

**URBAN SOCIOLOGY (SOCY 211.00)**  
**Fall 2005**

**Instructor**

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**Office Hours**

Monday 1:30 - 3:00 PM  
Thursday 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
and by appointment

**Class Meetings**

M,W,TH 11:10 am -12:00  
HW 113

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**Course Objectives**

Our objective in this course is to examine some urban issues, with a particular emphasis on the nature of urban problems and likewise, the determinants and consequences of urban change. This course in particular focuses on both urban underclass and immigration issues in addition to urban life, urban housing, and urban crime. In doing these things, a number of theoretical perspectives on urban sociology will be considered and simultaneously, the kinds of factual information and empirical analyses needed to understand urban issues will be also considered. However, general urban issues in U.S. and some urban sociological approaches to them may not be applied to the case of New York City. The general goal of this course is, therefore, to learn how to understand, compare, and evaluate different aspects of urban issues emerging in the typical U.S. areas and New York City. Ultimately, ***the specific goal of this course is to understand urban issues emerging in your own neighborhood.***

**Required Books**

- John Palen. *The Urban World* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) NY: McGraw Hill, 2005.
- William Julius Wilson. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. NY: Vintage Books, 1996.
- Massey Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Roger Waldinger. *Still the Promised City? African Americans and New Immigrants in Postindustrial New York*. Harvard University Press, 1996.

*The following are the requirements for the course:*

- (1) **Class Participation & Attendance Policy** (10% of your grade): The basic requirement of this class is that you should read the book chapters assigned in each class. It is fine to participate in class discussion without reading the assigned chapters. But our class discussion will become far more focused when we know the general contents of each book chapter. Here I encourage you to participate in discussion of

the daily class. This means that sometimes I will call on your name when I realize those who don't raise hands. Attendance at lectures is required for the successful completion of this course. **Poor attendance will result in further, and substantial, grade deductions.** If you have to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. Every class I will distribute our class attendance sheet writing your initials.

(2) **Assignments** (25% of your grade):

**Mondays** (one- or two-page): As indicated earlier, the specific goal of this class is to learn about my neighborhood you are currently living in. In every Thursday class, I will give you the specific assignment regarding your neighborhood characteristics, such as **demographic characteristics** (sex, race/ethnicity including Hispanic origins, residence in 1995-state or county level, ancestry, year of entry, educational attainment), **socio-economic characteristics** (occupational compositions, travel time to work, place of work-place level, median household income, poverty), **housing characteristics** (housing tenure-owner occupied/renter occupied, year structure built, housing value, median gross rent), and other neighborhood problems (crime rate, racial segregation). In order to collect the data for this Monday homework, you will have to go to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the library, to the maps of New York (follow the signs that say "Census Data"): Locate your borough, street address, and then find out what census tract you live in. Later, report and describe the 1990 & 2000 census data on your census tract. To do this, check <http://www.infoshare.org>. Here, Click **profile an area** in Main Menu, followed by **Census Tract, Select your Borough, Your Census Tract Number, 2000 or 1990 Census data in Data File**. I will assign this homework on Thursdays and you have to turn in your home in the following Monday class.

**Wednesdays:** There will be **quizzes** on most Wednesdays once class starts. They will be composed of short-essay questions regarding the reading assignment of each week.

**Thursdays** (two – page essay): Every Monday, I will give you a specific question as to one urban issue from our reading assignments. Sum up your answer, apply to your neighborhood (if possible), and suggest **your own point of view** that is critical to your homework grade. You have to turn in your home in the following Thursday class.

**Homework should be typed, double-spaced.**

**\* I will not accept any homework not turned in on time.**

**\*I do not accept any homework via email or in electronic format.**

(3) **Examinations** (40% of your grade): There will be two exams during the semester, and each exam will cover the material presented both in the **reading** and the **lectures**. The two examinations will be a combination of short answer, computation, and essay, and each will count for 20 % of your grade. **No exams can be made up.**

(4) **Term Paper** (25% of your grade): Term paper should run 7 to 8 pages in length. It should be typed, double-spaced. For this, you need to write an "issue" effecting your neighborhood (here, census tract). The "issue" can be something the people in the tract

define as a “problem,” or it can be something that you see as interesting but that the people in the tract rarely think about. By **October 03** students must submit one page proposal. The final paper will be due **December 8** and you have to present your paper in class (5 minutes). **Term Paper Format:**

- 1) **Introduction:** Select a topic/ Give an overview or background /Describe why you choose this topic (your motivation) and /Mention how to approach this topic.
- 2) **Literature Review:** Find out and read any books or articles relevant to your interest/ Describe diverse perspectives or approaches in detail and/Choose one viewpoint and mention why you select it briefly.
- 3) **Results:** Use other materials (data) that support your view, such as interviews with interested parties, your past or present experiences in your own neighborhoods, or the objective data you can collect. Later, explain in detail why one perspective selected from articles or books is fit for your case.
- 4) **Conclusions:** Restate your purpose of this paper/ Sum up your findings, and/ Describe the limitations of this study and mention your future study.

(5) **Grading Summary:**

Attendance/ Class Participation	10%
Assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Term Paper/Presentation	25%

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**General Course Schedule**

**Topics**

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<b>8/31</b>	<b>Overview</b> Read John Palen. <i>The Urban World</i> , chs.1 & 2.
<b>9/01</b>	<b>Theoretical Framework: Ecological Complex</b>
<b>9/05</b>	<b>No Classes: Labor Day</b>
<b>9/07</b>	<b>Urban Concepts</b>
<b>9/08</b>	<b>Urban Sociological Research</b> Read John Palen. <i>The Urban World</i> , ch.4.

- 9/12 Urban Tradition**  
 Read John Palen. *The Urban World*, ch.4.
- 9/14 Urban Tradition**  
 Read John Palen. *The Urban World*, chs.3 & 5.
- 9/15 Urban America & Urban Change**  
 Read John Palen. *The Urban World*, chs.3, 5, & 6.
- 9/19 Metropolitanization & Suburbanization**  
**9/21 Metropolitanization & Suburbanization**  
 Read William Julius Wilson *When Work Disappears*, ch. 1
- 9/22 Urban Underclass**  
 Read William Julius Wilson *When Work Disappears*, chs. 2&3.
- 9/26 Urban Underclass**  
 Read William Julius Wilson *When Work Disappears*, chs.4&5.
- 9/28 Film**
- 9/29 Urban Underclass**  
**10/03 Urban Underclass & Your Neighborhood & PROPOSAL DUE**  
 Read Massey Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. *American Apartheid*, ch.1&2.
- 10/05 No Classes**
- 10/06 Urban Segregation**  
 Read Massey Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. *American Apartheid*, ch.3&4.
- 10/10 No Classes: Columbus Day**
- 10/11 Urban Segregation**  
 Read Massey Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. *American Apartheid*, ch.4, 5, 6.
- 10/12-13 No Classes**
- 10/17 Midterm Review**  
**10/19 Mid-term Exam**
- 10/20 Urban Segregation**
- 10/24 Urban Segregation & your neighborhood**  
 Read John Palen. *The Urban World*, ch. 7.
- 10/26 Urban Life**

- 10/27 Urban Life**  
**Read** John Palen. *The Urban World*, chs. 8 & 12.
- 10/31 Urban Housing**  
**Read** John Palen. *The Urban World*, ch. 11.
- 11/02 Urban Crisis or Revival**  
**Read** John Palen. *The Urban World*, ch. 9.
- 11/03 Urban Diversity**  
**Read** John Palen. *The Urban World*, chs. 9 & 10
- 11/07 Immigration: Major Issues (I)**  
**11/09 Immigration: Major Issues (II)**  
**Read** Roger Waldinger *Still the Promised City?* (chs. 1&2)
- 11/10** *Still the Promised City?*  
**11/14** *Still the Promised City?* (Waldinger, Chapters 3&4)  
**11/16** *Still the Promised City?* (Waldinger, Chapters 5&6)  
**11/17** *Still the Promised City?* (Waldinger, Chapters 7&8)  
**11/21** *Still the Promised City?* (Waldinger, Chapter 9)
- 11/23 Film**  
**Read** John Palen. *The Urban World*, ch. 8.
- 11/24 No Classes: Thanksgiving Recess**
- 11/28 Urban Crime**  
**11/30 Urban Crime**  
**Read** Massey Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. *American Apartheid*, chs.7 & 8.
- 12/01 Urban Government & Policy**  
**Read** John Palen. *The Urban World*, ch. 17.
- 12/05 Urban Future**  
**12/07 Summary & Conclusion**  
**12/08 Class presentation I & Paper Due**  
**12/12 Class presentation II**  
**12/14 Class presentation III**
- 12/15 Review for Final Exam**  
**TBA Final Exam**

