

Northwestern University  
Department of Sociology  
Spring 2010

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### Sociology 513 – Urbanization and Community

This course will explore a number of current theories, perspectives and empirical research about contemporary American cities. We will touch only briefly but importantly where needed on comparative and historical cities in other places and times. There are two foci for the course: the first is on the political economy of cities and what some have called the new urban paradigm; and the second is on the concept of community and its fate in contemporary society. Each class meeting I will lecture for the first period. Second, we will then engage in discussion of the readings and you will submit a 1 page synopsis and questions based on readings for that day. Third, we will have outside book/article reports and discussion. Each of you will select and present three book/article reports during the quarter based on additional books/articles selected in consultation with me. This will include a 3 page write-up with sufficient copies for the class for discussion, and a 2 page critical review and assessment for me. Each of you will do a final term paper (approximately 10 pages) on a topic selected in consultation with me. You will share the results of your research paper with the class during the final class period.

#### Books:

Elijah Anderson. *Streetwise*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press. 1992.

Lyn Lofland, *The Public Realm*. NY: Aldine de Gruyter. 1998

John Logan and Harvey Molotch - *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*  
Berkeley CA: U of Cal 1987

Saskia Sassan – *Cities in a World Economy*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press 2000

Kristina Smock. *Democracy in Action: Community Organizing and Urban Change*.  
Columbia U. Press. 2004.

Harvey Warren Zorbaugh. *The Gold Coast and the Slum*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press  
1929/1976.

Sharon Zukin – *The Cultures of Cities*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell. 1995.

Additional readings may be placed on reserve/Blackboard. (R)

#### Grades: Grades will be based on:

Final paper (10 pages)...	60
3 Reports.....	30
Participation (1 pagers).....	10

## Readings

### Week 1 – Introduction – What is a city? Some Classics

- 3/29            Louis Wirth – Urbanism as a Way of Life (R)  
                  Max Weber – The Nature of the City (R)  
                  Georg Simmel – The Metropolis and Mental Life (R)  
                  Claude Fischer – Toward a Subcultural Theory of Urbanism (R)

### Week 3 – Human Ecology and The Chicago School

- 4/5            Zorbaugh – The Gold Coast and the Slum  
  
                  Robert Park – Human Ecology  
                  George Theodorson ed. – Readings in Human Ecology  
                  Amos Hawley – Human Ecology  
                  Martin Bulmer – The Chicago School of Sociology  
                  Andrew Abbott – Department and Discipline: Chicago Sociology

### Week 2 – Global Cities

- 4/12            Sassen – Cities in a World Economy  
                  Janet Abu-Lughod and Richard Hay eds. – Third World Urbanization  
                  M. Dogan & J. Kasarda eds. – The Metropolis Era: World of Giant Cities

### Week 4 – City Culture as Fad, Fashion, Fates, and Futures

- 4/19            Zukin – The Cultures of Cities  
  
                  Walter Firey – Land Use in Central Boston  
                  Mark Gottdeiner, ed. - The City and the Sign  
                  Sharon Zukin – Landscapes of Power  
                  Dennis Judd – The Infrastructure of Play: Tourist City  
                  John Hannigan – Fantasy City

### Week 5 – Political Economy – Macro - Meso Production

- 4/26            Logan & Molotch – Urban Fortunes  
  
                  Terry Clark – City Money  
                  Wm. Tabb and Larry Sawyers – eds. - Marxism and the Metropolis  
                  Manuel Castells – The Urban Question/ The City and the Grassroots  
                  David Harvey – Social Justice and the City

Week 6 – Political Economy – Micro – Consumption and Community  
5/3 Anderson – Streetwise

Albert Hunter – Symbolic Communities  
Richard Taub et al. – Paths of Neighborhood Change  
Suzanne Keller - Community  
Mark Abrahamson – Urban Enclaves  
D. Massey and N. Denton – American Apartheid  
Mary Pattillo – Black Picket Fences

Week 7 – Politics

5/10 Excerpts from Dennis Judd – City Politics and  
Terry Clark – The New Political Culture

Paul Peterson – City Limits  
Floyd Hunter – Community power Structure  
Robert Dahl – Who Governs?  
G. William Domhoff – Who Rules in New Haven?  
Anthony Orum – Power, Money and People  
Anthony Orum – City Building in America  
Joe Feagin and Robert Parker – Building American Cities  
Clarence Stone – Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta  
Stephen Elkin – City and Regime in the American Republic

Week 8 – Organizing from the Bottom

5/17 Smock - Democracy in Action

Saul Alinsky – Reville for Radicals  
Fred Cox et al, eds. – Strategies of Community Organization  
Manuel Castells – The City and the Grassroots  
Matthew Crenson – Neighborhood Politics

Week 9 – Planning for Cities as Private, Parochial, and Public Spaces

5/24 Lofland – The Public Realm

Hunter Private, Parochial, and Public Social Orders  
William H. Whyte – The City  
Ralph Taylor – Breaking Away from Broken Windows  
Richard Sennett – The Fall of Public Man

Week 10 – Wrap-Up/Closure/Fini

5/31 Final Paper Presentation/ Submit Final Papers