

SOCIOLOGY 276 (20898)
INTRODUCTION TO URBAN SOCIOLOGY
SPRING, 2007

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Introduction

This course provides a general survey of major social science perspectives and studies on cities and urban development in the United States and other countries. The course covers such topics as 1) the general characteristics, causes, and consequences of city and community growth and decline, 2) the varied structure and change of ethnic communities in large U.S. cities, and 3) the comparative positions and roles of major cities in the global and regional systems. The types of cases to be examined include but are not limited to the older American industrial cities such as Chicago, the ethnic enclaves (communities) in the large urban centers of Boston, Detroit, and San Francisco, and the world or global cities such as London, Shanghai, Mexico City.

Requirements and Grading

Students are required to keep up with the readings. The lectures often go beyond the required readings, so regular attendance and note-taking in class is important to performing well in the exam. Active participation in class discussion is required and an important part of your grade. Class assignments include an in-class midterm exam consisting of multiple choice and essay questions, a team-oriented oral presentation, and a term paper of approximately 10-12 pages based on in-depth library or field research. The midterm constitutes 30% of your overall grade, the term project 45%, with the remaining 25% based on your attendance, presentation, and class discussion.

Texts

1. Anthony Orum and Xiangming Chen. *The World of Cities*. Blackwell, 2003.
 2. Saskia Sassen. *Cities in a World Economy*. Pine Forge Press, 2006.
 3. Mark Abrahamson. *Urban Enclaves: Identity and Place in the World*. St. Martin Press, 2005.
 4. Xiangming Chen. *As Borders Bend: Transnational Spaces on the Pacific Rim*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.
- *A number of articles on the Urban Age project online at www.urban-age.net.

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1: Introduction

- 1/16 Introducing the course.
- 1/18 Introductory lecture on general issues.

Week 2: Historical Background and Meaning of Place

- 1/23 Orum and Chen, Chapter 1, pp. 1-16.
- 1/25 Orum and Chen, Chapter 2, pp. 16-26.

Week 3: Theoretical Perspectives

- 1/30 Orum and Chen, Chapter 2, pp. 27-44.
- 2/1 Orum and Chen, Chapter 2, pp. 44-63.

Week 4: The History of American Cities

- 2/6 Orum and Chen, Chapter 3, pp. 64-74.

2/8 Orum and Chen, Chapter 3, pp. 74-94.

Week 5: Cities in Comparative and Global Perspectives

2/13 Orum and Chen, Chapter 4, pp. 94-112.

2/15 Orum and Chen, Chapter 4, pp. 112-139.

Week 6: Cities in a World Economy

2/20 Sassen, Introduction and Chapter 2.

2/22 Sassen, Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 7: Cities in a Global Economy

2/27 Sassen, Chapters 5 and 6.

3/1 Sassen, Chapters 7.

Week 8: Midterm Review and Exam

3/6 Review

3/8 Midterm Exam.

Team Oral Presentations Begin

Week 9: Urban Enclaves

3/13 Abrahamson, Chapters 1 and 2.

3/15 Abrahamson, Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 10: Continued from Week 9

3/20 Abrahamson, Chapters 5 and 6.

3/22 Abrahamson, Chapters 7 and 8.

Spring Break (3/26-3/30)

Week 11: Urban Enclaves

4/3 Abrahamson, Chapters 9 and 10.

4/5 Comparison of the cases.

Week 12: As Borders Bend

4/10 Chen, Chapters 1 and 2.

4/12 Chen, Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 13: Continued from Week 12

4/17 Chen, Chapter 5 and 6.

4/19 Chen, Chapters 7 and 8.

Week 14: Continued from Week 13

4/24 Guest lecture.

4/26 Chen, Chapter 9.

Week 15: Summary and Conclusion

5/1 Orum and Chen, Chapter 5.

5/9 Term Paper Due.