Jencks, Christopher. 1971. "The Coleman Report and the Conventional Wisdom," in Frederick Mosteller and Daniel P. Moynihan, eds., *On Equality of Educational Opportunity*. Random House, pp 69-115.

Kozol, Jonathan. 1991. *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*. New York: Harper Collins.

Ravitch, Diane. 2010. *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*. New York: Basic Books.

Hoxby, Caroline M., Sonali Murarka, and Jenny Kang. 2009. "How New York City's Charter Schools Affect Achievement, August 2009 Report." Second report in series. Cambridge, MA: New York City Charter Schools Evaluation Project. Selections.

Reardon, Sean 2009. Review of "How New York City's Charter Schools Affect Achievement." Boulder and Tempe: Education and the Public Interest Center & Education Policy Research Unit. Retrieved 3/16/2011 from <http://epicpolicy.org/thinktank/review-How-New-York-City-Charter>. Selections.

Hedges, L. V., Laine, R. D., & Greenwald, R. 1994. "Does money matter?: A meta-analysis of studies of the effects of differential school inputs on student outcomes." *Educational Researcher*, 23(3), 5-14.

Altonji, Joseph G., Ching-I Huang, Christopher R. Taber . 2010. "Estimating the Cream Skimming Effect of School Choice." NBER Working Paper No. 16579

Urban and Housing Policy

Hunt, D. Bradford. 2009. *Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Selections.

Bloom, Nicholas Dagen. 2008. *Public Housing that Worked: New York in the Twentieth Century*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Selections.

Pendall, Rolf. 2006. "From Traditional to Reformed: A Review of Land Use Regulations in the Nation's 50 Largest Metropolitan Areas." Brooks Metropolitan Policy Program Research Brief.

Newman, Sandra, Scott Holupka and Joseph Harkness. 2008. "The Long-Term Effects of Housing Assistance on Work and Welfare." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 28 (1): 81–101.

Additional:

Newman, Sandra and Ann Schnare. 1997. "'...And a Suitable Living Environment': The Failure of Housing Programs to Deliver on Neighborhood Quality." *Housing Policy Debate* 8(4): 703-741.

Newman, Sandra, and Joseph Harkness 2000. "Assisted Housing and the Educational Attainment of Children." *Journal of Housing Economics* 9(1): 40-63.

Harkness, Joseph, Newman, Sandra and Scott Holupka. 2009. "Geographic Differences in Housing Prices and the Well-Being of Children and Parents." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 31(2): 123-146.