

Instructor: Professor Matt Patterson  
E-mail: matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca  
Office: SS 916 (Social Science)  
Office Hours: See D2L

Session: Fall 2017

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 - 10:50 pm

Location: ICT 121

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### Course Description

Cities are complicated matters. It is not always clear how we should go about studying them, or even how we should define what a city is. Often the complexity of cities makes it difficult to understand and address the major social problems that face city dwellers across Canada and the world. These problems include inequality and segregation, homelessness, crime, alienation and the decline of community.

To help sift through the complexity of urban life, sociologists have developed several research perspectives that provide working definitions for cities and “toolkits” of theories and methods for studying the city. In this course you will be learning a variety of these perspectives including human ecology, interactionism, and political-economy. Each of these perspectives is based on a slightly different idea of what a city is and what is important about urban life.

The course is roughly divided into three units. The first unit will address the rise of modern cities and their impact on the way people relate to each other and form communities. The second unit will focus on the role of power and inequality within cities, including a focus on economic inequality, race and ethnicity, and housing. The final unit will focus on different dimensions of life within the modern city, including culture and consumption, behavior in public spaces, and crime.

### Goals and Learning Outcomes

- Understand major theoretical approaches to studying cities, including their strengths and weaknesses, and the types of research questions that are associated with them.
- Learn about the state of Canadian cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with regard to several important social issues, including the economy, inequality, race and ethnicity, crime, and more.

- Develop the ability to critically read and assess original sociological publications.
- Learn to construct a sociological argument in written form.

### Textbooks and Other Materials

Readings are assigned from two sources:

- Harry Hiller (editor). 2014. *Urban Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Available at the Campus Bookstore)
- Online articles can be accessed either through the links provided in the syllabus, or via <http://library.ucalgary.ca>.

### Evaluation

	<u>Due Date/Exam Date</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Unit Test #1	Wednesday, Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	25%
Unit Test #2	Thursday, Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	25%
Reading Responses	Multiple (see below)	10%
Term Paper	Friday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	30%
Unit Test #3	Friday, Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	10%

### *Unit Tests*

The unit tests will evaluate your knowledge of the lecture and reading material from each of the three units and will be written during regular lecture hours. The tests will not be cumulative, but will cover all of the material from each of the respective units. All three tests will be in multiple choice format. Because your final paper is due during unit #3, this unit will cover less material. As a result, unit test #3 will be worth less than the other two tests.

### *Reading Responses*

As part of your grade, you are required to submit a reading response for one online article in each of the three units (three articles total). Therefore, for unit #1 you have the option of responding to Orum, Simmel, or Klinenberg. For unit #2 you will choose between Delaney and Eckstein, Sassen, or Hulchanski. For unit #3 you will respond to Zukin, since that is the only assigned article.

Reading responses can be submitted via D2L at any time **BEFORE the test at the end of each unit**. No extensions will be granted.

Responses should be between 300 to 500 words in length. In your response you should (1) briefly summarize the main argument of the reading, (2) identify the significance of the reading to urban sociology, and (3) provide some critical assessment that highlights problems or limitations with the argument or identifies new questions that are raised by the reading. Proper citation form is also expected. Any text or ideas taken from the reading or any other source must be distinguished with quotation marks and/or page numbers.

Reading responses are graded on a pass/fail basis. Credit will only be awarded to those responses that are submitted before the due date and that meet the basic requirements outlined above.

Finally, keep in mind that all of the online articles will be covered in the unit tests. Therefore, while you will only write a response for one article per unit, you are expected to read all of the assigned articles.

### *Term Paper*

The paper assignment will provide you with an opportunity to draw on course material to produce an original sociological argument and analysis. A list of questions will be provided on D2L. You will be asked to respond to one of these questions in the form of an argumentative essay. More information on this assignment, including the list of questions will be provided later in the term.

### *Grade Reappraisal*

Within one week of the date that the paper is returned, students seeking reappraisal of tests or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the grade. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. The re-assessed grade will be final and cannot be changed again.

### *Late Papers*

Term papers that are handed in after the due date (Tuesday, Apr 11<sup>th</sup>) without a valid reason (see above under Deferrals) will still be accepted, but a late penalty of -5% per day (including weekends) will be imposed.

### Grading Scale

A+	95-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-69%	D+	55-58%
A	90-94%	B	75-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-54%
A -	85-89%	B -	70-74%	C -	59-62%	F	< 50%

### Contact and Office Hours

Please include "SOC353" in the subject of your e-mails. I aim to respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the working week. To ensure a quick response, it is best to keep e-mails simple and straight to the point. More complicated questions should be asked in person during office hours. I also encourage you to ask questions during or right after lectures.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

### UNIT ONE

### URBANIZATION AND COMMUNITY

Sep 11, 13, 15

Week 1: What is a City?

Readings:

- Hiller, Introduction: Urbanization and the City
- Orum, Anthony M. 1998. "The Urban Imagination of Sociologists: The Centrality of Place." *The Sociological Quarterly* 39(1): 1-10.

Sep 18, 20, 22

Week 2: Urbanization in Historical and Canadian Perspective

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 1 – Canadian Urbanization in Historical and Global Perspective
- Hiller, Chapter 2 – The Dynamics of Canadian Urbanization

Sep 25, 27, 29

Week 3: Classical Perspectives on Cities: The Chicago and German Schools

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 3 – Analyzing and Interpreting the City: Theory and Method
- Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" English translation available here:  
[http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/bpl\\_images/content\\_store/sample\\_chapter/0631225137/bridge.pdf](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/bpl_images/content_store/sample_chapter/0631225137/bridge.pdf)

Oct 2, 4, 6

Week 4: Networks and Ethnography

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 5 – Social Ties and Community in Urban Places
- Klinenberg, Eric. 2001. "Dying Alone: The Social Production of Urban Isolation." *Ethnography* 2(4):501-31.

Mon, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving Monday – No Lecture

**Wed, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>**

**In-Class Unit Test #1**

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Friday, Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Week 5: Introduction to Political-Economy <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hiller, Chapter 12 – The New Urban Political Economy</li></ul>
Oct 16, 18, 20	Week 6: Urban Political-Economy <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Delaney, Kevin J. and Rick Eckstein. 2007. "Urban Power Structures and Publicly Financed Stadiums." <i>Sociological Forum</i> 22(3): 331-53.</li><li>Sassen, Saskia. 2005. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept." <i>Brown Journal of World Affairs</i> 11(2): 27-43.</li></ul>
Oct 23, 25, 27	Week 7: Inequality in Cities <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hiller, Chapter 7 – Urban Inequality and Urban Social Movements</li><li>Hulchanski, J. David. 2010. "The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005." Available here: <a href="http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/pdfs/curp/tnrn/Three-Cities-Within-Toronto-2010-Final.pdf">http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/pdfs/curp/tnrn/Three-Cities-Within-Toronto-2010-Final.pdf</a></li></ul>
Oct 30, Nov 1, 3	Week 8: Racialized Minorities in Cities <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hiller, Chapter 8 – Immigration and Race in the City</li><li>Hiller, Chapter 9 – Aboriginal Peoples in Urban Areas</li></ul>
Nov 6, 8	Week 9: Housing <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hiller, Chapter 14 – Housing and Homelessness: Sociological Factors</li><li>Hiller, Chapter 11 – Gender and the City: Urban Restructuring, Social Exclusion, and Democratic Participation</li></ul>
Fri, Nov 10	Mid-Term Break - No Class
Mon, Nov 13	Mid-Term Break - No Class
<b>Wed. Nov 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Class Unit Test #2</b>

- Nov 17                      Week 10: Culture and Consumption  
Readings:
- Hiller, Chapter 13 – Consumer Culture, City Space, and Urban Life
- Nov 20, 22, 24              Week 11: Culture and Consumption  
Readings:
- Zukin, Sharon (2008) "Consuming Authenticity: From Outposts of Difference to Means of Exclusion." *Cultural Studies* 22(5): 724-748.
- Nov 27, 29, Dec 1        Week 12: Public Space  
Readings:
- Hiller, Chapter 6 – Urban Public Spaces: Streets, Strangership, and Securitization
- Fri, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>      PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE**
- Dec 4, 6                      Week 13: Crime and Cities  
Readings:
- Hiller, Chapter 10 – Big Cities, Social Pathology, and Crime

**Fri, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>              In-Class Unit Test #3**

*Note: Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

## Other Important Information

### *Handing in Papers, Assignments*

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

### *Deferrals*

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write a test or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

*Deferred Term Work Form:* Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at

[https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

*Deferred Final Exam Form:* Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>



### *Ethics 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 Faculty 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*

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

### *Student Representation*

The 2017-18 Students' Union VP Academic is Tina Miller ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

### *Emergency Evacuations*

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Social Science - Food Court**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### *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*

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy). Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student

Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy). Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.