

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**SOCIOLOGY 353:01  
URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Fall 2009**

**Class Meets TR 9:30-10:45**

**Location: ENA201**

**Instructor: Dr. H. Hiller**

**Office Hours: TR 11:00-12:00, or by appointment**

**Office: SS 1056**

**Office Phone: 403-220-6048**

**Email address: [hiller@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hiller@ucalgary.ca)**

**Sociology department website: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>**

**Click “Course Outlines” to find the course outline for this course or use the course Blackboard site.**

**Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1.** To introduce theory and concepts appropriate to the field of urban sociology and to develop a familiarity with the core literature within the subdiscipline.
- 2.** To understand the process of urbanization (e.g., historical trends, ecological distributions, interaction patterns) and its implications from a sociological perspective.
- 3.** To grapple with the significance and impact of urbanization on the student’s present and future social life.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Harry H. Hiller (ed.), *Urban Canada. Second Edition.* Oxford University Press, 2010. This is a new edition that was just released. Please be sure that you buy this new edition rather than the older first edition.

Richard Florida, *Who’s Your City?* Vintage Canada Edition 2009.  
(This book is related to the essay assignment)

**ASA URBAN SOCIOLOGY WEBSITE:** <http://www.commurb.org/>

This is the website of the Community and Urban Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association and is interesting to browse. If specific readings from this website are required, you will be informed.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. All students will write the Mid-term Examination on **October 22**. The exam will be based on lectures and the readings listed on the course schedule or as assigned.
2. All students will write an Urban Analytical Essay which will be **due in class on November 26**. *Papers will also be accepted in class on November 24.* Late papers will be penalized. This will be a concise 5 page essay which will allow you to be reflective and analytical about cities based on your reading of Florida, *Who's Your City?* The assignment will have very clear requirements which will be made known on the course Blackboard site later in the term. The assignment will also be discussed in class.
3. Final Examination: All students will write the Final Examination which will be based on lectures and readings listed on the course schedule or as assigned. This exam will be scheduled by the Registrar and focuses on material since the mid-term examination.

**COURSE WEIGHTS**

Mid-term Examination =	30 points
Term Paper =	30 points
Final Examination =	40 points
 Total Points =	 100 points

The Professor will inform you of the letter grade equivalents of points obtained in each assignment.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

The topic schedule is meant to be a guide of what is to be covered though there may be some adjustments of precise dates.

All references to readings from specific chapters refer to the Hiller text.

September 10	Urban Sociology as a Field of Study Book Introduction p. xii-xxi
September 15, 17	Origins and Development of Urbanization Chapter 1

September 22, 24, 29	Approaches to the Study of Urban Areas Chapters 3, 4, 11
October 1, 6	Urbanization in Developing Countries Reading TBA
October 8, 13, 15	Urbanization in Canada and the United States Chapter 2 and 14
October 20	Aboriginal Urbanization Chapter 8
October 22	<b><u>Mid-Term Examination</u></b>
October 27, 29	Urban Ecological Patterns and Urban Change Chapter 15 and 12
November 3, 5	Urban Areal Differentiation and Stratification Urban Deviance and Pathology Chapters 6 and 9
November 10, 17	Urbanization and Social Interaction Chapters 5
November 19	Reading Days – No Class
November 24	Urban Ethnicity Chapter 7
November 26	Gendered Urbanization Chapter 10
November 24, <b>26</b>	Urban Analytical Essay due Nov. 24 early submissions – Nov. 26 final submissions
December 1, 3	Sociology of Housing Urban Planning and Participation Chapter 13 Pierre Filion, “Towards Smart Growth: The Difficult Implementation of Alternatives to Urban Dispersion” Canadian Journal of Urban Research 12(1)2003:48-58 (these pages only- available online through the library).
December 8	Last Day of Class

Date: TBA

**Final Examination** scheduled by Registrar

### **Course Policies**

**Use of Email:** Email can be a useful way to communicate with the professor or teaching assistant. However, *e-mail should not be considered a substitute for direct conversation, particularly on substantive matters*. **Course personnel are very interested in having contact with students, so discussions in person are preferable.** A less preferable alternative is the telephone but sometimes it works well. *In general, anything that requires more than a couple of sentences in reply should not be sent by email.* Appointments outside of regular office hours should be made by e-mail since the professor seldom has his calendar in class.

**Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, a “make up” exam will be scheduled by the Sociology Department at a time and place determined by the Department rather than at the student’s convenience. There is no guarantee that the format or content of the examination will be similar to the exam given at the original time. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**Ethics in Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects-- including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

**Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism:** Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct. Using material from any source should be clearly indicated through the use of quotation marks if the material is used verbatim plus the reference should be exact and clear (eg. Smith 1998:266) including appropriate page number(s). If the ideas come from a source, even if it is not verbatim, the same citation method should be used. Learn to summarize material in your own words and then reference the source.

**Safewalk:** The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus

Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

#### Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

#### **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Papers, and Release of Final Grades**

1. Students are expected to submit papers in class rather than at the Sociology Department Office.
2. Papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor’s office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their papers returned outside of class or by appointment must do so by mail and must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

**USE OF BLACKBOARD:** This course uses Blackboard online which requires log-on through “*My University of Calgary*”. Occasional notices, assignments, and reminders will be posted on this site. Any students with questions about how this works or with access difficulties should contact the IT Support Centre, (403) 220-5555, [itsupport@ucalgary.ca](mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca) Math Sciences 7th Floor, or Information Commons MacKimmie Library, 2nd Floor.