

Soc205H1F Urban Sociology

University of Toronto
Fall 2017
Wednesday 12:00 – 2:00pm
Room MC252 (Mechanical Engineering) – 5 King’s College Road
Course website: <https://portal.utoronto.ca> (login using your utoid)

Instructor: Professor Brent Berry, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto
brent.berry@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00pm & by appointment
Room 366 (3rd floor), 725 Spadina Ave

Teaching Assistant: Fernando Figueroa (f.calderonfigueroa@mail.utoronto.ca)
Office Hours: Room 225E in the sociology department (725 Spadina Avenue)
Monday Oct 9th 2:00-3:30 (week before midterm)
Wednesday Oct 18th 10:00-11:30 (week of midterm)
Monday Oct 30th 2:00-3:30 (midterm pick-up)
Monday Nov 6th 2:00-3:30 (two weeks before paper due)
Monday Nov 13th 2:00-3:30 (one week before paper due)
Monday Nov 20th 2:00-3:30 (week paper is due)

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 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 three grades. There is an in-class midterm test worth 32.5%, a final exam worth 32.5% 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 0.5 SOC at the 100 level-- 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 midterm and final exam 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's 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's 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). 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

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 (3rd Edition, 2014), which can be purchased at the University Bookstore.
- The remaining readings are available as downloadable files on our course webpage
- Any readings listed as "supplemental" are NOT required reading. I have included them in case you wish to read further into those topics.

Comments on Writing

The instructor and TA's 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

Sept 13th -- 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 20st -- 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*)
- Michelson, William "Boom Time for Urban Sociology" (short essay)
- Additional discussion of global urban problems; we will watch a short film about "shadow cities"

Sept 27th – 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 4th – 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 11th – 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 18th – Midterm Test in class (2 hours)

Oct 25th – Poverty and Inequality in Canadian Cities

- 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."

Nov 1st – 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 9th – No Class (Fall Reading Week)

Nov 15th -- 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 22nd -- Cities and Social Pathology

*** projects due today (see handout instructions for how to turn it in)**

- Gillis, A.R. “Cities and Social Pathology” (Chapter 10, *Urban Canada*)
- Bannister, Jon and Nick Fyfe. 2001. “Fear and the City.” *Urban Studies*, 38(5-6) 807 - 813
- Pain, Rachel. 2001. “Gender, Race, Age and Fear in the City” *Urban Studies* 38(5-6): 899 - 913
- Special Discussion: Gun violence in Toronto, The role of the media, television, and entertainment on our perceptions of crime and its urban dimensions?
- Film (time-permitting): *Indian Posse: Life in Aboriginal Gang Territory* (1999) 40 min (audiovisual library 005358). A documentary of the lives of aboriginal youth in Winnipeg

Nov 29th -- 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 6th – Sociology of Housing and Homelessness

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.
- Ben-Shahar, Danny. 2007. “Tenure choice in the housing market: Psychological versus economic factors” *Environment and Behavior* 39: 841-858
- Joseph Mensah & Christopher J. Williams. 2014. Cultural Dimensions of African Immigrant Housing in Toronto: A Qualitative Insight, *Housing Studies*, 29:3, 438-455

Film:

- A short history of the highrise (2013), parts 1-4 (20 min), Katerina Cizek

**Non-cumulative Final Exam will take place during the exam period Dec 9-20th
** Date, Time, and Location to be announced ****

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>

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

News/Press: A few Miscellaneous

- <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/08/01/zoning-changes-give-new-life-to-torontos-apartment-neighbourhoods-hume.html>
- <http://urbantoronto.ca/news/2016/04/toronto-studies-creation-family-friendly-communities>
- <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/08/30/city-studies-toronto-condo-hacks.html>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/condo-owners-battle-rental-companies-for-board-control-1.3743645?cmp=rss>
- <http://torontoist.com/2016/09/accessibility-issues-ttc-federal-funding/>
- <http://torontoist.com/2016/08/what-a-scarborough-single-mothers-daily-commute-looks-like/>
- <http://torontoist.com/2016/09/historicist-how-we-talked-about-the-dvp/>
- <http://donrivervalleypark.ca/>
- <http://spacing.ca/national/2016/09/05/common-cents-impact-income-cycling/>
- <http://spacing.ca/national/2015/03/30/spacing-films-powers-towers-documentary/>
- <http://spacing.ca/national/2015/11/26/spacing-films-meet-me-at-the-store/>
- <http://spacing.ca/toronto/2016/08/12/private-patio-supposed-public-space/>
many more....