

Urban Sociology

Sociology 205 Syllabus: May-June, 2012

Monday & Wednesday 10am –12 noon SS2117

Professor Lesley Kenny

Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

If you come to the second lecture, **it is my right to assume** that you have read and agreed to all the information on this syllabus. It is our contract with one another.

The prerequisite for this course is SOC101Y1 or SOC102H1 or SOC103H1. Without exception, students who do not have this prerequisite can be removed at any time, without notice.

My Email lesley.kenny@utoronto.ca

- Please keep your emails short and polite; if your email requires more than a brief response, I will make an app't to meet with you in person, during office hours.
- If the information you are requesting is found in this syllabus, I will tell you to look here.
- Only emails sent from a valid UofT account will be answered (not hotmail accounts, etc).

Office Hours Monday and Wednesday 9-10:00 am, SidSmith main floor foyer, beside coffee bar, and by appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Teaching Assistant

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Office Hours: by appointment, rm. 225, Dept. of Sociology, 725 Spadina Avenue

Broad Strokes

- There are 2 short-answer (written) in-class tests (35% & 25%) and one written assignment (40%; no late assignments accepted, see pg. 4 for details).
- There is no formal final exam.
- There are no multiple choice test questions.
- There is no textbook (\$\$\$), only online journal articles (free!) that you must retrieve yourself.
- I do not post, lend or otherwise share my lecture notes or slides, for any reason.
- If you miss a lecture (which is about 10% of the entire course) it is your responsibility to borrow the notes from a classmate.
- You may not audio record lectures or take photographs during lecture.

**** Friendly Caution ****

This is a full semester course squeezed into 6 weeks. Practically speaking, this means that your midterm is 2.5 weeks after the first lecture! As you may already know, for every one hour of (any) course lecture time, you should set aside 3-4 hours of study/reading time each week.

For this course, that means you need to set aside an additional 12-16 hours per week. If you begin to fall behind in readings it will be very difficult to catch up. Please bear this in mind if you are enrolled in other courses or if you work part-time. On-time attendance at each lecture is a necessary strategy. Whining is not an option – and I won't like it if you do it, either!

*Why did cities develop? How is **power** mapped onto the city?*

How are inequalities reproduced in urban centres? What is 'suburbia'?

What exactly is a 'multicultural city'?

What about racism?

What about our love affair with cars? What is a **green** city?

What exactly is a public place?

Where is exurbia and can you bbq there?

Are there PLACES TO PROTEST?

Places to protect?

Overview

This course serves as an introduction to urban sociology.

Like most introductory courses, this one necessarily cuts a wide swath. However, we will dip into some topics in more detail; some of these will be my ideas, and some will come from class discussion and interest (hint hint). Despite the week-by-week lecture/reading schedule (see pgs. 6-8), I may vary this, but only with good reason and good notice to you.

Not surprisingly, we will start with the history of urbanization – from agrarian settlements through the industrial revolution (you think **cell phones** changed the world?) to the contemporary so-called “global” city. In their attempts to understand the city, sociologists and other scholars have developed theories of urban development, society and culture, (among others). We will read and discuss some of these as they pertain to the Chicago School, The New Urbanism, Gentrification, Race/ethnicity, Poverty, Suburbia... and Cars.

Studying the history of urbanization and theories about the city tends to focus our attention on more macro-sociological approaches. But too much macro can make a person's head fall off and so we will also look at some micro approaches, including Jane Jacobs' work on the importance of the street, and empirical case studies of areas in Toronto.

Your main written assignment involves your own perceptions and insights about the city and how they relate to the macro and micro concepts and theories we will study. I encourage creativity. I applaud genuine attempts to wrestle with the readings and lecture material in order to make **thinking** happen.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this full-semester, 6 week course you will:

- have a general historical understanding of the evolution of the city
- be able to look at particular urban areas, neighbourhoods and buildings and talk about how they fit into this evolution (won't that be useful at parties?)
- have an informed opinion on the processes of gentrification
- know how public places shape and control your behaviour
- begin to understand how social inequalities are re/produced in cities
- know how to apply academic concepts to everyday life in an urban centre

2 Tests and 1 Written Assignment

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| May 30 | Test 1, short answer/essay; full class time | 35% [makeup test June 5, 10:am] |
| May 30- | Observation Journals due in this period; | rm.225, 725 Spadina Ave.] |
| June 11 | *none accepted past noon, June 11 th . | 40% |
| June 20 | Test 2, short answer/essay, in-class. | 25% [makeup test, June 26, 10:am, |
| | The second test, on the last day of the course | rm.225, 725 Spadina Ave.] |
| | is cumulative in the sense that you will have | |
| | to show understanding of the major ideas | |
| | from the first half of the course. | |

*as in, no exceptions, no matter what, no matter how – not medical or otherwise! There are no late penalties for journals, simply because no late assignments are accepted.

May – June 2012

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat. | Sun. |
|---|---------|--|----------|---------|------|------|
| 14 1 st lecture | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Victoria Day; no lect. | 22 | 23 in-class journal tutorial | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 1 st Test 1 st Journal sub. Date* | 31 | June 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 2 nd Journal sub. date | 05 | 06 3 rd Journal sub. date | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| 11 4 th & FINAL sub. date, by noon | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 last lect. | 19 | 20 2 nd Test | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

Journals may be submitted as early as Wednesday, May 30th, during class. Last day for submission is Monday, June 11th, by noon. **NOTE:** Because you have 4 dates to choose for submission, no late journals are accepted (not even for medical or other emergency reasons).

Readings and Online Documentaries (There is no textbook or coursepack for this course.)

- ~25 Academic Journal Articles/Excerpts: (i.e., 2 or 3 per *lecture*). Assigned readings can be found online, through the university's library webpage, with a valid student card/number. You need to download these articles yourself.
- I reserve the right to switch-up a reading here and there, depending on where our class discussions/interest take us; you will get good warning, and I will post any changes on Blackboard (if changes are made, it will be to make things more interesting and do-able, not to make things harder and more challenging).

You will note on the course lecture schedule, (pages 6-8 of this syllabus), the reading that you should do *before* coming to class. If you begin to fall behind, you should not expect to do well on the following test or assignment. I will tell you the week before the assigned reading which pages you are responsible for in the cases where I do not expect you to read the full article.

We will also be watching some short documentaries. Some of these are listed in this syllabus and the rest will be announced in class and the information posted on Blackboard (under “Announcements”). You are responsible for watching most of these outside of lecture time. They are all available for free, online.

Students are responsible for mastering the lectures, documentaries and assigned readings for use on tests and the written assignment.

Tests

Both test formats are short answer; that is, **there are no multiple choice questions on either test.**

Both tests will be held in our classroom during class time. All material covered in the readings, visual media and lectures is admissible on tests. You will be given the full class time to complete the tests.

Students who miss a test may ***ONLY*** take a makeup test if they: submit a valid, completed U of T Health Form, or a letter from their college registrar, to the professor. Otherwise they will be assigned a 0 (zero) for the missed test. The health form (or letter from registrar) must be submitted within 1 week of the missed test.

The makeup test date for the first test is Wednesday, June 5, from 10:00-11:50 am, in room 225 of the sociology department at 725 Spadina Avenue.

The makeup test date for the second test will be Wednesday, June 26, 10:00-11:50 am, room 225 of the sociology department at 725 Spadina Avenue.

There are no exceptions to these dates so please check your schedules now.

Bring your medical documentation with you to the makeup test. There are no exceptions to this. Only the professor will read this documentation.

Written Assignment: Journal Observations – 40%

You are required to submit 20 written observations about the city (things, processes, ideas...) applying your sociological imagination and what you learn from course lectures and readings. These observations must be submitted in your own handwriting (i.e., not typed or in any other way electronically submitted). Don't worry, there are no marks for neatness – just content!

- There is no need to go out of your way for all the observation entries; try to incorporate this as part of your everyday life. You will need to buy or make a notebook for this purpose.
- The individual observations can be short and in point form – as long as we can understand what you are trying to say.
- Each observation must include (1) a brief description of what you are talking about (e.g., a building?) and (2) your ideas about how to link the observation to a theory or sociological concept (from lectures and/or readings). Descriptive observations are not enough; this link to sociology needs to be part of each journal entry. We will discuss examples in class and there is a one hour, in-class tutorial on May 23rd.
- Do not write these observations in a way that would make anyone uncomfortable or annoyed if they were to find your journal! Be discrete – or simply observe and write it down later.

- This is an observation exercise only; absolutely no interviewing people or otherwise inserting yourself into the situation you are observing.
- Do not go out at night, or into potentially dangerous situations/places just to make these observations.
- It should go without saying, but just in case: do not submit anything lewd, crude or based on any illegal activity.
- Do not write anything in this journal that would clearly identify anybody by name or position. If you do, marks will be deducted for this ethical breach of conduct.

These 20 observations are due starting May 30 and will not be accepted after noon on June 11th. There will be no extensions and no exceptions due to illness or any other reason. You have 4 lecture dates (2 calendar weeks) within which to submit this journal so I suggest you pick sooner rather than later!

Academic Honesty

All students must be familiar with the Code of Academic Behaviour on Academic Matters. No form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on tests and plagiarism will be accepted, and all suspected offences will be forwarded to the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Please see the University's document "How not to plagiarize." You should be familiar with the Code of Academic Behaviour, which can be found at:

<http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/rules.htm#behaviour>

Copying words and ideas/concepts that are not your own is considered plagiarism which is a serious academic offence, with quite serious consequences to you. For more information on how Not to plagiarize, see the article written by Margaret Proctor, Coordinator of Writing Support,

University of Toronto: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

Common Decency

Let's all agree to treat each other with respect. Please come to class on time. If you come late, use the back doors so as not to disturb your classmates or me. Each lecture is only 1 hour and 50 minutes. Please do not check Facebook or send/receive text messages during that time. If I notice that you are online/texting during class (usually because the classmates beside and behind you become distracted by your screen), I will tell you to stop, and if you persist, you will have to leave the classroom. Particularly in a 6 week course, there is no time for needless distractions.

You are welcome (encouraged) to ask me a question at any time during the lecture. I admire people who can see another side to an issue and I welcome all dissenting ideas, as long as they are offered in the spirit of genuine intellectual interest/curiosity. If you leave university still believing everything you came in believing, something likely went wrong along the way....

Participation

There are no assigned marks for participation. Except, interestingly enough, a participatory class is more likely to end up with higher marks than a more passive one.

Lecture, Reading, Documentary, Test & Assignment Schedule

Week 1 **May 14:** Introduction to the course, important dates, overview of course and the all-important, “How To Find and Read a Journal Article (for this course)”

- Once upon a time, there were no cities, and then....

History and Processes of Urbanization - Full 2 hour lecture

May 16: The Chicago School: Urban Ecology and Ethnography

- Park, Robert E. 1915. “The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behaviour in the City Environment.” *The American Journal of Sociology*. 20(5): 577-616.

- Burgess, Ernest W. 1925. “The Growth of the City.” PDF available online (courses.washington.edu/...10/.../Burgess_The_Growth_of_the_city.p...)

- Simmel, Georg. 1971 [1903]. “The Metropolis and Mental Life.” In *On Individuality and Social Forms*, D. Levine, ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [posted on Blackboard for our course]

Week 2 **May 21: Victoria Day, university closed**

May 23: The New Urban Sociology – Paradigm Shift(y)

- Zukin, Sharon. 1980. “A Decade of the New Urban Sociology.” *Theory and Society*, 9(4):575-601

- Gottdiener, M and Joe R. Feagin. 1988. “The Paradigm Shift in Urban Sociology.” *Urban Affairs Review*. 24(2): 163-187.

- Milicevic, Aleksandra. 2001. “Radical Intellectuals: What Happened to the New Urban Sociology?” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. Vol. 25(4). (read to top of pg. 16 only)

- 2 Documentaries:

Toronto Boom Town (1951, 10 mins): www.nfb.ca/film/toronto_boom_town

Remember Africville (1991, 35 mins): www.nfb.ca/film/remember_africville

- **Tutorial for Journal Assignment**

Week 3 **May 28: Gentrification - Movin’ On Up?**

- Murdie, Robert and Carlos Teixeira. 2011. “The Impact of Gentrification on Ethnic Neighbourhoods in Toronto: A Case Study of Little Portugal.” *Urban Studies*. 48(1): 61-83.

- Matthews, Vanessa. 2008. “Artcetera: Narrativising Gentrification in Yorkville, Toronto.” *Urban Studies*. 45(13): 2849-2876.

- Kern, Leslie. 2010. “Gendering Reurbanization: Women and New-Build Gentrification in Toronto.” *Population, Space and Place*. 16(5):363-379.

May 30: MIDTERM, TEST #1, 45%

(First day that observation journals may be submitted: 40%)

- In-class test, 1 hr and 50 minutes

Week 4

June 4: Race, Ethnicity and Place

(Observation journals may be submitted: 40%)

- Krysan, Maria and Michael Bader. 2007. "Perceiving the Metropolis: Seeing the City through the Prism of Race." *Social Forces*. 86(2):699-733.
- Murdie, Robert and Sumtama Ghosh. 2010. "Does Spatial Concentration Always Mean a Lack of Integration? Exploring Ethnic Concentration and Integration in Toronto." *J. of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 36(2): 293-311.
- Hou, Feng and Zheng Wu. 2009. "Racial Diversity, Minority Concentration, and Trust in Canadian Urban Neighbourhoods." *Social Sciences Research*. 38(3): 693-716.

June 6: Poverty and Alienation in the City

(Observation journals may be submitted: 40%)

- Tigges, Leann M., Irene Browne and Gary P. Green. 1998. "Social Isolation of the Urban Poor: Race, Class, and Neighborhood Effects on Social Resources." *The Sociological Quarterly*. 39(1):53-77.
- Wasserman, Jason Adam and Jeffrey M. Clair. 2011. "Housing Patterns of Homeless People: The Ecology of the Street in the Era of Urban Renewal." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. 40(1): 71-101.
- Doc: *Street Health Stories* (2007, 9 min) www.nfb.ca/film/street_health_stories/

Week 5

June 11:

LAST date to **submit observation journals!** **None** accepted past **noon**, today!

- Harvey, David. 2008. "The Right to the City." *New Left Review*. 53: 23-40 (if you type in author's name and article title, it will be first hit in google!)
 - Because there is only one article to read for this lecture, I do expect you to read all of it and come prepared to discuss the ideas in it!

June 13: Cars and Suburbia- an Unholy Alliance

- Laura J. Miller. 1995. "Family Togetherness and the Suburban Ideal." *Sociological Forum*. 19(3): 393-418.
- Sheller, Mimi and John Urry. 2000. "The City and the Car." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 24(4): 737-757
- Gonzalez, George A. 2005. "Urban Sprawl, Global Warming and the Limits of Ecological Modernisation." *Environmental Politics*. 14(3):344-362.
- Mocumentary: *Radiant City* (2006, 85 mins): www.nfb.ca/film/radiant_city

Week 6**June 18: The “Global” City – Branding, Protesting and Predicting**

- Evans, Graeme. 2003. “Hard-Branding the Cultural City – From Prado to Prada.” *International J. of Urban and Regional Research*. 27(2): 417-440.
- Köhler, Bettina, and Markus Wissen. 2003. “Glocalizing Protest: Urban Conflicts and Global Social Movements.” *International J. of Urban and Regional Research*. 27(4): 942-951.
- Sassen, Saskia. 2000. “New frontiers facing urban sociology at the Millenium.” *British Journal of Sociology* 51(1): 143-159.

June 20: TEST #2, 25% in-class, 1 hr and 50 minutes

- Test based on all readings, documentaries and all lectures; HOWEVER, test 2 will stress material *after* Test 1.