

**SOCIOLOGY 473 (23213 and 23234)
CITIES AND REGIONS
FALL, 2006**

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Introduction

This course adopts an integrated and comparative approach to studying the meaning of place and the local and global characteristics, conditions, and consequences of growth and transformation of cities and regions. We begin with a deep exploration of the meaning of place as a crucial concept and then review and critique competing theoretical perspectives for understanding cities and regions. For case studies of cities, we will examine older American post-industrial cities like Chicago. We also will compare a number of ethnic enclaves as local communities in cities such as Boston, Detroit, and San Francisco. For case studies of regions, we will examine the booming Pearl River Delta and Yangtze River Delta in China as the world's hot growth regions and several Asia-Pacific transborder subregions as new transnational spaces. Toward the end of class, we will take a brief look at six global cities covered in the Urban Age project in which I have been involved. Each student is expected to complete an individual research project and term paper that uses one or more theoretical perspectives and a method of analysis to studying a city or region preferably with a comparative perspective.

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. Written assignments include an in-class midterm exam (consisting of multiple choice and essay questions), a short essay of approximately 4 pages, and a term paper of about 12-15 pages based on in-depth library or field research. The midterm constitutes 30% of your overall grade, the short essay 10%, the term project 45%, and the remaining 15% based on attendance and performance in class discussions.

Readings

1. Anthony M. Orum and Xiangming Chen. *The World of Cities*. Blackwell, 2003.
 2. Mark Abrahamson. *Urban Enclaves*, updated edition. St. Martin Press, 2005.
 3. Xiangming Chen. *As Borders Bend*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.
 4. Saskia Sassen, *Cities in a World Economy*, second edition. Pine Forge Press, 2000.
- *A number of articles on the Urban Age project online at www.urban-age.net.

Schedules and Readings

Week 1: Introduction and General Issues

- 8/29 Introducing the course and syllabus.
8/31 Introductory lecture on general issues.

Week 2: Theoretical Perspectives

- 9/5 Orum and Chen, Chapter 1.
9/7 Orum and Chen, Chapter 2.

Week 3: Local Urban Issues: The Case of Chicago

- 9/12 Guest lecture 1.
9/14 Guest lecture 2.

Week 4: Historical and Other Perspectives on American Cities

- 9/19 Orum and Chen, Chapter 3.
9/21 Abrahamson, Chapter 1.

Week 5: Comparative Perspectives on American Urban Enclaves

- 9/26 Abrahamson, Chapters 2 and 3.
9/28 Abrahamson, Chapters 4 and 5.

Week 6: American Urban Enclaves (Continued)

- 10/3 Abrahamson, Chapters 6 and 7.
10/5 Abrahamson, Chapter 8 and 9.

Week 7: Midterm Exam

- 10/10 Review.
10/12 Midterm Exam.

Week 8: Cities in a World Economy

- 10/17 Sassen, Chapters 1 and 2.
10/19 Sassen, Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 9: Cities in a World Economy (Continued)

- 10/24 Sassen, Chapters 5 and 6.
10/26 Sassen, Chapter 7.

Week 10: As Borders Bend

- 10/31 Chen, Chapters 1 and 2.
11/2 Chen, Chapter 3.

Week 11: As Borders Bend (Continued)

- 11/7 Chen, Chapters 4 and 5.
11/9 Chen, Chapters 6 and 7.
One-page outline for term paper due.

Week 12: As Borders Bend (Continued)

- 11/14 Chen, Chapter 8.
11/16 Chen, Chapter 9.

Week 13: Return to The World of Cities

- 11/21 Orum and Chen, Chapters 4 and 5.
11/23 **Thanksgiving Holiday.**

Week 14: Reading and Discussing the Urban Age Project

- (www.urban-age.net)
11/28 *Articles on New York, London, Berlin
11/30 *Articles on Shanghai, Mexico, Johannesburg

Week 15: Summary and Conclusion

- 12/5 No readings.

12/13 Term Paper Due.