

# Soc205H1S Urban Sociology: University of Toronto: Summer 2015

Mondays and Wednesdays 3.00-5.00 pm  
Room 1085, Sydney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street. Toronto  
Course website: <https://portal.utoronto.ca> (login using your utorid)

Instructor: Sarath Chandrasekere Ph.D., University of Toronto  
Office Hours: Monday 1.00-2.30 pm and Wednesday 12:30-2:30pm & by appointment  
Room 389, 725 Spadina Ave. Toronto.

Teaching Assistant: Matthew Parbst (Ph.D. Student)  
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## OVERVIEW

The theoretical and methodological underpinnings of urban sociology are broad, reflecting a range of disciplines and approaches. This course first reviews theories of urban genesis and urban form; the interrelationship of urbanization, industrialization and modernization, issues in urban living (housing, transportation, urban-renewal, poverty, unemployment, etc.); urban social networks (ethnic and cultural heterogeneity, neighbourhood, community and other voluntary associations). In doing so, we will compare and contrast different theoretical and methodological approaches for understanding urban life. Second, the course covers several special topic areas in urban sociology: homelessness, gentrification, multiethnic cities, globalization, residential segregation, crime, and public space. Third, the course offers real world observation and examples that speak to the strength and limitations of particular theory, data, and methods for studying urban problems.

## Evaluation

1. In-class Test I: worth 30%
2. In-class Test II: worth 30%
3. Four Short Written Assignments: discussion papers on themes/issues recommended by the instructor: worth 40%. Each written assignment is worth 10%. Details will be given in class.  
No final Examination for this course.

## Prerequisites

Completion of SOC101Y or SOC102H or SOC103H -- is required to take this course. Students without this prerequisite will be removed from the course.

## Lecture Slides/Notes

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 tests and assignments will cover both required readings and in-class material.

## Email and the Course Webpage

Email and the ability to access the course webpage is important. The instructor and TA will use e mail for reminders, clarifications, and notifications, etc. Feel free to contact us via your utoronto e-mail account with questions, requests or problems. Please read the syllabus before asking questions. Any email sent to the instructor or TA should have Soc205H in the subject to ensure that it gets read.

## Accessibility Needs

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> 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](http://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 Papers

Late work will not be accepted without proper documentation from a student's physician or college registrar (described above). Such documentation does not guarantee acceptance of your work.

## 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.

## Readings

- Most readings are from our course textbook - *Urban Canada: Sociological Perspectives* edited by Harry Hiller (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2014), which can be purchased at the University Bookstore.
- The remaining readings are available either as web links in the class schedule below, or as downloadable files on our course webpage.

## **Comments on Writing**

The instructor and TA are willing to read over drafts of your work during visits to office hours. However, we are more able to help students who come early. All too often, papers are one or two drafts short of excellence when time expires. Revisions can make the difference between "C" and "A" work. We also encourage you to use the university's writing resources.

## Class Schedule

Session/ Date	Topic and Required Readings	Notes/Comments
<b>1-June 29</b>	Introductions, Course Outline, Expectations	No required readings
<b>2-July 1</b>	<b>Canada day</b>	<b>No Class</b>
<b>3-July 06</b>	<b>Canadian Urbanization in Historical and Global Perspectives</b> Introduction: “Urbanization and the City” Chapter 1- “Canadian urbanization in historical and global perspectives” Michelson, William. “Boom Time for Urban Sociology”	Chapters are from the text book: Urban Canada-3 <sup>rd</sup> edition. by Harry H Hiller  A short film will be shown and discussed.
<b>4-July 08</b>	<b>Dynamics of Canadian Urbanization</b>  Chapter 2: “The Dynamics of Canadian Urbanization” Chapter 16: “form of the City: The Case of Toronto”	In Urban Canada
<b>5-July 13</b>	<b>Perspective for analyzing and interpreting cities</b>  Chapter 3: “Analyzing and Interpreting the City: Theory and Method” Chapter 4: “Rural and Urban: Differences and Common Ground”	In Urban Canada  <b>Due date for Assignment I</b>
<b>6-July 15</b>	<b>Test I</b> <b>Social Ties, Social Capital, and Community</b>  Chapter 5: “Social Ties and Community in Urban Places” Read: “Gemeinschaft and Gessellschaft” entry from Wikipedia <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemeinschaft_and_Gessellschaft">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemeinschaft_and_Gessellschaft</a>  Read: “Community” entry from Wikipedia <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community</a>	<b>Multiple choice/True false questions for one hour</b>  In Urban Canada
<b>7-July 20</b>	<b>Poverty and Inequality in Canadian Cities</b>  Chapter 7: “Urban Inequality and Urban Social Movements” Hulchanski David J. 2010. “The Three Cities Within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto’s Neighbourhoods-1970-2005”	In Urban Canada
<b>8-July 22</b>	<b>Immigration, Race and Ethnicity in the City</b>  Chapter 8: “Immigration and Race in the City” Buzzelli M.2001. From Little Britain to Little Italy: An Urban Landscape Study in Toronto in Journal of Historical Geography: 27, 4, 583-587	In Urban Canada Flemingdon Park: The Global Village. 2002. AV Library Media Common 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Robarts. Videocassette #00672 <b>Due date for Assignment 2</b>
<b>9-July 27</b>	<b>Aboriginal People in Cities</b>  Chapter 9: “Aboriginal Peoples in Urban Areas”  Guimond Eric, Norbert Robitaille and Sacha Senecal. 2009. “Aboriginal Populations in Canadian Cities: Why are they	In Urban Canada

	growing so fast” in <i>Canadian Issues</i> , Winter 2009: 11-17.  <b>Consumer Society and Public Spaces in the City</b> Chapter 13: “Consumer Culture, City Space and Urban Life” Time permitting the film “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces will be presented and discussed	
<b>10-July 29</b>	<b>Test 2</b>  <b>Gender and the City</b> Chapter 11: Gender and the City: Urban Restructuring, Social Exclusion, and Democratic Participation	<b>Multiple Choice and True false questions for one hour</b>  In Urban Canada  <b>Due date for Assignment 3</b>
<b>11-Aug.3</b>	<b>Civic Holiday</b>	<b>No Class</b>
<b>12-Aug. 05</b>	<b>Cities and Social Pathology</b> Chapter 10: “Big Cities, Social Pathology, and Serious Crime”  Pain Rachel. 2001. “Gender, Race, Age and Fear in the City” in <i>Urban Studies</i> . 38. (5-6): 899-913.	In Urban Canada Short In-class Film (time-permitting): <i>Indian Posse: Life in Aboriginal Gang Territory (1999)</i> 40 min (audiovisual library 005358). A documentary of the lives of aboriginal youth in Winnipeg
<b>13-Aug.10</b>	<b>The New Urban Political Economy</b> Chapter 12: “The New Urban Political Economy” Chapter 14: “Housing and Homelessness: Sociological Factors	In Urban Canada <b>Due date for Assignment 4</b>

### Other Course Resources

We will examine data from two websites in class:

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

Short video Robert Neuwirth on “shadow cities” (time-permitting, 15 minutes)  
([http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/robert\\_neuwirth\\_on\\_our\\_shadow\\_cities.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/robert_neuwirth_on_our_shadow_cities.html))

<https://youtu.be/ne0MqFZIoCw> speech by Andre Duany

Short video “Rob Forbes on ways of seeing” (time-permitting, 15 minutes)  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/rob\\_forbes\\_on\\_ways\\_of\\_seeing.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/rob_forbes_on_ways_of_seeing.html)

Short Video: “Steven Johnson tours the Ghost Map” [about the cholera outbreak in 1854 London and the impact it had on science,

Cities and modern society] (time-permitting, 10 minutes)  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/steven\\_johnson\\_tours\\_the\\_ghost\\_map.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/steven_johnson_tours_the_ghost_map.html)

Short Video: “Carolyn Steel: How food shapes our cities” (time permitting, 15 minutes)  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/carolyn\\_steel\\_how\\_food\\_shapes\\_our\\_cities.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/carolyn_steel_how_food_shapes_our_cities.html)

Short video: “Ellen Dunham-Jones: Retrofitting suburbia” (time permitting, 19 minutes)  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/ellen\\_dunham\\_jones\\_retrofitting\\_suburbia.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ellen_dunham_jones_retrofitting_suburbia.html)

Short video – “Steven Johnson on the Web as a city” (time-permitting, 16 minutes)  
([http://www.ted.com/talks/steven\\_johnson\\_on\\_the\\_web\\_as\\_a\\_city.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_johnson_on_the_web_as_a_city.html))

<https://youtu.be/waalgjQ52vM>: New urbanism 101