

## **SOCIOLOGY 207 - PROBLEMS OF CITIES**

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### **Course Description:**

This course will focus on people in urban communities and neighborhoods. It will examine what they value and want, how they interact within and between their communities, and how they mobilize to play a role in their environments. Of central importance will be the question of how physical environments affect opportunities and perceptions, and how they help to provide or deny resources. We examine *in seriatim* the impact of informational technologies and economic globalization on the material basis of urban life and social networks; the social and institutional processes of segregation; the myth and reality of suburbia and their conjoint dissolution under the press of exurbanization and gentrification; the abiding power of gender and “race” as bases for the seclusion of urban lifeworlds; the tangled nexus of poverty, low-wage work, criminal activity, and violence in the inner-city; and the sifting and sorting of new waves of immigration and ethnic competition.

The course draws from a variety of disciplines, including sociology, geography, history, political science, ethnic studies, women studies, and urban planning. We will read five books in this class. Each book covers several themes. We will dissect and discussed each book with a view towards identifying the strengths and weaknesses of contending theories of “the city” (ecological, sub-cultural, political-economic, neo-Marxist, feminist, and postmodernist). Our laboratory will be the city. In class, we will probe the parameters, scrutinize the concepts, and scope the concerns of contemporary urban sociology, asking what is distinctive about it as a form of inquiry and consciousness, and what it contributes to our understanding of the present social and human condition.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities:**

In compliance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Northwestern University is committed to providing equal access to all programming. Students with disabilities seeking accommodations are encouraged to contact the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 847-467-5530 or [ssd@northwestern.edu](mailto:ssd@northwestern.edu). SSD is located in the basement of Scott Hall. Additionally, I am available to discuss disability-related needs during office hours or by appointment.

### **Format:**

The course will be conducted as a combination of lecture and discussion.

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation will be based on the following:

Neighborhood Visit Assignment	20%
Term Paper	25%
Final Examination	30%
Class Participation	15%
Discussion Board	10%

**Required Books:**

Klinenberg, Eric. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago Illinois: The University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States From the 1960 to 1990s*. London: Routledge.

Portes, Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of The Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California.

Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

**SYLLABUS**

**1. THE INNOVATIVE CITY: INTRODUCTION AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS**

**2. THE CITY OF COMMUNITIES: HISTORICAL MYTH AND MYTICAL REALITY**  
**REQUIRED READINGS**

Chapters 1 and 2 - Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 1993. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

**SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

Keller, Suzanne. *Community: Pursing the Dream, Living the Reality*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Lyon, Larry. 1987. "The Concept of Community." Chp. 1 in *The Community in Urban Society*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

Wellman, Barry and Barry Leighton. 1979. "Networks, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Approaches to the Study of the Community Question." *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, 14, 3:363-390.

### **3. THE REVANCHIST CITY: GENTRIFICATION AND REVIATALIZATION**

#### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Chapters 3 and 4 - Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 1993. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

Smith, Neil. 1996. *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*. New York: Routledge.

Boston, Thomas D., and Catherine Ross (Eds.). 1997. *The Inner City: Urban Poverty and Economic Development in the Next Century*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.

### **4. FILM- HOLDING GROUND-THE REBIRTH OF DUDLEY STREET**

### **5. THE CITY OF EXCLUSION: THE CREATION OF THE GHETTO**

#### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Chapter 5 - 6 - Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 1993. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

Phillips, Barbara E. 1996. "Metropolitan Form and Space." Chp. 15 in *City Lights: Urban-Suburban Life in the Global Society*. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fernandez, Roberto M. 1997. "Spatial Mismatch: Housing, Transportation, and Employment." in *The Urban Crisis, Linking Research To Action*. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.

Waldinger, Roger and Mehdi Bozogmehr. 1996. "The Making of a Multicultural Metropolis." Chp. 1 in Roger Waldinger and Mehdi Bozogmehr, eds., *Ethnic Los Angles*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

### **6. THE CITY OF EXCLUSION: THE MAINTAINCE OF THE GHETTO**

#### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Chapter 7 and 8 - Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 1993. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

Hochschild, Jennifer L. 1995. *Facing Up To The American Dream: Race, Class, and The Soul of The Nation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Jargowsky, Paul A. 1997. *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

## **7. FILM-CHINATOWN**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 1 – 2 - Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

## **8. THE IMPOVERISHED CITY: POLARIZATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD POVERTY**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 3 – 5 - Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Boger, John C., and Judith W. Wegner (Eds.). 1996. *Race, Poverty, and American Cities*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Gans, Herbert. 1995. *The War Against The Poor*. New York: BasicBooks.

## **9. THE CITY OF RABBLES: WELFARE AND THE UNDERCLASS**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 6 – 8 - Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Galster, G. C. 1996. "Polarization, Place, and Race." in J. C. Boger and J. W. Wegner, eds., *Race, Poverty, and American Cities*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Popkin, S. J., J. E. Rosenbaum. 1993. "Employment and Earnings Of Low-Income Blacks Who Move to Middle-Class Suburbs." In Christopher Jencks and Paul E. Peterson, eds., *The Urban Underclass*. Washington DC: The Brookings Institution.

Boger, John. 1996. "Race and the American City." in *Race, Poverty, and American Cities*. eds. Boger John C. and J. W. Wegner. Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press.

## **10. FILM-OUTRIDERS**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Prologue, Introduction, and Chapter 1 - Klinenberg, Eric. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago Illinois: The University of Chicago Press, 2002.

## **11. THE CITY OF MISERY: URBAN MARGINALITY AND SOCIAL SUFFERING**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapter 2, 3 and 4 - Klinenberg, Eric. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago Illinois: The University of Chicago Press, 2002.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Bourgois, Philippe. 1995. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1993. Site Effects. In *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*, edited by P. Bourdieu. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Wacquant, Loic. 1993. America as Social Dystopia. In *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*, edited by P. Bourdieu. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Wacquant, Loic. 1993. Inside the Zone. In *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*, edited by P. Bourdieu. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

## **12. THE CITY OF DREAD: URBAN VIOLENCE AND CRIME**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapter 5, Conclusion, and Epilogue - Klinenberg, Eric. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago Illinois: The University of Chicago Press, 2002.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

- Williams, Terry. 1990. *The Cocaine Kids: The Inside Story of a Teenage Drug Ring*. New York: Perseus Press.
- Sánchez-Jankowski, Martín. 1991. *Islands in the Street: Gangs in Urban American Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Scharf, Jagna Wojcicka. 1998. *King Kong on 4th Street: Families and the Violence of Poverty*. Boulder: Westview.
- Hagan, John and Bill McCarthy. 1999. *Mean Streets: Youth Crime and Homelessness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **13. FILM- NO LOANS TODAY**

Chapters 1–3 - Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States From the 1960 to 1990s*. London: Routledge.

## **14. ETHNI-CITY: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY AND DIFFERENCE**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 4–6 - Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States From the 1960 to 1990s*. London: Routledge.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

- Feagin, Joe R. and Clairece Booher Feagin. 1996. *Racial and Ethnic Relations*, 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Wong, Bernard P. 1982. *Chinatown: Economic Adaptation and Ethnic Identity of the Chinese*. Fort Worth: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Bell, Derrick. 1992. *Faces At The Bottom Of The Well: The Permanence of Racism*. New York: BasicBooks.
- Moore, Joan and Raquel Pinderhughes, eds., *In the Barrios: Latinos and the Underclass Debate*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Gans, Herbert. 1962. *The Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian Americans*. New York: The Free Press.
- Waldinger, Roger and Michael Lichter eds. 1996. *Ethnic Los Angeles*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

## **15. ETHNI-CITY: RACIAL REPRESENTATION AND THE STATE**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapter 7, Conclusion & Epilogue - Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States From the 1960 to 1990s*. London: Routledge.

Chapters 1 - Portes Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of The Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Banton, Michael. 1998. *Racial Theories*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

DuBois, W.E.B. 1967. *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Wilson, William Julius. 1978. *The Declining Significance of Race*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

## **16. THE IMMIGRANT CITY: ETHNIC LADDERS, INVASION, AND SUCCESSION**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 2-4 - Portes Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of The Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Portes, Alejandro and Rubén G. Rumbaut. 1990. *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Takaki, Ronald. 1993. *A Different Mirror*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.

Waldinger, Roger, and Michael I. Lichter. 2003. *How The Other Half Works: Immigration and The Social Organization of Labor*. Berkeley: University of California.

## **17. THE PRISMATIC CITY: PANETHNICITY AND AMERICANIZATION**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 5-7 Portes Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of The Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California.

### SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Waldinger, Roger (Ed.). 2001. *Strangers at the Gates: New Immigrants in Urban America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette. 2001. *Doméstica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*. Berkeley: University of California.

## **18. FILM- LOS TRABAJADORES**

### REQUIRED READINGS

Chapters 8-10 Portes Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of The Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California.

## **19. REVIEW FOR FINAL AND CLASS EVALUATIONS**