

Instructor: Qi Sun (Phoenix)

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Office Hours: Tuesday 5-7 Wednesday: 5-7 or by appointment

SOCI 3300.090, Spring 2013

Dallas 1, Room: 348: Wednesday 7-9:50pm

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore major issues in understanding urban life: classical urban sociological theory; urban growth; urban-suburban conflict; issues of community; urban problems such as health care, transportation, the effect of urbanization on children, migration and ethnicity in urban settings, economic issues faced by urban planners, and urban policy (such as zoning, housing, etc).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Identify some of the major historical changes that caused a growth in urban communities.
- 2) Explain the contemporary social problems that effect urban developments.
- 3) Recognize the fundamental role that race/ethnicity, class, and gender play in forming urban communities.

TEXTS:

1) *Urban Sociology: Images and Structure* (Text-4th ed.) by William G. Flanagan.

2) *Amazing Grace* (Kozol) by Jonathan Kozol.

3. *When Work Disappears* (WJW) by William Julius Wilson.

4) Selected readings found on the Web at the addresses below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class Attendance

Class attendance is expected and crucial to complete the course. All of the information given in class lecture may be found on exams. Student participation and attendance is welcomed to help facilitate a learning environment.

Missed Classes

If it is necessary for you to miss a class, please ask another student for their notes. If you have a university-approved, documented excuse for your absence and know you must miss an exam please contact me as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

Please see your Student Handbook for an explanation of excused absences.

Examinations

1. In-class Midterm exam-- The midterm will consist of multiple choice/matching, short answer and essay questions covering the material up to that point. (30%)

2. In-class Final exam--which will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The final will be comprehensive, but will focus on the last half of the course material. (35%)

Papers/Presentations/Projects

3. **Website Search.** Students will be required to search through the following sociological Web Sites and write a 1-2 page summary describing what you found 1) interesting and useful to yourself as a student of urban sociology and why; and 2) what you wish you could get access to but could not find in any of these web sites. To complete the assignment, I would like you provide the complete URL/http:// address at the end of the paper of the Web page that you found most interesting/useful along with your 1-2 page summary. The assignment is worth 10% of your grade, and you will receive yes/no credit. The assignment is due March 6th. Here are the websites:

<http://www.trinity.edu/~mkearl/index.html#in>

<http://www.abacon.com/sociology/soclinks/index.html>

<http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/sociosite/>

<http://socserv2.mcmaster.ca/w3virtsoclib/>

<http://www.wcsu.ctstateu.edu/socialsci/socres.html>

<http://www.socioweb.com/>

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stsoc.html>

4. **Student Project/Presentations.** (25%) Students must prepare a 5-7 page project report on an issue in urban sociology, urban planning, or urban demography that is due the week of May 4, during which time students will give a 5 minute presentation of their project. More instructions and guidelines will be provided later. Please approve your topic with me before March 23. Some of the areas you may want to look into are:

- a. usual sources for a "term paper" format
- b. Census data or Bureau of Labor Statistics data available on the World Wide Web
- c. interviews with Dallas city/urban planners
- d. attend a Dallas City Council meeting and do research on one of the issues discussed
- e. other creative projects approved by the instructor

POLICIES:

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Grades will be compiled as follows:

Website Search	10%
Student Project/Presentation	25%
Midterm Exam	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given.

RULES OF COURTESY

- Please be honest. Students are expected to have academic integrity in line with University policy. Refer to your Student Handbook for issues and concerns regarding academic dishonesty. If you have questions, please ask.
 - This includes issues of plagiarism, cheating on exams, and any other forms of academic dishonesty which may result in a 0 or further punishment.
- Please turn off all cell phones or electronic equipment that may disrupt the class. Any cell phones seen out during exams will result in an automatic “F”.
- Please stay awake during class.
- Do not distract the class with side conversations. What you have to say in this classroom is welcomed. Please share it with all of us.
- Please be on time. Entering the class late causes a distraction and disruption.
- Most importantly, the issues we will address are issues each of us may have dealt with as individuals. ALL opinions are welcomed, but please be respectful and treat your fellow classmates as you would like to be treated.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require special accommodations should register with the Student Development Coordinator (SDC). I will be happy to work with you and SDC to make sure accommodations are met. Please let me know early in the semester and bring me the required paperwork as early as possible. Contact Student Development Coordinator at (972) 780-3632.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

You are expected to come to class each week having read the following selections from the texts or the reserve readings. We will try to cover all of the assigned readings, but should remain flexible (the instructor reserves the right to change the schedule if the need arises).

WEEK 1:

Introduction of course, syllabus and readings.

WEEK 2:

Intro to Urban Sociology

- Discuss the process of urbanization and the history of the city

Classic Urban Sociology

- Text: Ch. 2-3 (and Ch. 1 if you have time)

WEEK 3:

Classic Urban Sociology

- Text: Ch. 2-3 (and Ch. 1 if you have time)
- Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life"
(http://condor.depaul.edu/~dweinste/intro/simmel_M&ML.htm)

Community Studies

- Text: Ch. 4

WEEK 4:

Community Studies

- Text: Ch. 4
- Robert Fisher, "Protecting Community and Property Values: Civic Clubs in Houston 1909-1970" (handout)
- Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone" (search
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/assoc/bowling.html>)

Urban Growth in the Developing World

- Text: Ch. 6

WEEK 5:

Urban Growth in the Developing World

- Text: Ch. 6

Urban Growth in the US and Suburbanization

- Text: Ch. 7

WEEK 6:

Urban Growth in the US and Suburbanization

- Text: Ch. 7
- Robert Fishman, "America's New City: Megalopolis Unbound" (through UNT library on-line- search Ebscohost for article title. It is under the journal 'Wilson Quarterly')
<http://dq4wu5nl3d.search.serialssolutions.com/?genre=article&isbn=&issn=03633276&title=Wilson+Quarterly&volume=14&issue=1&date=19900101&title=MEGALOPOLIS+UNBOUND.&aulast=FISHMAN%2c+ROBERT&spage=25&sid=EBSCO:Academic+Search+Complete&pid=<authors>FISHMAN%2c+ROBERT</authors><ui>10052303</ui><date>19900101</date><db>Academic+Search+Complete</db>>
- Nicholas Lemann, "Stressed Out in Suburbia" (through UNT library page under journal title 'Atlantic' 1989;24(5) p.34)
<https://libproxy.library.unt.edu:9443/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com/pqdw eb?did=1821435&sid=10&Fmt=6&clientId=87&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Suburbanization and Urban Ecology

- Text: Ch. 8

WEEK 7:

Suburbanization and Urban Ecology

- Text: Ch. 8
- Chris Webster et al., "The Global Spread of Gated Communities" (type the article title into Google and click on b12926315.320)
- Renaud Le Goix, "Fulbright Scholar Examines Gated Communities in Southern California" (see <http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=4664>)
- Eran Ben-Joseph, "Land Use and Design Innovations in Private Communities" (see <http://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/pub-detail.asp?id=971>)
- Joel Garreau, "Texas" in Edge City (handout)
- William Schneider, "The Suburban Century Begins" (through library under journal Atlantic 1992; 270 p.33)
<https://libproxy.library.unt.edu:9443/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com/pqdw eb?did=5130247&sid=15&Fmt=6&clientId=87&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Ethnicity in Urban Life

- Text: Ch. 5
- Cary D. Wintz, "The Emergence of a Black Neighborhood: Houston's Forth Ward" (hanout)

WEEK 8:

Midterm Exam Review

Midterm Exam

WEEK 9:

No Class – Spring Break

No Class – Spring Break

WEEK 10:

Ethnicity in Houston and Dallas

- “Houston’s Economic and Demographic Transformation: The Houston Area Survey (1982-2002)” (go to www.houstonareasurvey.org and click on “Research Reports”—read them all)

Film: “The Strange Demise of Jim Crow”

- **Project/Presentation approval by today**

WEEK 11:

Urban Problems 1: Children

- Kozol: Ch. 1-4 (pp. 1-138)

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- Kozol: Ch. 1-4 (pp. 1-138)

WEEK 12:

Urban Problems 2: Children

- Kozol: Ch. 5-6

Urban Problems 2: Children

- Kozol: Ch. 5-6

WEEK 13:

Urban Problems 3: Economics and Crime and Families

- Text: Ch. 9
- WJW: Intro, Ch. 1-3

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- Text: Ch. 9
- WJW: Intro, Ch. 1-3

WEEK 14:

Urban Problems 4: Economics and Jobs

- WJW: Ch. 4-8

Urban Problems 4: Economics and Jobs

- WJW: Ch. 4-8

WEEK 15:

Urban Policy

- Text: Ch. 10-11

Urban Policy

- Text: Ch. 10-11

WEEK 16:

Urban Policy and Wrap-Up

- **Projects Due**
- **Student Presentations**

Urban Policy and Wrap-Up

- **Student Presentations**
- Review for Final

WEEK 17:

FINAL EXAM