

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2014
SYLLABUS

SOCI 3300D: Urban Sociology 3Hrs	
Department of	Sociology
Division of	Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Baranda Fermin
Office Location:	Dallas 2, 300E
Office Phone:	972-338-1379
Email Address:	baranda.fermin@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	Thursdays 9 AM to 10 AM Via Blackboard Connect and by appointment
Classroom Location:	I-NET
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1510 or other equivalent
Required Text:	1. Monti, Borer & MacGregor. <i>Urban People & Places</i> (2014). Sage. 2. Phillips, Michael. <i>White Metropolis: Race, Ethnicity and Religion in Dallas, 1841-2001</i> (2006). The University of Texas Press.
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com
Course Overview:	
	Urban sociology is the sociological study of life and human interaction in metropolitan areas. In other words it is the sociological study of cities and their role in the development of society Integral to the fiber of most urban environments are socioeconomic, cultural and institutional patterns that draw in and hold people to them in various socio-historical and political relationships. This is a dialectal process including both the activities of humans and the organizations and structures that humans create. The course is designed to explore these processes and creations. Similar to the sub-discipline of Urban Sociology itself, in the course students will study the structures, processes and transformations of an urban area and by doing so provide inputs for planning and policymaking. It is crafted to provide a generalized understanding of urban environments in the U.S., U.K. and the Caribbean with a comparative lens on the establishment, development and maintenance of major urban areas.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will proficiently	
1	Apply the sociological perspective to understanding how major cities emerged.
2	Analyze research findings regarding social and structural transformations of major urban environments.
3	Describe the factors that shape the establishment, development and maintenance of urban environments.
4	Explain the nature of contemporary urban environments and their role in modern social structures.
5	Discuss historical and contemporary similarities and differences in urban processes and structures.
6	Identify socio-cultural similarities among urban environments globally.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

Module	TOPICS	DATE	
		BEGIN	DUE
1	Start Here! and Course Introduction	8/25	8/31
2	Cities, Neighborhoods & Communities	9/1	9/7
3	Urbanization & Community: Organizing Interactions	9/8	9/14
4	Creating Belonging: Urban Dwellers, Urban Residents & Citizenship	9/15	9/21
5	Urban Change: Building Growth, Preserving Histories	9/22	9/28
6	Urbanicity: Understanding Urban growth	9/29	10/5
7	Communities & Stakeholders: Civic Engagement & Activism	10/6	10/12
8	Urban Space: Diversity, Engagement & Pluralism	10/13	10/19
9	Urban Development: Priorities & Planning Spaces	10/20	10/26
10	Marginalization in Cities: Structures, Processes & Politics	10/27	11/2
11	Regulation and Rights in Urban Space : Policy & Policing	11/3	11/9
12	Social Position: Identity & Community	11/10	11/16
13	Urban Culture: The Arts, Performance & Voyeurism	11/17	11/23
THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 24-30			
14	The City & Urban Environments: The Sociological Perspective	12/1	12/7
15	*** FINAL EXAM *** (please see schedule available online)	DUE 12/12 11:59 PM	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Rubrics will be given for all course requirements except **class participation and quizzes**.

Exams – written assessment designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

Activities – assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

Blog/Vlogs – assignment designed to measure ability to observe, apply and orally explain course material

Class Participation – engagement in class discussions, activities & materials in a substantive & timely manner

Assignments – written and oral activities designed to create critical engagement with course material

Quizzes – written assessments given with little notice to measure student preparedness for exams

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Module Learning Activities	Varied (see module guides)	400
Participation & Engagement	Various Activities/BBLearn Reports	100
Final Exam	2 parts (50 points each)	100
Total:		600

Grade Determination:

A = 540 – 600 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 480 – 539 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 420 – 479 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 360 – 419 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 359 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

Instructor Policies and Procedures

Email: All electronic communication for this course must take place via Blackboard Learn Messages. In ALL messages please put the course number, section number and an appropriate message description as the **subject heading (SOC1 3300D.030 Test Grade Question)** or you may experience delays in responding to your message. **I expect you to write your emails properly.** In other words, please address me properly, use complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar, and make sure your name is at the end of the email or I will NOT respond. Please use your name and my name in all emails. For example, I will not respond to messages that address me as “Hey,” or “Yo,” and/or that are signed off without a name or as “Peace,” or “get back.” If you email me and have not heard a response within a 48 hour time frame, I would suggest you re-read your message to see if you are missing any of these requirements.

If I have not responded to your specific email message within 48 hours, before you send me multiple messages please first check the Blackboard Learn site for an discussion board post, announcement or email message addressed to the entire class. Sometimes several students had similar concerns and it was more effective to send everyone a note to ensure clarity for ALL. Remember that you are not my only student and your class is not the only one I teach so it may take me an entire day or two before I can get to your email. Leaving numerous messages will not speed up the process. Messages sent electronically can often “sound” very differently than they would if you were talking to someone in person. **Therefore, it is important to write emails properly and in a professional manner to avoid confusing, frustrating or inappropriate situations.**

Using email accounts outside of Blackboard Learn or your UNT account increases risks that you may not receive all communications as a result of spam blockers and policy regulations. **I also cannot communicate information about your grades and other information covered under FERPA policies outside of your Blackboard Learn/UNT account. Since this is an online course ALL course communication once classes begin must be within Blackboard Learn.**

Information/Attendance Policy: YOU are responsible for all course announcements, all information relayed via discussion boards, blackboard learn announcements, all notes, and all videos viewed for class – even if you are absent from class. **I DO NOT** provide notes for students; it is in your best interest to share notes or ask other students to help you if you are absent. Please make arrangements for a phone call, virtual appointment for a chat session, or to come by my office appointment if you wish to communicate directly about an issue that is too sensitive for email messages or course discussion boards.

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance): *The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Dr. Jamaica Chapple at 972-338-1779.*

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy: *The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.*

Academic Integrity: *Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code. In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:*

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received,
nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that
violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

Bad Weather Policy: *On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/dak0013/pdf/120910_policetifold_r4.pdf. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

Attendance and Participation Policy: The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be presented for you to engage. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for lack of engagement, which counts for attendance in the online environment. Attendance/engagement and participation in all class activities is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they unable to engage the course as designed and for what reason. Students are also responsible for coordinating arrangements with a class colleague to obtain information or materials they may miss as a result of being disengaged.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussion boards, wikis, and other avenues. However, offensive & inappropriate language and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs as the instructor deems appropriate.