

SOCI 285 URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Bucknell University, Fall 2021

Professor: Dr. Daniel Alvord	Course Location: 055 Coleman Hall
Email: d.alvord@bucknell.edu	Course Days: Tuesday / Thursday
Office Location: 303 Academic West	Course Time: 3:20pm – 4:40pm
Office Hours: Tues/Wed 2-3pm & by appointment	Course #: 14506

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Urban sociology focuses on social interaction and social organization within built environments. In 2007, for the first time in human history, a majority of the world's population lived in urban rather than rural areas. As the world has rapidly urbanized, the social, political, and economic importance of cities has grown. In this course we survey various theories associated with understanding the rise and effects of urban society.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this class is to introduce you to the field of urban sociology is, what urban sociology studies (and how), and some of the conceptual tools that sociology uses to make sense of society. Beyond that, this course should start to train you to think sociologically by understanding the broader social world and your individual experiences within social contexts. Concretely, this means that by the end of this course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of important urban sociological concepts and methodologies
- Apply sociological concepts and insights to your personal life as well as to broader social events
- Appreciate the diversity of social identities and experiences in American society

Additional Course Goals

In addition to grasping core sociological concepts and cultivating your sociological imagination, you should also, by the end of the course, develop and refine important academic skills including critical thinking, data analysis and inference, thoughtful engagement with complex ideas and academic writing, and summarizing and synthesizing various arguments and ideas. These are important skills not only for sociology, but for success beyond this classroom.

COURSE MATERIAL

There is no need to purchase any texts for this class. All required readings will be made available on Moodle. *Readings may change or be adjusted over the course of the semester.* However, any updates to the readings will be noted and communicated ahead of time.

ASSESSMENTS

For this course, you will be expected to complete the following:

Weekly Writing Summary (15%): For this course, students will be responsible for writing two review and synthesis papers over the assigned readings for the week. You will choose two weeks and then, by the start of class on Tuesday, hand in an approximately 3-page review and synthesis of that weeks readings.

Inequality Mapping Exercise & Paper (30%): For this assignment you will be guided through how to use Census and GIS data techniques by social science library staff. The goal of this exercise size will be to produce visualizations of urban inequalities between two cities. Then, based on this exercise, you will write up an approximately 5-7 page paper/memo based on your findings and present them to the class. Students may also opt to produce a web-based portfolio project.

Midterm & Final Take-Home Exam (40% = 2x20%): You will have two take-home essay and short answer exams that are designed to assess your understanding of the class readings, lectures, and discussions.

Participation/Effort/Discussion (15%):

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The following is the percentage breakdown for each of the components of this class:

<i>Participation / Discussion</i>	15%
<i>Writing Summaries (2)</i>	15%
<i>Urban Inequality Mapping Exercise Paper</i>	30%
<i>Final Exam</i>	20%
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	20%
	<hr/>
	100%

Final grades will be assessed on the following scale:

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	74-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-73
B	84-86	D	60-69
B-	80-83	F	59 and below

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Bucknell's policy on academic responsibility is as follows: "Bucknell students are responsible to the academic community for the preparation and presentation of work representing their own individual efforts. Acceptance of this responsibility is essential to the educational process and must be considered as an expression of mutual trust, the foundation upon which creative scholarship rests. Students are directed to use great care when preparing all written work and to acknowledge fully the source of all ideas and language other than their own." Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, academic misconduct, or misuse of computing facilities will not be tolerated. All incidents of which will be reported to the appropriate Associate Dean to

be vigorously pursued in accordance with Bucknell's Academic Responsibility policy. Please review the new Bucknell web resources on Academic Responsibility at <http://www.bucknell.edu/AcademicResponsibility/>

The Honor Code and Academic Engagement

The Committee on Instruction recommended to the faculty that they add the following two texts to their syllabi (College of Arts and Sciences Meeting on December 5, 2012):

Bucknell University Honor Code

As a student and citizen of the Bucknell University community:

1. I will not lie, cheat or steal in my academic endeavors.
2. I will forthrightly oppose each and every instance of academic dishonesty.
3. I will let my conscience guide my decision to communicate directly with any person or persons I believe to have been dishonest in academic work.
4. I will let my conscience guide my decision on reporting breaches of academic integrity to the appropriate faculty or deans.

Bucknell University Expectations for Academic Engagement

Courses at Bucknell that receive one unit of academic credit have a minimum expectation of 12 hours per week of student academic engagement. Student academic engagement includes both the hours of direct faculty instruction (or its equivalent) and the hours spent on out of class student work. Half and quarter unit courses at Bucknell should have proportionate expectations for student engagement.

Accommodations: Any student who needs an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR) at OAR@bucknell.edu; 570-577-1188 or complete the Disability Accommodation Request form (https://bucknell-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/). The OAR will coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Attendance: Consistent class attendance is vital to your success in this course. I will take attendance in this course (though there is no points awarded for attendance) and it is expected that you will attend all class meetings, that you will arrive on time, and that you will be present and engaged during class meetings. If you have a bona fide reason that you must miss class, such as illness or a personal emergency, be sure to contact me and inform them about your situation; be sure to do so as soon as you know that you find it necessary to miss class, and if at all possible do this prior to the class session that you will need to miss. For any class session that you miss, for any reason, it is recommended that you come visit me during office hours to talk about the materials.

Electronic Devices: Cellphones and other mobile devices are to be silenced and stowed away during class. Research shows that using a laptop during class impedes both your learning and the learning of students around you (see, e.g., Sana et al. 2013, and Dynarski 2017). If you must use one, or insist on using one, students may sit in a "laptop zone" if they feel, for any reason, that you would benefit from using a laptop to take notes.

Email: Email is the most useful and convenient way to get in touch with me. There are a few email guidelines that should be adhered to during this course. First, I do not discuss grades over email. Any discussion of grades should be done during office hours. Second, unless otherwise noted, I do not read early drafts of papers or answer substantive questions by email. I am more than happy to read drafts, provide comments, and give clarification for concepts covered in class during office hours, but not by email. Finally, I am not “on call” with my email. If you email me late at night, for example, do not expect an immediate reply.

Extra Credit: There are no “built in” extra credit opportunities in this class. However, opportunities for extra credit will be made available as they present themselves.

Illness: If you are sick, please do not come to class. If you must miss a deadline because of illness, please contact me by email.

Late Assignments: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. If you anticipate missing an assignment, you must contact me ahead of time and we will work out an arrangement. If you miss an assignment without contacting me ahead of time, you will have a limited period of time (2 weeks) to turn the assignment in for a reduced grade. After 2 weeks, there you will receive no credit for the late assignment.

Library: The library is a great and wonderful place. Contact the social science librarian for help if needed: Carrie Pirmann (carrie.pirmann@bucknell.edu), Bertrand Library Research Help Area.

Masking: In accordance with the University's rule that all individuals are to be masked at all times whenever inside campus buildings, you must be fully masked at all times when attending class. Unless and until the University announces a formal change to this policy in a written communication to the campus community, the masking policy will remain in effect. "Fully masked" means having a mask fully covering both your mouth and the entirety of your nostrils; wearing a mask over your mouth but not covering your nose entirely is as good as not wearing a mask at all. There are no exceptions to this masking requirement.

Mental Health Resources: Any student who is struggling and believes this may impact their performance in the course is encouraged to contact their Associate Academic Dean or the Dean of Students at 570-577-1601 for support. Furthermore, please approach me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide resources and support. If immediate mental health assistance is needed, call the Counseling & Student Development Center at 570-577-1604 (24/7).

Religious Holidays: Students seeking academic accommodations (missing class, rescheduling labs or assignments, etc.) in order to observe religious holidays should inform me as early in the semester as possible to set up a time to meet and discuss appropriate action.

Respectful Engagement: In this class, all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities,

religion, regional background, Veteran status, citizenship status, nationality and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Your success at Bucknell and beyond is enhanced by the innovation and creativity of thought that inclusive classrooms facilitate. The success of an inclusive classroom relies on the participation, support, and understanding of you and your peers. We encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we all are expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others. We all come to class from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Since the purpose of a class is to explore and better understand a topic, we need that variety of perspectives to strengthen our ability to learn, generate hypotheses, and analyze facts and opinions. Therefore, it is vital that each person feels comfortable bringing their unique perspective to bear on a given subject, and that it happens in a respectful manner.

Most people appreciate having freedom to explore their own opinions (and perhaps change their minds or retrench), so let us consider providing that freedom to each other as well. This give and take requires a community where people believe that they can speculate, question, or discuss deep or challenging issues without fear of attack or disrespect. This class is one of your first professional environments, so we will practice professional quality behavior. Behaviors that are of low quality, such as arriving late, being unprepared, missing class, texting, shirking group work, turning in work late, not doing your own work or other less desirable behaviors, lay the groundwork for shallow learning. My intent is rather to help you lay the groundwork for deep and engaged learning, and so your involvement in and professional demeanor towards the class counts heavily. Please feel free to discuss these matters with me or the class. In cases of serious infractions, I will follow University policies for academic honesty & plagiarism, which can be found at <http://www.bucknell.edu/x1324.xml>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>Week</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Read</i>	<i>Due</i>
One	Tuesday, August 24, 2021	Syllabus and Introductions		
	Thursday, August 26, 2021	Thinking About Cities	Robert A. Beauregard - "The City" from <i>Cities in the Urban Age: A Dissent</i>	
Two	Tuesday, August 31, 2021	Urbanism	Georg Simmel - "Metropolis and Mental Life;" Louis Wirth - "Urbanism as a Way of Life;" Claude Fischer - "Toward a Subcultural Theory of Urbanism"	
	Thursday, September 02, 2021	Urbanism	Michael Ian Borer - "Being in the City;" Suzy Katz - "Covid Stole My Sense of Smell. The City's Not the Same" Jane Jacobs – "The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety"	
Three	Tuesday, September 07, 2021	Chicago School / Urban Ecology	Ernest Burgess – "The Growth of the City;" R.D. McKenzie - "The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community"	
	Thursday, September 09, 2021	Chicago School / Urban Ecology	Paul Cressey - "A Night in a Taxi-Dance Hall" & "The Taxi-Dance Hall as a Social World" Andrew Abbott – "The Chicago School and City Planning"	
Four	Tuesday, September 14, 2021	Urban Political Economy & Growth Machines	Harvey Molotch – "The City as a Growth Machine;" David Harvey - "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism"	
	Thursday, September 16, 2021	Urban Political Economy & Growth Machines	Tracy Neumann - "Reforging the Steel City"	

			David Harvey – “The Urban Process under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis.”	
Five	Tuesday, September 21, 2021	Culture and Urban Growth	Richard Florida – “Cities and the Creative Class” & “The Economic Geography of Talent” (Chs. 2 and 4 from <i>Cities and the Creative Class</i>) Terry Clark et al. – “Amenities Drive Urban Growth;”	
	Thursday, September 23, 2021	Culture and Urban Growth	Jamie Peck – “Struggling with the Creative Class;” (Recommended) Michele Hoyman and Christopher Faricy - "It Takes a Village;" Sharon Zukin – “Whose Culture? Whose City?;” Jonathan R. Wynn - "City Tour Guides"	
Six	Tuesday, September 28, 2021	Globalization and the City	Saskia Sassen – “The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization” & “The New Urban Economy;” Sharon Zukin – “The Address of Innovation” from <i>The Innovation Complex: Cities, Tech, and the New Economy</i> (on the failure of tech and conglomeration in ew places	Memo
	Thursday, September 30, 2021	Globalization and the City	Saskia Sassen – “Global Cities and Survival Circuits;” Kimberly Kay Hoang – “Engendering Global Capital;” Rhacel Salazar Parreñas - TBD	
Seven	Tuesday, October 05, 2021	TBD		
	Thursday, October 07, 2021	Midterm Review		
Eight	Tuesday, October 12, 2021	<i>NO CLASS</i>		
	Thursday, October 14, 2021	<i>NO CLASS</i>		Midterm
Nine	Tuesday, October 19, 2021	Urban Poverty	Eva Rosen – “Horizontal Immobility;”	Memo

			<p>William Julius Wilson and Robert Aponte – “Urban Poverty;”</p> <p>Nicole Marwell and Shannon Morrissey – “Organizations and the Governance of Urban Poverty;”</p>	
	Thursday, October 21, 2021	Urban Poverty (Housing)	<p>Matthew Desmond – “Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty;”</p> <p>Philip Garboden and Eva Rosen – “Serial Filing: How Landlords Use the Threat of Eviction;”</p>	
Ten	Tuesday, October 26, 2021	Race & Segregation	<p>Wilson, William Julius. 1987. “Preface,” “Cycles of Deprivation and the Ghetto Underclass Debate,” “Social Change and Social Dislocations in the Inner City,” from <i>The Truly Disadvantaged: the Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy</i></p> <p>Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton – American Apartheid, Chs. 1, 3, and 4.</p>	
	Thursday, October 28, 2021	Race & Segregation	<p>Richard Rothstein – “Public Housing, Black Ghetto” and “Racial Zoning” and “Own Your Own Home” from <i>The Color of Law</i></p> <p>(Recommended) “Private Agreements, Government Enforcement” and “White Flight”</p>	
Eleven	Tuesday, November 02, 2021	Race & Segregation	<p>Matthew Gordon Lasner - "Segregation by Design"</p> <p>Robert Rosenberger - "On Hostile Design;"</p> <p>Jackelyn Hwang – “Gentrification without Segregation?”</p>	
	Thursday, November 04, 2021	Gentrification	Lance Freeman – “There Goes the ‘Hood;”	

			Sharon Zukin – “Gentrification in Three Paradoxes;” Jackelyn Hwang and Jeffrey Lin – “What Have We Learned about the Causes of Recent Gentrification?;”	
Twelve	Tuesday, November 09, 2021	Gentrification	Jackelyn Hwang – “The Social Construction of a Gentrifying Neighborhood;” Jackelyn Hwang and Robert Sampson – “Divergent Pathways of Gentrification;”	
	Thursday, November 11, 2021	Gentrification and Urban Lifestyles	Chase Billingham and Shelley Kimelberg - "Middle-Class Parents, Urban Schooling, and the Shift from Consumption to Production of Urban Space;" Japonica Brown-Saracino - “Social Preservationists and the Quest for Authentic Community;” Sharon Zukin - "Urban Lifestyles;”	
Thirteen	Tuesday, November 16, 2021	The Suburbs	Herbert Gans – “Urbanism and Suburbanism as Ways of Life: A Reevaluation of Definitions;” Kenneth t. Jackson - "Introduction" from Crabgrass Frontier" & " TBD "	
	Thursday, November 18, 2021	The (New) Suburbs	Matthew Hall and Barrett Lee – “How Diverse are US Suburbs?;”	Final Paper Due
Fourteen	Tuesday, November 23, 2021	<i>NO CLASS</i>		
	Thursday, November 25, 2021	<i>NO CLASS</i>		
Fifteen	Tuesday, November 30, 2021	TBD	TBD	
	Thursday, December 02, 2021	In-Class Presentation		Presentation
Sixteen	Tuesday, December 07, 2021	Final Exam Review		
	Thursday, December 09, 2021	<i>NO CLASS</i>		

Seventeen	Tuesday, December 14, 2021	Final Exam Period		
	Thursday, December 16, 2021	Final Exam Period		Final