

Course Requirements

Class Introduction	5pts
Upload Picture to D2L Dropbox	5pts
Participation – Attendance	20pts
Personal Response Journal	90pts
Major City Case Study Project	50pts
Final Exam	<u>40pts</u>
Total:	210pts

A	more than 179pts
B	159-178pts
C	139-158pts
D	119-138pts
F	less than 119pts

Class Introduction

Go to the “Discussion” tab on D2L then post a short introduction to yourself under “Class Introductions.” Items I’d like you to include are detailed in the topic description.

Upload Picture to D2L Dropbox

Go to the “Dropbox” tab on D2L then upload a classroom-appropriate portrait of yourself under the “Picture” folder. This will help me to connect names with faces. If you don’t have a picture to post or need help uploading your picture, please come to office hours.

Participation

Participation is an opportunity to better understand and apply the materials covered in this course. Lectures and in-class activities will supplement the readings and there will be many opportunities to ask questions and discuss the concepts and issues raised in readings and in the classroom. Participation will help prepare you for papers and exams through increased exposure and familiarity with the concepts and issues covered in the course. Your participation is also important insofar as one of the focuses of the course is students’ experiences with and perceptions of urban life. If you don’t participate others will miss out on your perspectives and you will miss out on opportunities to gain additional insight regarding your experiences and perceptions. You are expected to arrive to class on time and come prepared, raise relevant questions or comments, and to participate in any in-class assignments and discussions in an active, thoughtful, and respectful manner.

Attendance – Direct assessment of participation will include attendance recorded through a sign-in sheet. Signing the attendance roll indicates your attendance of the entire class. If you arrive to class more than a few minutes late, do not sign the attendance sheet. If you must leave more than a few minutes early, don’t sign the attendance sheet or (if you’ve already signed) cross out your name. Blatant violations of this policy will be considered a form of cheating and will result in a failing grade. Attendance for 20 or more days will receive full credit (bonus credit for attending more than 20 days may be awarded at my discretion). Attendance for fewer than 20 days will result in partial or no credit for attendance, at my discretion.

Reading Response Journal

For the response journal you will write 30 *informal* one-to-two page responses to the readings. (In other words, when you complete the assignment your journal will be a minimum of 30 pages long.) You may choose from among any of the chapters assigned for the course which are marked with *italics* in the Course Schedule (there are more than 30). At the beginning of each week you will submit a document file containing the journal responses you have completed to date (due dates are listed in the Course Schedule below). **You must submit at least one response per due date!** This provides some incentive to keep up with your readings and assignments and also gives me an opportunity to provide feedback so that (if necessary) you can improve your responses for the final turn-in.

The goal of the responses is to help you to engage with the material by applying the concepts from the readings to personal experience. This means relating the readings to such things as your own personal history, the experience of a family member or friend, or something seen in the media (news, fiction or non-fiction books, movies and documentaries, Internet, etc). Creativity and informal tone are fine. Responses might include *questions*, *answers to questions* posed in the reading, *challenges* to the reading, or any other comment related to the reading. I may incorporate questions or general topics or (with your prior permission) specific cases into class discussion.

Formatting – Journal submissions should be in a single file (**DOC, PDF, or RTF** format – Works, OpenOffice, Pages, and other word processing programs should be able to “Save As” one or all of these formats) with entries on separate pages (if you go over a page you can use “page break” to separate entries, for example). Title each response as the reading you are responding to (for example, if you choose to write a response to Tonnie’s essay, you would title it “Community and Society”). No header should be necessary. Journals should use standard formatting: double spaced, 10-12 point standard font, and 1”-1.25” margins.

Grading – Grades for completed journals will be based on:

- demonstration you have read the material
- demonstration you understand the material
- ability to apply the material in interesting ways

Major City Case Study Project

Students will be assigned major cities in the United States to use as case studies for applying concepts and information from the course. As an ongoing activity, students will search for news, documentary media, and research on these specific cities that can be related to the concepts and issues raised in the course. Additional details will be discussed in class and posted under the “Content” tab of the D2L site later in the semester.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be a comprehensive assessment of knowledge retention and understanding of the material from the readings and class discussion. The format will be essay. You will be required to bring a “blue book” to the exam.

NOTE: If at any point during the course you find that you are not doing as well as you hoped or expected, you are encouraged to contact me and meet with me immediately; do not wait until the end of the semester.

Course Policies

Absences and Late Work

It is your responsibility to attend and participate in class as well as to ensure materials are submitted properly and on time. Do verify any submissions to the D2L system have in fact uploaded properly. Do not wait until the last minute. That said, I understand that during the semester some students may face obstacles to completing course requirements due to such things as personal illness, computer or internet problems, or family/work responsibilities.

The participation grade has built-in “cushions” for just such contingencies. Therefore, I will not allow make-up of attendance (with the exception of advance notification of excused absences for university-sponsored events). Likewise, if you miss a class session (excused or not), do not ask me for information about the missed class. You should make arrangements with one or more classmates in regard to sharing notes or other information missed because of absences. This makes it a good idea to exchange contact information with fellow students early in the course. I also encourage students to complete as many attendance points as possible early in the semester both to get early feedback on performance in the course and to ensure full credit by the end of the semester.

At my discretion I may grant an extension on assignments if students notify me *before* the due date with their request for extra time. The Final Exam may be made up only under *unusual* circumstances; as with assignments, students should make an effort to notify me *beforehand* to request approval for a make-up exam. If this is impossible, please contact me by email as soon as possible. Students that make arrangements with me within a reasonable time frame will receive full credit. Otherwise, an opportunity to earn partial credit may be awarded at my discretion. **I do not accept unsolicited emailed assignments – late assignments should be submitted to the “Late Box” on D2L.**

Academic Honesty

You are responsible for familiarity with the Kutztown University Academic Honesty Policy: <http://thekey.kutztown.edu/academicHonesty.aspx>

At a minimum, academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade.

During the Final Exam, all personal items should be put away other than the exam materials (exam sheet, answer sheet(s), and writing implement). Hats and caps with brims must be turned around or removed. Unapproved use of any electronic device for any reason during an exam may be considered unauthorized assistance and a breach of the Academic Honesty Policy.

Accommodations

If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course (for example, due to disability, physical injury, PTSD, or TBI), please contact the Disability Services Office (215 Stratton) and/or contact me privately so that I can assist you and preserve confidentiality. Please plan to meet with me to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements may affect your ability to fully participate. More information is available at: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/humandiversity/disabilityservices>

Classroom Behavior

It is my policy to maintain a respectful, safe classroom and it is everyone's responsibility to help maintain such an atmosphere. A respectful, safe classroom ensures a positive learning environment in which everyone can explore class ideas fully. Respectful good practices include such things as coming to class on time and turning off cell phone ringers. (It is also good to practice these habits since they will be expected behaviors by most employers and graduate school supervisors.) Distracting or rude behavior may result in you being asked to leave the classroom. Consistently disruptive behavior will result in you being dropped from the course.

We all have different points of view, different personal values, different life experiences, and different personal preferences that we bring with us to the classroom. Course material may challenge attitudes and assumptions, exposing you to ideas that will require you to think critically, and perhaps differently. You may encounter ideas of which you have never heard or that make you feel uncomfortable. Each student has the right to respectfully disagree with an idea, concept, or opinion that is written or expressed by myself or other learners. While disagreement is expected, hostility is not. A climate of tolerance and respect is essential. Harassment, intimidation, or derogatory comments toward any individual or group will not be tolerated and will result in you being dropped from the course.

Extra Credit

Please do not request extra credit for this class. I do welcome notification of any campus or off-campus events that relate to sociology or urban studies and will be happy to announce such activities in class. Any extra credit opportunities will be announced as such in class and the opportunity to earn extra credit will be available to all students.

Extreme Weather

If severe weather becomes an issue, you should check the Kutztown University website or hotline (610-683-4649) for information concerning the campus-wide cancellation of classes. I may also post a specific announcement on D2L.

Office Hours and Communications

You may make an appointment with me during or outside of posted office hours to discuss matters related to class or your college experience. You are also welcome to drop by and just chat during posted office hours. Email is the best way to contact me and I will generally respond within 24 hours. Class announcements may be made periodically via KU email and/or D2L, so be sure to check those accounts daily.

Questions

If you have questions about this course, please check this syllabus or D2L for answers. If you ask me a question that is answered in the syllabus or on D2L, I will refer you to those sources.

Tentative Course Schedule

Note: I reserve the right to modify the schedule as deemed appropriate during the semester. Some things are bound to change due to class needs, how quickly students grasp material, and class dynamics. Any changes will be announced in the course website “News” section.

UNIT 1: Overview of Urban Sociology – Historical and Comparative Perspectives
To begin the semester we will explore why sociologists and others are interested in understanding cities and urban life. We will orient ourselves to some of the differing perspectives regarding how urban areas develop and organize. We will also briefly cover the history of the development of cities, as well as differences and similarities in contemporary cities across the globe.

WEEK 1 (Aug 30 & Sept 1) - Course Introduction, Early Communities and the Rise of Cities

Reading Assignment for first day:

- Syllabus (In Class and D2L “Content” tab); Instructor Introduction (D2L “Discussion” tab – “Introductions” topic)
- Urban Sociology Reader (USR) – General Introduction (pp. 1-5), Introduction to Part One (pp. 8-15)
- Urban World (UW) – Chapter One – The Urban World (pp. 2-18)

Reading Assignment to prepare for next week:

- *USR – Tonnies, Ferdinand. “Community and Society” (pp. 16-22)*

Recommended Additional Reading:

- *UW Ch 2 – The Emergence of Cities (pp. 19-48)*
- *UW Ch 3 – The Rise of Urban America (pp. 50-71)*

D2L Assignment:

- Post an introduction to yourself on the course D2L page (“Discussion” tab – “Introductions” topic)
- Post a digital portrait-style picture of yourself in the D2L Dropbox

WEEK 2 (Sept 8) – Early Communities and the Rise of Cities

T Sept 6 NO CLASS – MONDAY SCHEDULE DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

W Sept 7 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *UW Ch 4 – Ecology and Political Economy Perspectives* (pp. 72-89)
- *USR – “The Form and Function of Cities – Introduction”* (pp. 60-64)
- *USR – Park, Robert Ezra. “Human Ecology”* (pp. 65-72)
- *USR – Burgess, Ernest W. “The Growth of the City”* (pp. 73-81)
- *USR – Zorbaugh, Harvey. “The Natural Areas of the City”* (pp. 82-88)

WEEK 3 (Sept 13 & 15) – Understanding the Organization and Growth of Cities

M Sept 12 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – Firey, Walter. “Sentiment and Symbolism as Ecological Variables”* (pp. 89-96)
- *USR – Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. “The City as a Growth Machine”* (pp. 97-105)
- *USR – Dear, Michael. “Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a Debate”* (pp. 106-116)

Recommended Additional Reading:

- *UW Ch 5 – Metro and Edge City Growth* (pp. 90-113)
- *UW Ch 6 – The Suburban Era* (pp. 114-145)

WEEK 4 (Sept 20 & 22) – Understanding the Organization and Growth of Cities, Metro, and Suburban Areas

M Sept 19 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – Caldeira, Theresa P. R. “Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation”* (pp. 327-335)
- *UW Ch 14 – Developing Countries* (pp. 294-308)
- *UW Ch 15 – Asian Urban Patterns* (pp. 309-329)
- *UW Ch 16 – African and Latin American Urbanization* (pp. 330-352)

WEEK 5 (Sept 27 & 29) – Patterns in Worldwide Cities

M Sept 26 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – Simmel, Georg. “The Metropolis and Mental Life”* (pp. 23-31)
- *USR – Wirth, Louis. “Urbanism as a Way of Life”* (pp. 32-41)
- *USR – Gans, Herbert. “Urbanism and Suburbanism as Ways of Life: A Reevaluation of Definitions”* (pp. 42-50)
- *USR – Fisher, Claude S. “Theories of Urbanism”* (pp. 51-58)

Recommended Additional Reading:

- *UW Ch 7 – Urban Lifestyles* (pp. 148-166)

UNIT 2: Social Psychology, Culture, and Inequalities in Urban Spaces

In this unit we move from focusing on how urban spaces are formed towards understanding urban “ways of life.” That is, we will examine the ways in which social organization is influenced by an urban or suburban setting (in comparison to a small town or rural setting). We will look at some general patterns of thought, behavior, and social problems commonly shared among city dwellers, but we will also learn about wide differences in how people experience “city living” and how those differences can translate into material inequalities.

WEEK 6 (Oct 4 & 6) – Effects of Urban Living on Thoughts and Behavior

M Oct 3 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *UW Ch 8 – Social Environment of Metro Areas: Strangers, Crowding, Homelessness, Crime (pp. 167-187)*
- *USR – Duncan, James S. “Men Without Property: The Tramp’s Classification and Use of Urban Space” (pp. 164-172)*

WEEK 7 (Oct 11 & 13) – Effects of Urban Living on Thoughts and Behavior (continued)

M Oct 10 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – “Culture and the Urban Economy – Introduction” (pp. 276-280)*
- *USR – Zukin, Sharon. “Whose Culture? Whose City” (pp. 281-289)*
- *USR – Florida, Richard. “Cities and the Creative Class” (pp. 290-301)*
- *USR – Gottdiener, Mark. “Looking at Themed Environments” (pp. 302-307)*
- *USR – Mele, Christopher. “Globalization, Culture, and Neighborhood Change” (pp. 308-315)*

WEEK 8 (Oct 18 & 20) – Cities and Culture

M Oct 17 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

(halfway point of the semester)

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – “Inequality and Social Difference – Introduction” (pp. 118-123)*
- *USR – Wacquant, Loic J. D. and William Julius Wilson. “The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion in the Inner City.” (pp. 124-133)*
- *USR – Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. “Segregation and the Making of the Underclass” (pp. 134-143)*
- *USR – Wacquant, Loic J. D. “Urban Outcasts: Stigma and Division in the Black American Ghetto and French Urban Periphery” (pp. 144-151)*

Recommended Additional Reading:

- *UW Ch 9 – Diversity: Women, Ethnics, African Americans (pp. 188-209)*
- *UW Ch 10 – Diversity: Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans (pp. 210-228)*

WEEK 9 (Oct 25 & 27) – Cities, Diversity, and Inequalities – Focus on Race & Class

M Oct 24 *Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM*

Reading Assignment:

- USR – “Gender and Sexuality – Introduction” (pp. 174-178)
- USR – Markusen, Ann R. “City Spatial Structure, Women’s Household Work, and National Urban Policy” (pp. 179-189)
- USR – Gilbert, Melissa R. “‘Race’, Space, and Power: The Survival Strategies of Working Poor Women” (pp. 190-199)
- USR – Adler, Sy and Johanna Brenner. “Gender and Space: Lesbians and Gay Men in the City” (pp. 200-207)
- USR – Donham, Donald L. “Freeing South Africa: The ‘Modernization’ of Male-Male Sexuality in Soweto” (pp. 208-217)

WEEK 10 (Nov 1 & 3) – Cities, Diversity, & Inequalities – Focus on Gender & Sexuality

M Oct 31 *Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM*

Reading Assignment:

- UW Ch 11 – *Cities and Change* (pp. 230-246)
- UW Ch 12 – *Housing Policies, Sprawl, and Smart Growth* (pp. 247-265)

UNIT 3: Changing Cities and a Changing World

To wrap up the semester, we will look at some of the large-scale trends and issues facing cities and city residents today. First, we will look at some of the major problems U.S. (and, to a lesser extent, European) cities are seeking to overcome, as well as proposed and implemented solutions to those problems. One of the major trends across the globe is that individuals, organizations, and societies are becoming increasingly integrated and “transnational” – a process known as globalization. Therefore, we will devote the bulk of the unit to focusing on how globalizing processes are affecting and are affected by cities. Finally, we will examine possible future trends in cities as well as some of the ways people are trying to influence that future through social movements.

WEEK 11 (Nov 8 & 10) – Urban Crises and Urban Renewal Efforts

M Nov 7 *Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM*

Reading Assignment:

- UW Ch 13 – *Planning, New Towns, and New Urbanism* (pp. 266-291)
- USR – “Globalization and Urban Change – Introduction” (pp. 220-222)
- USR – Friedmann, John. “The World City Hypothesis” (pp. 223-229)

WEEK 12 (Nov 15 & 17) – Urban Crises, Urban Renewal Efforts, and Globalization

M Nov 14 *Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM*

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – Sassen, Saskia. “The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization” (pp. 230-240)*
- *USR – Smith, Michael Peter. “Power in Place: Retheorizing the Local and the Global” (pp. 241-250)*

WEEK 13 (Nov 22) – Cities and Globalization

M Nov 21 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *USR – Portes, Alejandro and Robert D. Manning “Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Empirical Examples” (pp. 152-163)*
- *USR – Soller, Paul and Jasmin Tahmaseb McConatha. “City Life: West African Communities in New York” (pp. 251-261)*
- *USR – “Globalization and the Revalorizing of Ethnic Places in Immigration Gateway Cities” (pp. 262-274)*

R Nov 24 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS

WEEK 14 (Nov 29 & Dec 1) – Immigration in the Context of Cities and Globalization

M Nov 28 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

Reading Assignment:

- *UW Ch 17 – Toward the Urban Future (pp. 353-371)*
- *URS – Hamel, Pierre, Henri Lustiger-Thaler, and Margit Mayer. “Urban Social Movements – Local Thematics, Global Spaces” (pp. 336-345)*
- *URS – Kohler, Bettina and Markus Wissen. “Glocalizing Protest: Urban Conflicts and Global Social Movements” (pp. 346-353)*

WEEK 15 (Dec 6 & 8) - The Future of Cities and Efforts at Change, Catch up/Review

M Dec 5 Reading Response Journal Turn-In DUE @ 11PM

F Dec 9 Reading Response Journal Final Turn-in DUE

T Dec 13, 11am-1pm – FINAL EXAM