

Department of Sociology
St. Francis Xavier University

Sociology 398: Special Topics: Urban Sociology

Winter Semester, 2014-15

Dr. John Phyne
Annex 110A

Class Times: Tuesday: 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM; Friday: 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM

Office Hours: Monday: 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM; Thursday: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM; Friday:
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM or by appointment.

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E-mail Policy: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes: extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Also, **NO LAPTOPS** are to be used in the class. Refer to my information and communications technology policy guidelines on p. 5 of this syllabus.

Course Outline: This course introduces students to the sub-discipline of urban sociology. The central objective is to cover the major themes and empirical research issues in urban sociology in the 20th and 21st century. The course deals with major debates in urban social science: the Chicago School, Political Economy and Post-Modern perspectives. From there, the course deals with: the industrial city of the early and mid-twentieth century and the attendant social problems of industrialization and the rise of inner-city slums, urban planning models dedicated to suburban development and social housing, the intersection of class, gender and racial forms of inequality in cities, the impact of urbanization upon sustainable development, and finally, case studies on globalization and the city. This includes separate lectures on: 'global cities' in the Global North, and globalization and urban development in the Global South.

Evaluation

This course is based upon four evaluation components:

Mid-Term: Tuesday, February 17 – *25 marks*.

Research Paper: This is worth *30 per cent* of your final grade. The guidelines will be handed out the second Friday of the term (January 16). The requirements include:

- 1) Paper Proposal (2-3 pages) –due in class, Tuesday, February 3 – *5 marks*.
- 2) Paper (7 -9 pages) - due in class, Tuesday, March 24 - *20 marks*.
- 3) Presentation of paper – 20 minute presentation – *5 marks*. These presentations will be held during the last 4 Fridays of the term beginning on Friday, March 13. There will be 4 presentations per day. In order to provide fairness, I will draw 4 names the beginning of each class. *So you all have to be ready by Friday, March 13.*

Class Participation – *15 marks*. This includes discussion of the required readings and participation in discussions following the presentations of research papers. Class attendance does not equal class participation. Full attendance without participation will give you a maximum of *5 marks out of 15*.

Final Examination: *30 marks*.

Textbooks

Louis Guay and Pierre Hamel, **Cities and Urban Sociology**. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, eds. **The City Reader**. Fifth Edition. London and New York: Routledge, 2011.

Required Readings

The following readings are required. Examinations and your class participation grade consist of materials from class lectures and these readings. A failure to complete assigned reading material will be reflected in your grades.

Section One: Introduction to Urban Sociology (one week)

Guay and Hamel, ‘Chapter 1: The Development of Urban Sociology’, pp. 2-20.

Louis Wirth, ‘Urbanism as a Way of Life’, pp. 96 to 104 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Jane Jacobs, ‘The Use of Sidewalks: Safety’, pp. 105 to 109 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Richard Florida, 'The Creative Class', pp. 143 to 149 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Section Two: Theories of the City and Urbanization (two weeks)

Guay and Hamel, 'Chapter 2: Theoretical Perspectives in Urban Sociology', pp. 22-44.

Ernest Burgess, 'The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project', pp. 161 to 169 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Harvey Molotch, 'The City as a Growth Machine: Towards a Political Economy of Place', pp. 251 to 262 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Michael Dear, 'The Los Angeles School of Urbanism: An Intellectual History', pp. 170 to 175 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Daphne Spain, 'What Happened to Gender Relations on the Way from Chicago to Los Angeles', pp. 176 to 185 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Section Three: The Industrial City (one week)

Guay and Hamel, 'Chapter 3: The Rise of the Industrial City and Its Problems', pp. 45 to 66.

Friederich Engels, 'The Great Towns', pp. 46-54 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Sam Bass Warner, 'Evolution and Transformation: The American Industrial Metropolis, 1840-1940', pp. 55-64 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Section Four: Urban Planning: Garden Cities, Suburbs and Social Housing (three weeks)

Ebenezer Howard, 'Author's Introduction' and 'The Town-Country Magnet', pp. 328 to 335 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Le Corbusier, 'A Contemporary City', pp. 336 to 344 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Frank Lloyd Wright, 'Broadacre City: A New Community Plan', pp. 345 to 350 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Guay and Hamel, 'Chapter 4: Cities and Suburbs and the Making of a Metropolis', pp. 67 to 88.

Guay and Hamel, 'Chapter 7: The City and Urban Planning Models', pp. 134 to 155.

Allan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard, 'Toward an Urban Design Manifesto', pp. 518 to 529 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Section Five: Social Inequality and Urban Social Change: Intersections of Class, Race and Gender (two weeks)

Guay and Hamel, 'Chapter 5: The City as a Social Mosaic', pp. 89 to 110.

Ali Madanipour, 'Social Exclusion and Space', pp. 186 to 194 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Mike Davis, 'Fortress L.A.', pp. 195 to 201 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

David Harvey, 'Contested Cities: Social Process and Spatial Form', pp. 230 to 237 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Section Six: The City and Sustainable Development (one week)

Guay and Hamel, 'Chapter 8: Cities, the Environment and Sustainable Development', pp. 156 to 176.

Timothy Beatley, 'Planning for Sustainability in European Cities: A Review of Practice in Leading Cities', pp. 446 to 457 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Stephen Wheeler, 'Urban Planning and Climate Change', pp. 458 to 468 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Section Seven: Globalization and Urbanization in the 21st Century (one week)

Guay and Hamel, Chapter 9: Globalization and the Urban Way of Life, pp. 177 to 200.

Saskia Sassen, 'The Impact of the New Technologies and Globalization on Cities', pp. 554 to 562.

UN-Habitat, 'Key Findings and Messages', pp. 583 to 589 in in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Tingzwei Zhang, 'Chinese Cities in a Global Society', pp. 590 to 598 in LeGates and Stout, eds.

Technology and this Course

1. **E-mail:** Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes: extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Unnecessary e-mails will remain unanswered.
2. **Cell phones:** Please turn off all cell phones before the commencement of class. If you need to have your cell phone turned on, please let me know as soon as possible.
3. **Use of laptops for taking notes:** No laptops are to be used in the class.
4. **No audiotaping or videotaping of lectures:** Under no circumstances are my lectures to be audiotaped or videotaped. If you require assistance in the taking of notes, I suggest that you seek the assistance of the Counseling Centre (867-2281).