

Urban Sociology (SOC205H1F)

Fall 2021 University of Toronto

Course Info: Wednesday 12:00 – 2:00pm (Lecture starts at 12:10pm)

For September 15, 22, and 29th:

- Lectures will be delivered online using Microsoft Teams

For October and thereafter:

- Depending on Covid-19 risk, the instructor will hold classes in person at Sid Smith, room 2120

If at any time the Covid-19 infection risk is deemed too high for in-person class, we will change to online only instruction.

Course website on Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/> (login using your Utorid)

Instructor: Professor Brent Berry, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

Email: brent.berry@utoronto.ca

Online Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:00pm & by appointment

Teaching TBA

Assistant: meetings by appointment

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, neighborhood, community and other voluntary associations). In doing so, we will review 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 theory, data, and methods for studying urban problems.

Evaluation

Final marks will be based on four grades –

- Ten weekly written responses <300 words, Sept 22-Dec1.....25%
- Field Exercise, due Oct 20th 20%
- Individual Research Project, due Dec 1st30%
- Final Test on Dec 8th.....25%

Prerequisites

Completion of 0.5 SOC at the 100 level-- is required to take this course. Students without this prerequisite will be removed from the course.

Lectures and Slides Access

Changes in Covid-19 infection risks may require we be flexible to continue online lectures. Regardless of the delivery format, the evening before each lecture, the instructor will post slides in the “week by week” section of our webpage. These may benefit student note taking. Lectures will start at 12:10pm and end at 2pm. Besides these posted materials, a range of audiovisual material are incorporated into lectures. It is important to complete all required readings and follow lectures because the test held on the last class will cover both required readings and lectures.

Email and the Course Webpage

Email and the ability to access the course webpage is important. The instructor and TA's will use e-mail for reminders, clarifications, and notifications, etc. Feel free to contact us with questions, requests, or problems. Please read the syllabus before asking questions.

Missing the Test and Submitting Late Work

Students who miss the test, or are late in submitting an assignment for medical reasons, need to email the instructor (not the TA), and also declare their absence on the system (ACORN).

(NOTE: Because of Covid-19, students do NOT need to submit the usual documentation, i.e., medical notes or the Verification of Illness forms).

Students who miss the test, or are late in submitting an assignment for other reasons, such as family or other personal reasons, should request their College Registrar to email the instructor.

Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

The University's plagiarism detection tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Be careful to avoid plagiarism. It is a serious academic offense with serious penalties (see the “Code of Behavior on Academic Matters”). If you are using someone else's ideas, do not present them as your own. Give proper references if you are using somebody else's ideas, and use quotation marks if you are quoting. When in doubt, it is always safer to over-reference --you are not going to be punished for that. Please also be aware that turning in an old paper, or large parts thereof, for credit in a second (or third etc.) course, is considered an academic offense that results in students being referred off to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .

Readings

- Most readings are from *Urban Canada: Sociological Perspectives* edited by Harry Hiller (3rd Edition, 2014), which can be purchased from the University Bookstore as a digital or physical copy.
 - Link for Digital option:
https://www.campusbookstore.com/integration/AccessCodes/default.aspx?bookseller_id=96&Course=STG+SOC+205HF+eBOOK+URBAN+CANADA+3E&frame=YES&t=permalink
- Any remaining readings are available through our course webpage
- Any readings listed as “supplemental” are NOT required reading. The instructor has included them in case you wish to read further into those topics.

Feedback on Ideas and Writing

The instructor is happy to discuss your ideas and writing during online office hours, or through email within limits. However, more help can be provided to students who ask early. All too often, papers are one or two drafts short of excellence when time expires. We also encourage you to also use the university's writing resources.

Class Schedule

Wednesdays 12:00-2pm (Lecture starts 12:10)

Sept 15th -- Introduction, opening remarks, discuss syllabus and mutual expectations

- We will begin with an overview on the history and development of urban sociology, and will discuss a range of issues to set the tone for the course.
- No readings for today's introductory lecture
- Watch NFB film “City Limits” (1971, 28 minutes) https://www.nfb.ca/film/city_limits/

Sept 22nd -- Canadian Urbanization in Historical and Global Perspective

- Hiller, Harry. “Urbanization and the City” (Introduction, *Urban Canada*)
- Hiller, Harry. “Canadian Urbanization in Historical and Global Perspective” (Chapter 1, *Urban Canada*)
- Additional discussion of global urban problems; we will watch a short film about “shadow cities”

Sept 29th– Dynamics of Canadian Urbanization

- Hiller, Harry. “The Dynamics of Canadian Urbanization” (Chapter 2, *Urban Canada*)
- Caulfield, John. “The Form of the City: The Case of Toronto” (Chapter 16, *Urban Canada*)
- Watch NFB film: Farewell Oak Street, 1953, Grant McLean, 17 minutes

Oct 6th– Perspectives for Analyzing and Interpreting Cities and their Inhabitants

- Hannigan, John. “Analyzing and Interpreting the City: Theory and Method” (Chapter 3, *Urban Canada*)
- “Rural and Urban: Differences and Common Ground” (Chapter 4, *Urban Canada*)

Oct 13th – Social Ties, Social Capital, and Community

- Hampton, Keith. “Social Ties and Community in Urban Places” (Chapter 5, *Urban Canada*)
- Read “Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft” entry from Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemeinschaft_and_Gesellschaft

- Read “community” entry from Wikipedia:
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community>

Oct 20th– Poverty and Inequality in Canadian Cities

* Field Exercise due today (see instructions for how to submit)

- Zuberi, Daniyal. “Urban Inequality and Urban Social Movements” (Chapter 7, *Urban Canada*)
- Hulchanski, David J. 2010. “The Three Cities within Toronto: Income polarization among Toronto’s neighbourhoods, 1970-2005.”

Oct 27th – Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in the City

- Fong, Eric. “Immigration and Race in the City” (Chapter 8, *Urban Canada*)
- Buzzelli, M. 2001. From Little Britain to Little Italy: An urban ethnic landscape study in Toronto. *Journal of Historical Geography* 27, 4, 583 – 587
- film (time permitting) *Flemingdon Park: The global village* – 2002, audiovisual library (Media commons, 3rd floor, Robarts library), videocassette #00672, 46 minutes

Nov 3rd -- The New Urban Political Economy

- Hannigan, John. “The New Urban Political Economy” (Chapter 12, *Urban Canada*)
- Patterson, Matt and Daniel Silver. 2015. “Turning the Post-Industrial City into the Cultural City: The Case of Toronto’s Waterfront”. Routledge Companion to the Cultural Industries, Edited by Kate Oakley and Justin O’Connor

Further reading (optional):

- Mommaas, Hans 2004. “Culture clusters and the post-industrial city: towards the remapping of urban cultural policy” *Urban Studies* 41(3) 507-532
- Michelson, William 2005 “The City as a Social Organization” from the first edition of *Urban Canada* (Ed. Harry Hiller).
- Stren, Richard, et al. 2010 (June) “Governance in Toronto: Issues and Questions” Discussion Paper #1, Cities Centre, University of Toronto. (11 pages)

Nov 10th -- No Class (Fall Reading Week)

Nov 17th -- Urban Public Spaces, Safety, Social Pathology, and Crime

- Gillis, A.R. “Big Cities, Social Pathology, and Serious Crime” (Chapter 10, *Urban Canada*)
- Horgan, M. and Leslie Kern. “Urban Public Spaces: Streets, Strangership, and Securitization” (Chapter 6, *Urban Canada*)
- Special Discussion: Gun violence in Toronto, The role of the media, television, and entertainment on our perceptions of crime and its urban dimensions?
- Film: clips of *Indian Posse: Life in Aboriginal Gang Territory* (1999) 40 min (audiovisual library 005358). A documentary of the lives of aboriginal youth in Winnipeg

Nov 24th– Consumer Society, Public Space and the Regulation of Visual Order in the City

- Bookman, Sonia. “Consumer Culture, City Space, and Urban Life” (Chapter 13, *Urban Canada*)
- Purcell, Mark 2013. “Possible Worlds: Henri Lefebvre and the Right to the City” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 36(1) 141-154.
- Special Discussion: Urban signage as a lens for social inquiry
- film (time permitting) Parts of: *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* 1988 (50 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.

Dec 1st -- Sociology of Housing and Homelessness

*** projects due today (see instructions for how to submit)**

Readings:

- Berry, Brent “Sociology of Housing and Homelessness”. (Chapter 14, *Urban Canada*)
- Stephen W. Hwang. 2001. “Homelessness and Health.” *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 164(1): 229-33.
- David Ley (2017) Global China and the making of Vancouver's residential property market, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 17:1, 15-34, DOI: 10.1080/14616718.2015.1119776
- Joseph Mensah & Christopher J. Williams. 2014. Cultural Dimensions of African Immigrant Housing in Toronto: A Qualitative Insight, *Housing Studies*, 29:3, 438-455

Optional (not required):

- Ben-Shahar, Danny. 2007. “Tenure choice in the housing market: Psychological versus economic factors” *Environment and Behavior* 39: 841-858

Dec 8th -- **Two-Hour Test Today During Regular Class Time 12:00-2pm.**

Enjoy Your Holiday Break!

Other Course Resources

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

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

Films: I show several short film clips 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>

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>

Interesting Urban Talks Online video

- 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

News: A few sources that regularly research, advocate or cover urban sociological issues

- <http://urbantoronto.ca>
- <http://spacing.ca>
- <https://www.citylab.com/>
- <https://stevemunro.ca/>
- <https://www.canurb.org/>
- <https://www.schoolofcities.utoronto.ca/> (new School of Cities at U of T)

Academic Journals/Publications

- City and Community: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15406040>
- Canadian Journal of Urban Research: <https://cjur.uwinnipeg.ca/index.php/cjur>
- Here is a list of others: <https://www.trincoll.edu/UrbanGlobal/CUGS/Urban/Pages/Urban.aspx>