

SOCI 425: Urban Sociology

Wed-Fri: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM, Location: HEBB-12

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Class description:

Urban sociology means the marriage between spatial consciousness and sociological imagination. This class adopts a multidisciplinary view of cities, neighborhoods and environment, and explores people-place relations at a global scale. Students will be exposed to classical topics of urban sociology, and cutting-edge research conducted by sociologists, geographers, urban planners, political scientists and epidemiologists.

1. Prerequisite

SOCI 100 or its equivalent is a prerequisite for this course.

2. Textbook (recommended)

Lin and Mele, 2013 *The Urban Sociology Reader*, Routledge

Lin and Mele, 2005 *The Urban Sociology Reader*, Routledge

3. Grading policy and assignment

The grading policy of this class is as follows:

- 1) Class attendance: 10%
- 2) Class participation: 5%
- 3) In-class exam I: 15%
- 4) In-class exam II: 15%
- 5) Leading class discussion: 15%
- 6) Group presentation: 15%
- 7) Term paper: 25%

Note: Final grades may be adjusted if the average final grade for the course is inordinately high or low. And students showing outstanding performance in class discussion, presentation or term paper may get extra credits.

Detailed guidelines:

Class attendance is mandatory and there will be roll calls. If you miss class due to illness, you must inform the instructor **in advance** and later provide a doctor's note. Excessive absences will not be excused. A list of religious holidays involving fasting, abstention from work or study or participation in religious activities is available on the UBC website. Students should let the instructor know in advance if they will require accommodation on these grounds.

Class participation It may not be the case that everyone is equally comfortable engaging in discussion, but please remember that you are encouraged to raise questions and express your opinions in class. Throughout the entire class (e.g., regular teaching sessions, student-led discussion and Q&A sessions of group presentations), you must express your opinion **AT LEAST ONCE** to receive the 5% credits of class participation.

In-class exams: There will be two in-class exams, which is based on summary questions offered in each topic. The exam will be comprised primarily of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam I covers Topic 1-5 (Topic 0 is not included) and the exam II covers Topic 6-10.

Student-led class discussion: All students will be assigned to ten groups. Students who volunteer to lead class discussion first will get one extra bonus point.

All students from one of the ten groups will lead discussion in class, which may last 20-25 minutes. In class, each student of this group is expected to: 1) summarize one book chapter or a journal article (from required or optional reading materials) related to one particular topic (class topics are listed in the last section); 2) synthesize this book chapter or journal article and **raise one or two research questions** based on this piece to facilitate class discussion. Members from the same group **MUST** review **DIFFERENT** papers from the reading list. The student-led class discussion will be evaluated by your mastery of the literature reviewed, the relevance of your research questions to the literature reviewed and organization of the class discussion. To prepare for the student-led discussion, you are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** to write a reading summary of the paper or book chapter. The performance of each student will be evaluated **SEPARATELY**.

Group presentation (or city presentation): Each student groups is required to do a city presentation, which applies urban sociology to the analyses of urban issues of an actual city. **Please read the following instructions carefully because your presentation will be evaluated in the following ways:**

- 1) You can pick up one city worldwide: Vancouver, Toronto, New York, Beijing, Tehran, Seoul, Paris, Tokyo, Shanghai, Pyongyang, Singapore, Sao Paulo, London, Mumbai,

Hong Kong, Berlin, Manchester, Richmond, Guangzhou, Taipei, New Delhi, Seattle, Atlanta, Kyoto, Osaka, Providence, Columbus, Shenzhen ... as long as this city has over 10,000 population.

- 2) You are supposed to do an INTERESTING and RELEVANT presentation, which means that you should inform us something unique, important, attractive or compelling about this city and also applies knowledge of urban sociology to your presentation. You are supposed to pick up one or several papers from the reading list and apply their idea(s) to your presentation. You should have an explicit research question rooted in the reading materials and it CANNOT be a general introduction of a city.
- 3) The total duration of this city presentation is 20 to 25 minutes and we will also have a 5-10 minutes Q&A session (please prepare 2-3 questions to facilitate the Q&A session).
- 4) You must introduce briefly the population, geography and history of this chosen city. If you would like to compare this city with other cities, at least one city should be your focus and you should introduce related background: population, geography and history.
- 5) The presentation should be a fluent and well-rehearsed one.
- 6) Because you may encounter materials that you have not learned yet (especially for the first few groups doing group presentations), all group members of each group are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to meet with the instructor at office hours and discuss your presentation together. You should determine your topics and organization of your presentation before the office meeting.
- 7) The topic of urban sociology chosen for group presentation could be any topic (topic 1 to topic 10) related to this class.
- 8) This is teamwork and all group members of one group will have the same grade. If a group member's performance and preparation is much less satisfactory, the instructor should be informed by ALL other group members in advance.

Term paper a 4-6 page response (font size 12, double space, 1 inch margin) to one out of three research questions provided around Week 10. It will be evaluated as follows:

- A logical and organized paper
- Adequate supporting materials
- Clear and proper writing
- A new and reasonable argument

4. **Late Policy:** Late written assignments will be penalized 1 overall point for every 12 hours after the due time. Answers for exams must be submitted in class and late submission will not be accepted after class. Exceptions will only be made when you produce a letter from Arts Academic Advising.

- 5. Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated and students engaging in such activities will be reported to the Academic Integrity Program.

Please consult this website if you are not sure whether your behaviors will be considered as plagiarism:

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/guide-to-academic-integrity/>

- 6. Grade Appeals:** Students should retain all copies of assignments and marked work, both for your own records and in the event that you wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Please understand that the grading policy applies to all students and I will not make an exception for any single student. Please also bear in mind that a re-evaluation of your work can result in a higher/lower grade.
- 7. Communication** You could contact me in person before/after class or set up an appointment by email: fu.qiangsoc@gmail.com .

8. Class topics

Note: * from Lin and Mele, 2013 *The Urban Sociology Reader*, Routledge

** from Lin and Mele, 2005 *The Urban Sociology Reader*, Routledge

Required readings are in **bold**.

Topic 0 An Overview of the City

Topic 1 Place, Space and Territory

Gieryn, Thomas F. 2000. "A Space for Place in Sociology" *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 26: 463-496

Delaney D. 2009. *Territory and territoriality*. *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, 2009: 196-208.

Tuan, Y. F. 1979. *Space and place: humanistic perspective* (pp. 387-427). Springer, Netherlands.

Storey, David. 2015. *Territoriality: Geographical*. In: *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences* (2nd edition). Elsevier, Oxford, pp. 221-226.

Topic 2 Sense, Identity and Attachment

Lewicka M. Place attachment: How far have we come in the last 40 years? *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 2011, 31(3): 207-230.

Martin D G. “Place-framing” as Place-making: Constituting a Neighborhood for organizing and activism. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 2003, 93(3): 730-750.

*Sentiment and Symbolism as Ecological Variables

*The Metropolis and Mental Life

Lewicka M. What makes neighborhood different from home and city? Effects of place scale on place attachment. *Journal of environmental psychology*, 2010, 30(1): 35-51.

Flaherty J, Brown R B. A Multilevel Systemic Model of Community Attachment: Assessing the Relative Importance of the Community and Individual Levels. *American Journal of Sociology*, 2010, 116(2): 503-542.

Topic 3 The Origin, Nature and History of the City

* **Human Ecology**

* **The Urban Process under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis**

* **The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project**

“Chapter 5 Emergence of the polis” at Mumford, Lewis. *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects*. Harcourt, 1989; first edition 1961, pp. 315-431, 439-445.

Topic 4 Urbanism

***Urbanism as a Way of life**

***Theories of Urbanism**

***Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a Debate**

**Urbanism and Suburbanism as Ways of Life: A Revaluation of Definitions

Topic 5 Network, Relations, Community and the City

*** Community and Society**

*** Bowling Alone**

*** Networks, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Approaches to the Study of the Community Question**

Sampson R J, Morenoff J D, Earls F. Beyond social capital: Spatial dynamics of collective efficacy for children. *American Sociological Review*, 1999: 633-660.

Yeung H W. Rethinking relational economic geography. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 2005, 30(1): 37-51.

Topic 6 Politics and the City

***The City as a Growth Machine**

Pierre J. Models of urban governance the institutional dimension of urban politics. *Urban affairs review*, 1999, 34(3): 372-396.

***Metropolitics for the Twenty-First Century**

Fu Q, He S, Zhu Y, et al. Toward a Relational Account of Neighborhood Governance Territory-Based Networks and Residential Outcomes in Urban China. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 2015.

*** Whose City Is It? Globalization and the Formation of New Claims**

*** Cities and the Geographies of ‘Actually Existing Neoliberalism’**

Jessop B. Liberalism, Neo-Liberalism and Urban Governance: A State Theoretical Perspective. *Antipode*, 2002, 34(3): 452-472.

Harvey D. From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: the transformation in urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler. Series B. Human Geography*, 1989: 3-17.

Topic 7 Property Rights, Social Justice, Migration and the City

***The Right to the City**

Demsetz H. Toward a theory of property rights II: The competition between private and collective ownership. *The Journal of Legal Studies*, 2002, 31(S2): S653-S672.

***The Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Empirical Examples**

*** Segregation and the Making of the Underclass**

Chapter 3 “Social Justice and Spatial Systems” from *Social Justice and the City* by Harvey

Harris, DC. Condominium and the City: The Rise of Property in Vancouver, *Law & Social Inquiry* 36 (3), 694-726

*Men Without Property: The Tramp’s Classification and Use of Urban Space

Topic 8 Urban Planning and the Built Environment

**** The Natural Areas of the City**

*** The Uses of City Neighborhoods**

Gieryn T F. What Buildings Do. *Theory and society*, 2002, 31(1): 35-74.

*Looking at Themed Environments

Zhu YS, Fu Q. Deciphering the Civic Virtue of Communal Space: Neighborhood Attachment, Social Capital and Neighborhood Participation in Urban China, *Environment & Behavior*, Forthcoming

Leyden K M. Social capital and the built environment: the importance of walkable neighborhoods. *American journal of public health*, 2003, 93(9): 1546-1551.

Topic 9 Urban Conflicts, Crime, Civic Engagement and Social Movements

***Glocalizing Protest: Urban Conflicts and the Global Social Movements**

***Fortified Enclaves: the New Urban Segregation**

*Spaces of Insurgent Citizenship

Musso J A, Weare C, Oztas N, et al. Neighborhood governance reform and networks of community power in Los Angeles. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 2006, 36(1): 79-97.

Fu, Q. Neighborhood Conflicts in Urban China: From Consciousness of Property Rights to Contentious Actions. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. 2016

Topic 10 Environmentalism, Health and the City

***Urban Ecological Footprints: Why Cities Cannot Be Sustainable – And Why They Are a Key to Sustainability**

Riley E. Dunlap and Brent K. Marshall, “Environmental Sociology.” Pp. 329-340 in Clifton D. Bryant and Dennis L. Peck (eds.), 21st Century Sociology: A Reference Handbook, Vol. 2. Thousands Oaks, CA: Sage, 2007

Evans G W. The built environment and mental health. *Journal of Urban Health*, 2003, 80(4): 536-555.

Araya R, Dunstan F, Playle R, et al. Perceptions of social capital and the built environment and mental health. *Social Science & Medicine*, 2006, 62(12): 3072-3083.

Frank L D, Saelens B E, Powell K E, et al. Stepping towards causation: do built environments or neighborhood and travel preferences explain physical activity, driving, and obesity?. *Social Science & Medicine*, 2007, 65(9): 1898-1914.

Schedule of student-led discussion and group presentation

	Group # for student-led discussion	Group # for group presentation
Week 3	A (topic 1)	J
Week 4	B (topic 2)	I
Week 5	C (topic 3)	H
Week 6	D (topic 4)	G
Week 7	E (topic 5)	F
Week 8	F (topic 6)	E
Week 9	G (topic 7)	D
Week 10	H (topic 8)	C
Week 11	I (topic 9)	B
Week 12	J (topic 10)	A
Week 13		

Note: depending on the progress of this class, this schedule is subject to change.