

Soc364H1S Urban Health

University of Toronto
Winter 2017 (January-April)
Tuesday 2-4pm
Ramsay Wright Labs, 25 Harbord St, rm 117
(<http://www.classfind.com/toronto/room/RW117>)
Course website: <https://portal.utoronto.ca> (login using your utoid)

Instructor: Brent Berry, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto
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Ali Rodney (ali.rodney@mail.utoronto.ca)
Office Hours, Tuesdays 4:30-6pm, room 225 in the Sociology Dept
On only the following Tuesdays: 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28

Overview

Urban health is the interdisciplinary study at the intersection of health and urbanization. This course features some of the best examples of quantitative survey-based investigation of how *place* affects individuals' health and well-being through various social features of the urban landscape and their intersection with key social identities. Health and health behaviors arise from a complex web of influences, from individual and household characteristics to institutional, organizational, and environmental contexts. An ecological approach may be fruitful for understanding patterns of health by focusing on the urban context that individuals enter into, influence, and are influenced by. With growing rates of urbanization, it is important to critically examine which features of cities impact individuals' health differentially, and why. To set the context for the course, we first discuss definitions, patterns, and historical to contemporary explanations of urban health in North America. We review historical changes in health (e.g. the epidemiological transition) and urban form (e.g. urbanization and suburbanization, the nature of community, and social life in urban areas). We examine why *place* is relevant to physical and mental health and for whom. We cover literature related to the relevance of everyday settings with a specific focus on individuals' neighbourhood of residence. In the latter part of the course we focus on the risks and protections for special populations in urban areas, including the poor, the homeless, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and old, and families with young children. We critically review (mostly) quantitative research to date on these topics and discuss potential solutions for remedying exposure and vulnerability of these groups to the risks of urban settings.

Evaluation

Final marks will be based on four grades. There is a short exercise worth 10%, an in-class midterm test worth 30%, a final test worth 25% that is not cumulative, and an independent research project worth the remaining 35%. Choice of paper topics will be discussed in class.

Prerequisites

Completion of a 200 or higher level sociology course is required to take this course. Students without prerequisites can be removed at any time without notice.

Readings and Lectures

The readings can be downloaded from the class web page. Due to copyright restrictions, you must login to access them. Most of the readings are in PDF format. The “further readings” are optional, meaning they are not required and will not be on the test. When available, lecture slides will be posted the evening before class. They are provided to benefit in-class note taking. Besides the posted lecture slides, I often incorporate a range of audiovisual material into lectures. It is important to complete all required readings and attend class because the midterm and final test will cover both required readings and in-class material.

Email and the Course Webpage

In my courses, email and the ability to access the course webpage is important. I will use e-mail for reminders, clarifications, last-minute notifications, etc. Feel free to contact me via e-mail with questions, requests or problems that were not --or could not be-- addressed in class.

Accessibility Needs

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/> as soon as possible.

Make-Up Tests

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero unless within three days of the missed test he/she contacts the instructor requesting special consideration and explaining why the test was missed. The instructor or TA will communicate the time and location of the make-up test. In order to take the make-up test, students must bring proper documentation from a physician or college registrar to the make-up test.

- In case of **illness**, you must supply a duly completed **Verification of Student Illness** or Injury form (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). A doctor’s note is not acceptable. The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted when you take the make-up test.
- If a **personal or family crisis** prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted when you take the make-up.

Deadlines for Submitting Projects

Papers are due on the due date listed in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without proper documentation from a student’s physician or college registrar (described above)

Plagiarism

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offense face

serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART 1. Definitions, Patterns, and Explanations of Urban Health

NOTE: Assigned readings are numbered below.

Jan 10th: Introduction to Sociology of Urban Health

(1) Galea, Sandro and David Vlahov. 2005. “Urban Health: Populations, Methods and Practice.” Pp. 1-16 in S. Galea and D. Vlahov (eds.) *Handbook of Urban Health: Populations, Methods and Practice*. New York: Springer.

***Movie Clip:** *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* 1988 (55 min)

An engaging and informative tour of the urban landscape, while exploring how it can be made more hospitable for those who must live in it. This film also shows what can be learned through systematic observation of people in urban environments.

Exercise assigned and discussed today

Jan 17th: Patterns of Health and Fundamental Determinants in Urban Canada

(2) Trends in mortality by neighbourhood income in urban Canada from 1971 to 1996. Statistics Canada Report, Catalogue 82-003. Supplement to *Health Reports*, Vol 13, 2002

(3) Hulchanski, David J. 2010. “The Three Cities within Toronto: Income polarization among Toronto’s neighbourhoods, 1970-2005.” Centre for Urban & Community Studies Research Bulletin 41, December 2007, 12 pages.

Jan 24th: The Health Climacteric: From Material Scarcity to Social Disadvantage

(4) Frank, John W. and Fraser Mustard. 1994. “The Determinants of Health from a Historical Perspective.” *Daedalus* 123(4): 1-19.

(5) Wilkinson, Richard G. 1994. “The Epidemiological Transition: From Material Scarcity to Social Disadvantage?” *Daedalus* 123(4): 61-77.

Jan 31st: Sociological and Epidemiological Explanations of Health in the Urban Context

(6) Fitzpatrick, Kevin M. and Mark LaGory. 2003. “Placing ‘Health’ in an Urban Sociology: Cities as Mosaics of Risk and Protection.” *City and Community* 2(1):33-46.

(7) Kaplan, George A. 1999. “Upstream and Downstream Approaches to Inequalities in Health.” Pp. 1-11 in *Karolinska Research Lecture at the Nobel Forum*. Also, read Kaplan's Tables #1-15, Kaplan's Tables #16-30, Kaplan's Tables #31-39

Feb 7th: Alternative Perspectives and Explanations of Urban Health

(8) Sampson, Robert J. and J. D. Morenoff, and Thomas Gannon-Rowley. 2002. “Assessing

‘Neighborhood Effects’: Social Processes and New Directions in Research.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 28:443-78.

- (9) McKinlay, John B. and Lisa D. Marceau. 2000. “To Boldly go...” *American Journal of Public Health* 90 (1): 25-33.
- (10) Wakefield, Sarah, et al. 2007. “Growing Urban Health: Community Gardening in South-East Toronto.” *Health Promotion International* 22(2): 92-101.

Feb 14th: *Urban Context and Sociology of Mental Health*

- (11) Hill, Terrence D. and David Maimon. 2013. “Neighborhood Context and Mental Health.” Pp. 479-501 in *The Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health*, 2nd Edition, edited by C. S. Aneshensel, J. C. Phelan, and Alex Bierman. New York: Springer.
- (12) Ross, Catherine E., John Mirowsky, and Shana Pribesh. 2001. “Powerlessness and the Amplification of Threat: Neighborhood Disadvantage, Disorder, and Mistrust.” *American Sociological Review* 66:568-91.

**Supplementary*

Ross, Catherine E. and John Mirowsky. 2009. “Neighborhood Disorder, Subjective Alienation, and Distress.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 50:49-64.

Exercise Due Today

Feb 21st – NO CLASS (Reading Week)

Feb 28th – Midterm test in class today [covers all text and lecture/discussion materials to date]

PART 2. Special Populations and Problems in Urban/Suburban Contexts

March 7th: *Housing, Homelessness, and Health*

- (13) Hwang, Stephen W. 2001. “Homelessness and Health.” *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 164(1): 229-33.
- (14) Berry, Brent. 2014. “Sociology of Housing”. In *Urban Canada: Sociological Perspectives*, Third Edition, edited by Harry H. Hiller. Oxford University Press.

**Movie Clip: Sidewalk*

**Supplementary*

O’Grady, Bill and Stephen Gaetz. 2004. “Homelessness, Gender and Subsistence: The Case of Toronto Street Youth.” *Journal of Youth Studies* 7(4): 397-416

March 14th: *The Health of Urban Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities*

- (15) Noh, Samuel and William R. Avison. 1996. “Asian Immigrants and the Stress Process: A Study of Koreans in Canada.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 37:192-206.
- (16) Montazer, Shirin and Blair Wheaton. 2011. “The Impact of Generation and Country of Origin on the Mental Health of Immigrant Children: New Models for Understanding Adjustment across Generations.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 52: 23-42.

- ***Movie Clip** (time permitting): *Jane Finch Again*. 1997.
- *Flemingdon Park: The global village* – 2002, audiovisual library (Media commons, 3rd floor, Robarts library), videocassette #00672, 46 minutes

March 21st: *Special Populations: Youth, Older Adults, and Families with Young Children*

- (17) Aneshensel, CS, Sucoff CA. 1996. "The neighborhood context of adolescent mental health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 37:293-310.
- (18) Schieman, Scott, Len Pearlin, and Stephen C. Meersman. 2006. "Neighborhood Disadvantage and Anger among Older Adults: Social Comparisons as Effect Modifiers." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 47(2): 156-172.
- (19) Swisher, Raymond, Steven Sweet, and Phyllis Moen, P. 2004. "The Family-Friendly Community and its Life Course Fit for Dual-Earner Couples." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66: 281-92.

Papers are due today. Must submit both hardcopy in class and electronic copy via portal.

March 28th -- The Urban Foodscape, Eating, and Physical Activity in the City

- (20) Pothukuchi and Kaufman. 1999. "Placing the food system on the urban agenda: The role of municipal institutions in food systems planning." *Agriculture and Human Values* 16(2) 213-224 (12).
- (21) French, SA, M Story, and RW Jeffery. 2001. "Environmental Influences on Eating and physical activity," *Annu. Rev. Public Health* 22:309-35
- (22) Saelens, B.E., Sallis, J.F., Black, J., & Chen, D. 2003. "Neighborhood-based differences in physical activity: An environment scale evaluation." *American Journal of Public Health*, 93, 1552-1558.
- *Supplementary*
- Berry, Brent. 2007 "Disparities in Leisure Time Inactivity: Trends and Explanations" *Sociological Perspectives* 50(2) Summer: 166-199.

April 4th – **Test held in class today**

Other Course Resources

Maps: We will examine maps from two websites in class--

- Toronto Neighbourhood Profiles: <http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm>:
- Toronto Community Health Profiles: <http://www.torontohealthprofiles.ca/>

Films: I show a number of short films that may include but not be limited to the following--

- A short history of the highrise, part 1-4, Katerina Cizek, 2013, 20 min
https://www.nfb.ca/film/short_history_of_the_highrise_part_one_mud
- City Limits, Jane Jacobs, 28 minutes, https://www.nfb.ca/film/city_limits
- Farewell Oak Street, Grant McLean, 17 minutes, https://www.nfb.ca/film/farewell_oak_street

- Mobility, 36 minutes 1986 <https://www.nfb.ca/film/mobility>
- Men, Women, and Mental Health in the City: recommended Films for exploring gender and urban health – Satyajit Ray’s The Big City (1963), A Taste of Honey (1961), Cléo from 5 to 7 (1962), 10 (2002, Director Abbas Kiarostami), Vivre sa vie (1962), Chinatown (1974), Sunshine State (2002)

Interactive Sites

- Out my window (interactive site) <http://interactive.nfb.ca/#/outmywindow/>
- Hyperlocal <http://hyperlocal.nfb.ca/#/hyperlocal/>
- Sound Ecology, <http://soundecology.nfb.ca/#/soundecology>
- At Home, (Toronto), <http://athome.nfb.ca/#/athome/toronto>
- Territories, <http://territories.nfb.ca/#/territories>
- Mainstreet, <http://mainstreet.nfb.ca/#/mainstreet>

Talks

- Robert Neuwirth on “shadow cities” (15 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/robert_neuwirth_on_our_shadow_cities.html
- Rob Forbes on “ways of seeing” (15 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/rob_forbes_on_ways_of_seeing.html
- Steven Johnson tours the “Ghost Map” [about the cholera outbreak in 1854 London and the impact it had on science, cities and modern society] (10 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/steven_johnson_tours_the_ghost_map.html
- Carolyn Steel on “How food shapes our cities” (15 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/carolyn_steel_how_food_shapes_our_cities.html
- Ellen Dunham-Jones on “Retrofitting suburbia” (19 minutes)
http://www.ted.com/talks/ellen_dunham_jones_retrofitting_suburbia.html