

Sociology 301 Syllabus Fall 2017

Northwestern University

Sociology 301 Fall 2017

Kresge 2-380 TTh 11

THE CITY

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The city is a site of ambivalent awe -- both awesome and awful. This course is designed to explore the city from a sociological perspective with a focus on the central question of community in modern urban life. We will discuss various theories and research on cities, local communities, and neighborhoods. Class will be lecture and discussion of readings. Evanston and Chicagoland will often be our class research and reference sites coupled with your own experience. You will have the opportunity to pursue your own topic of interest in consultation with me and report your results in a final term paper.

Books: Required

Larry Lyon – The Community in Urban Society (Waveland 1999)

Harvey Warren Zorbaugh – The Gold Coast and the Slum (Chicago 1929/1976)

Other Required Readings: Articles On Reserve / Canvas

Grades: Two Quizzes 40% (2x20%) 1st on Tue 10/17 2nd on Tue 11/21
Final Paper 40% (8 pages) due Mon 12/4
Presentation - Topic, Community, Article 10%
Reading Response/Participation 10%

Topics & Readings:

Week 1 – Pre-Amble (A Walk Around the City)

9/19-21 Lyon – Chapter One – The Concept of Community
Zorbaugh – Introductions
Chapter I – The Shadow of the Skyscraper
Reading – Wirth – Urbanism as a Way of Life

Week 2 – Perspectives on the City

9/26-28 Lyon – Chapter Two – The Typological Approach
Chapter Fourteen – Field Research & Holistic Studies
Zorbaugh – Chapter II – An Area in Transition
Reading - Melvin – Neighborhood Definition
Ross - Neighborhood Stability & Well-Being

Week 3 – Physical City

10/3-5

Lyon – Chapter Three – The Ecological Approach

Zorbaugh – Chapter XI – The City and the Community

Reading- Immergluck – Local Working

Elliott & Sims – Ghettos, Barrios & Jobs

Canache – Looking Out My Back Door

Week 4 – Race, and Class

10/10-12 Lyon – Chapter Five – The Conflict Approach

Zorbaugh – Chapter VII – The Slum

Chapter VIII – Little Hell

Reading- Harris – Property Values & Blacks

Pattillo – Sweet Mothers & Gangbangers

Week 5 – Personal Problems – Family and Friends

10/17-19 ***** First Quz Tuesday 10/17**

Lyon- Chapter Seven – The Loss & Quest for Community

Zorbaugh – Chapter IV – World of Furnished Rooms

Chapter VI – Rialto of the Half World

Reading- Molotch & Duneier – Interaction Vandalism

Logan – Family Neighbors

Week 6 – Parochial Community

10/24-26 Lyon- Chapter Four – The Community as a Social System

Chapter Six – The Multiple Approaches to Community

Zorbaugh- Chapter V - Towertown

Reading- Wellman – Community & Networks

South – Marital Transition

Hunter – Loss of Community

Week 7 - Perimeter of the City –Suburbia and Beyond

10/31-11/2 Lyon – Chapter Eight – Community Development

 Zorbaugh – Chapter III – The Gold Coast

 Reading- Logan – Minorities & Suburbs

 Meredith – Sprawl & New Urbanism

Week 8 - Politics of the City

11/7-9 Lyon- Chapter Twelve – Community Power

 Chapter Thirteen – Measuring Community Power

 Zorbaugh- Chapter IX – Community Institutions, Social Agency

 Chapter X- The Lower North Community Council

 Reading- Crenson – Networks & Politics

 Marschall – Citizen Co-Participation

Week 9 – Planning and the City

11/14-16 Lyon- Chapter Nine – Planned Communities

 Chapter Fifteen – Quality of Life, Quality of Communities

 Zorbaugh- Chapter XII – Reform, Realism, and City Life

 Reading Perry – Planning & Neighborhood

 Goering – Neighborhood Policy

Week 10 – Second Exam

Tue 11/21 *** In Class Second Quiz

Thur 11/24 Thanksgiving

Week 11 – Reading Week

11/28-30 Available for Consultation on Final Papers

Week 12 – Exam Week

Monday 12/4 *** Final Paper Due Monday 12/4 by 5 pm. at 1812 Chicago Ave., rm 203.