

Urban Sociology – SOC205H1S
University of Toronto
Department of Sociology
July-August 2020
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m.-4p.m.

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Statement of Acknowledgement

We (I) would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Source: University of Toronto, 2020 <https://www.caut.ca/content/guide-acknowledging-first-peoples-traditional-territory>

Description

The course urban sociology offers the students the opportunity to learn some of the foundational issues and topics in the field of urban sociology. The course initially refers to the emergence of cities in history as well as to a preliminary definition of the city. In addition, the course examines the relationship between modernity and the urban as conceptualized in the classic writings of Simmel and the Chicago school scholars. In doing so, students will learn and study two of the canonic approaches in urban sociology: the ecological approach and the political economy approach. In concluding the course, we focus on gentrification and how it unfolds in Canadian cities from different approaches and aspects (gender, ethnicity, race, regionalism).

The Learning Outcomes of the Course are:

- Gaining seminal historical and sociological introductory knowledge in urban sociology.
- Developing analytical skills on finding the links between different societal processes.
- Familiarizing students with two approaches of studying the urban.
- Developing the skill to compare and contrast the arguments and the empirical evidence presented, by examining one urban phenomenon (gentrification) from different angles and perspectives.
- Reflecting critically on the assigned readings.

Prerequisite: Completion of the course SOC100H1. Students without this prerequisite will be automatically removed from the course without any further notice.

Course Schedule

Week 1- July 7th, 2020

Introduction and reflective exercise on urban policy dilemmas in the city.

Week 2- July 9th, 2020

The Emergence of Cities

Childe, V. G. (1950). The Urban Revolution. *Town Planning Review*, 21(1), 3-17.

Sjoberg, G. (1955). The Preindustrial city. *American Journal of Sociology*, 60(5), 438-445.

Week 3- July 14th, 2020

Modernity, Chicago School and the Ecological Approach in Urban Sociology

Bulmer, M. (1986). *The Chicago School of Sociology: Institutionalization, Diversity, and the Rise of Sociological Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 and 6.

McKenzie, R. D. (1924). The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community. *American Journal of Sociology*, 30(3), 287-301.

Week 4- July 16th, 2020

Modernity, Chicago School and the Ecological Approach in Urban Sociology

Wirth, L. (1938). Urbanism as a Way of Life. *American Journal of Sociology*, 44(1), 1-24

Simmel, G. (1970) [1903]. The Metropolis and Mental life. In R. Guttman and D. Popenoe (Eds.). *Neighbourhood, City, and Metropolis* (pp.777-788). New York: Random House.

Week 5- July 21st, 2020

Midterm

Week 6- July 23rd, 2020

The Political Economy Approach in Urban Sociology

Gans, H. J. (2002). The Sociology of Space: A Use-centered View. *City & Community*, 1(4), 329-339

Jonas, A. E., and Wilson, D. (Eds.). (1999). *The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives, Two Decades Later*. Suny Press. Introduction pp.3-18

Week 7- July 28th, 2020

The Political Economy Approach in Urban Sociology

Logan, J. et al. (1999). The Character and Consequences of Growth Regimes: An Assessment of Twenty Years of Research. In A. Jonas and D. Wilson (Eds.). *The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later* (pp.73-93). Suny Press.

Gilbert, M. (1999). Place, Politics, and the Production of Urban Space: A Feminist Critique of the Growth Machine Thesis. In A. Jonas and D. Wilson (Eds.). *The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later* (pp.95-108). Suny Press.

Week 8- July 30th, 2020

Gentrification

Burnett, K. (2014). Commodifying Poverty: Gentrification and Consumption in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. *Urban Geography*, 35(2), 157-176.

Hackworth, J., & Rekers, J. (2005). Ethnic Packaging and Gentrification: The Case of Four Neighborhoods in Toronto. *Urban Affairs Review*, 41(2), 211-236.

Week 9- August 4th, 2020

Gentrification in Canada

Atkinson, R. (2006). Padding the Bunker: Strategies of Middle-Class Disaffiliation and Colonisation in the City. *Urban Studies*, 43(4), 819-832.

Hulchanski, J. D. et al. (2010). The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005. *Toronto: Cities Centre*, University of Toronto.

Week 10- August 6th, 2020

Gentrification Good or Bad

Bourne, L. S. (1993). The Myth and Reality of Gentrification: a Commentary on Emerging Urban Forms. *Urban studies*, 30(1), 183-189.

Freeman, L. (2005). Displacement or Succession? Residential Mobility in Gentrifying Neighborhoods. *Urban Affairs Review*, 40(4), 463-491.

Week 11- August 11th, 2020

Debating Gentrification

Steinmetz-Wood, M., Wasfi, R., Parker, G., Bornstein, L., Caron, J., & Kestens, Y. (2017). Is Gentrification All Bad? Positive Association between Gentrification and Individual's Perceived Neighborhood Collective Efficacy in Montreal, Canada. *International Journal of Health Geographics*, 16(1), 24.

Rose, D. (2010). Local State Policy and 'New-build Gentrification' in Montréal: the Role of the 'Population Factor' in a Fragmented Governance Context. *Population, Space and Place*, 16(5), 413-428.

Week 12- August 13th, 2020

Final assessment

Course Organization and Policies

Course Evaluation

Reading Reflection	Due on July 15 th before 23:59	10%
Mid-term	On July 21 st , 2020	25%
Essay Paper	Due on August 10 th before 23:59	30%
Final Assessment	On August 13 th , 2020	35%

Reading Reflection

Students are required to submit one page of reflection on any of the assigned readings of the course. Students are expected to engage subjectively based on their own experience with the main argument of the article/chapter they chose, and elaborate how it relates to their everyday life.

Mid-term

The mid-term consists mainly of definitions, short answers on the link between concepts, and short essay questions.

Essay Paper

In the essay paper students will examine one given topic that relates to the course material, develop their own argument and defend it (maximum 8 pages, double space, font 12).

Final Assessment

The final assessment is based on open questions in addition to answering one essay question. More information will be discussed in detail before July 30th, 2020 with the students.

In case you miss any of the deadlines, please note it is your responsibility to contact the instructor immediately to mitigate the situation. Please refer to the section on make-up tests below.

Submitting the Assignments in French

In case you are interested in submitting any of the assignments in French, please contact the instructor to coordinate.

Course Readings and Lecture Slides

All the assigned readings are available online and are found at the university of Toronto library website and/or the course website on Quercus.

The lecture slides and notes are posted on the course website on Quercus and are available to students on the evening before the lecture. Please feel free to download them to insert your own notes and comments during class.

In order to optimize your learning process, it is recommended that you read and engage with the assigned readings before class.

Email Policy and Communication

All announcements, notifications, assignments, and other ongoing communication is communicated through and posted on the course website on Quercus. Please check it periodically. At the top of page one of this syllabus you find the email of the instructor and the teaching assistant. Feel free to write us an email using your own UofT email, and to periodically check it as we will use it to communicate with the students. Please consult the syllabus before emailing on syllabus related matters. Allow the course team 48 hours (excluding weekends) to respond to your email.

Accessibility and Accommodation

The Accessibility Services center at the university of Toronto helps and supports students in accommodating their needs. Please take a look at their website and familiarize yourself with their services at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>.

Make-up Tests

In case of missing the deadline of any test or assignment, the student must contact the instructor immediately. Failing to do so will result in the student receiving a mark of zero. In addition, please declare absence on ACORN on the test date or due date of the assignment.

In case of a family emergency, please contact the registrar and declare absence on ACORN on the test date or due date of the assignment.

For each day that the assignment is not completed beyond the due date without a justified reason, the student is penalized in one point.

Plagiarism

Students must adhere to the student code of conduct in general and when submitting their coursework especially on academic integrity. In case of plagiarism, the student will be penalized according to the procedures set by the university. Please familiarize yourselves with the university regulations found here. <https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/students/>

Turnitin

In this course we use Turnitin to ensure the academic integrity as specified in the following statement found on the University website:

“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com 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 Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site”.

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0%) unless a student instead provides, along with their assignment, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submitted was truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Other Useful Resources

Writing Center: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/>

English as Second Language: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/support/english-language-support/>

Online Remote Teaching

Please familiarize yourself with the technological requirements of online learning:

<https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/covid-19/tech-requirements-online-learning/>

Regulations due to COVID-19 Pandemic: please follow the university regulations on the matters as communicated on the university website.