



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
<http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

SOCI353 Urban Sociology

• Fall 2018

• MWF 1:00 – 1:50 PM

• ENA 101

Instructor: Professor Matt Patterson

Office: SS 916

Email: matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca

Phone: 403-220-5037

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Teaching Assistant: TBA (See D2L)

TA Email: TBA (See D2L)

TA Office Hours: TBA (See D2L)

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.

Course Objectives/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 21st 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.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

- 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>.

Methods of Evaluation

	<u>Due Date/Test Date</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Unit Test #1	Wednesday, Oct 10 th	25%
Reading Response #1	Wednesday, Oct 10 th	5%
Unit Test #2	Friday, Nov 9 th	25%
Reading Response #2	Friday, Nov 9 th	5%
Term Paper	Friday, Nov 30 th	30%
Unit Test #3	Friday, Dec 7 th	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 first two units (two 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, Hulchanski, or Wacquant.

Reading are due BEFORE the unit test and can be submitted via D2L. 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.

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 a test or paper is returned, students seeking reappraisal of their grade must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for the reappraisal. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss their 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 (Friday, Nov 30th) 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

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	95 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 94%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84%	3.3	
B	75 – 79%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69%	2.3	
C	63 – 66%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58%	1.3	
D	50 – 54%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Email 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 10, 12, 14

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 17, 19, 21

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 24, 26, 28

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

Oct 1, 3, 5

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 8th

Thanksgiving Monday – No Lecture

Wed, Oct 10th

IN-CLASS UNIT TEST #1, READING RESPONSE #1 DUE

UNIT TWO: POWER AND INEQUALITY

Fri, Oct 12th

Week 5: Urban Political-Economy I

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 12 – The New Urban Political Economy

Oct 15, 17, 19

Week 6: Urban Political-Economy II

Readings:

- Delaney, Kevin J. and Rick Eckstein. 2007. "Urban Power Structures and Publicly Financed Stadiums." *Sociological Forum* 22(3): 331-53.
- Sassen, Saskia. 2005. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 11(2): 27-43.

Oct 22, 24, 26

Week 7: Inequality in Cities

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 7 – Urban Inequality and Urban Social Movements
- Hulchanski, J. David. 2010. "The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005." Available here: <http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/pdfs/curp/tnrn/Three-Cities-Within-Toronto-2010-Final.pdf>

Oct 29, 31, Nov 2

Week 8: Race and Ethnicity in Cities

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 8 – Immigration and Race in the City
- Hiller, Chapter 9 – Aboriginal Peoples in Urban Areas
- Wacquant, Loic. 2010. Designing Urban Seclusion in the 21st Century. *Yale Architectural Journal*.

Nov 5, 7

Week 9: Housing

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 14 – Housing and Homelessness: Sociological Factors
- Hiller, Chapter 11 – Gender and the City: Urban Restructuring, Social Exclusion, and Democratic Participation

Fri, Nov 9

IN-CLASS UNIT TEST #2, READING RESPONSE #2 DUE

Nov 12, 14, 16 Mid-Term Break - No Class

UNIT THREE: LIFE IN THE CITY

Nov 19, 21, 23 Week 10: Culture and Consumerism

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 13 – Consumer Culture, City Space, and Urban Life
- Zukin, Sharon (2008) "Consuming Authenticity: From Outposts of Difference to Means of Exclusion." *Cultural Studies* 22(5): 724-748.

Nov 26, 28, 30 Week 11: Public Space

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 6 – Urban Public Spaces: Streets, Strangership, and Securitization

Fri, Nov 30th

TERM PAPER DUE

Dec 3, 5 Week 12: Crime and Cities

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 10 – Big Cities, Social Pathology, and Crime

Fri, Dec 7th

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

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at ICT - Food Court.

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.

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>

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam 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 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>

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

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).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (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>

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.

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.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)