

**Department of Sociology
St. Francis Xavier University**

Sociology 380: Urban Sociology

Fall Semester, 2016-17

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Annex 110A

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Class Times: Monday: 8:15 AM to 9:30 AM; Thursday: 9:45 PM to 11:00 AM

Office Hours: Monday: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM; Tuesday: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM; Friday: 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM or by appointment.

Course Rules: In order to have a productive semester, the following rules will be used in this course. If you do not want to abide by these rules, I suggest that you drop this course as soon as possible:

1. Turn off all cell phones at the commencement of class. If you use a cell phone in class, I will ask you to turn it off. If you refuse, I will end the class and report the matter to the Dean of Arts. Cell phone usage in class is a disrespectful and disruptive act.
2. Laptops are not permitted for taking notes. These devices are disruptive to the classroom environment.
3. There are no extra assignments or tests. If you perform below your expectations, it is your responsibility to see me so you can improve on your performance in the next test.
4. Your grade is your unit of concern. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade. I will not e-mail test results or calculate your grades for you. Come to class and collect your tests.
5. Academic Integrity: The Academic Integrity Policy may be found at: http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/academic_integrity. Students do not need to be caught USING a device like a smart phone during a test or exam to be in violation of the policy. Simply having the unauthorized device on their person during the test or exam is a violation of the policy. In other words, put your cell phone away before the commencement of a test.
6. E-mail Policy: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. These include extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone are be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. You can also see me after class.

Course Outline

This course introduces students to urban sociology. The central objective is to cover the major themes and empirical research issues in urban sociology in the 20th and 21st century. Urban sociology has deep connections with urban geography. Throughout the course, emphasis is given to the connections between the social and the spatial. Moreover, urban social research also deals with the interplay among economic, cultural, historical and political factors. Thus, this course has an interdisciplinary focus. In fact, most of the readings are by human geographers. However, as you read these materials, you will see similarities with sociological analysis. Throughout the course, we will cover case studies from the **Global South** and the **Global North**.

The course is divided into four sections. **Section One** is an overview of rise of the ‘urban’ as a social science phenomenon. We begin with an assessment of the ‘city’ in a comparative and historical context. Next, we cover several frameworks of urban analysis: the Chicago School, political economy, feminist and postcolonial perspectives. **Section Two** is an overview of urban development, policy and planning in the Global South and the Global North. The objective here is to assess how ‘master plans’ and globalization impact upon day-to-day lives in urban areas. **Section Three** covers urban forms and livelihoods. One theme in this section includes the impact of public policies on housing for urban dwellers. A key issue is the role of political elites and property owners in setting the context for housing location and prices in urban areas. A second theme is the unequal social and spatial context based upon gender, ethnic and racial background, (dis)ability and sexuality in urban areas. **Section Four** assesses the environmental context of cities in the industrial and post-industrial period. Topics here include: plants, animals and urban life (including urban food security), health, water governance, waste and global climate change.

Evaluation

There are four evaluation components:

Test 1: Thursday, October 5 – 25 marks.

Test 2: Thursday, November 9 – 25 marks.

Research Paper: This is worth 20 per cent of your final grade. The guidelines are in Moodle. These will be discussed in class on Thursday, September 14. The paper is due in class (no e-mail attachments are accepted) on Monday, November 20.

Final Examination: 30 marks.

Textbook

Alison L. Bain and Linda Peake, eds. *Urbanization in a Global Context*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

All readings are from this textbook.

Required Readings

Examinations consist of materials from class lectures and these readings. A failure to complete assigned reading material will be reflected in your grades. Each chapter includes case studies from the Global South and/or Global North. In addition, each chapter also has a case study from Canada. Although it is not a required reading, I strongly suggest that you read the “Preface: A Guide to the Text”, pp. xv to xxi. This is a synopsis of the book.

Section One: Introduction to Urban Social Science (Two weeks)

Linda Peake and Alison L. Bain, “Introduction: Urbanization and Urban Geographies”, pp. 1 to 15.

Kenneth Cardenas and Philip Kelly, “Shifting Urban Contours: Understanding a World of Growing and Shrinking Cities”, pp. 19 to 35.

Section Two: Urban Development, Policies and Planning (Three Weeks)

Richard Harris and Roger Keil, “Globalizing Cities and Suburbs”, pp. 52 to 69.

Grace Adeniyi Ogunyankin and Michelle Buckley, “Incremental and Instant Urbanization: Informal and Spectacular Urbanisms”, pp. 70 to 86.

Betsy Donald and Mia Gray, “Urban Policy and Governance: Austerity Urbanism”, pp. 89 to 102.

Alison L. Bain and Rachel Baker, “Land Use and Creativity in Post-Industrial Cities”, pp. 103 to 119.

Ryan Walker and Sarem Nejad, “Urban Planning, Indigenous Peoples, and Settler States”, pp. 136 to 154.

Section Three: Urban Forms and Livelihoods (Three Weeks)

Housing Inequality

Nicholas Lynch and Yolande Pottie-Sherman, “Gentrification, Gated Communities, and Social Mixing”, pp. 173 to 189.

Alan Walks and Dylan Simone, “ Unequal and Volatile Urban Housing Markets”, pp. 190 to 208.

Sabin Ninglekhu and Katharine Rankin, “The Urban Poor: The Urban Majority and Everyday Life”, pp. 260 to 276.

Socio-Spatial Inequalities

Linda Peake and Geraldine Pratt, “Women in Cities”, pp. 276 to 294.

Beverley Mullings and Abdul Alim Habib, “Urban Governance, Ethnicity, Race and Youth”, pp. 295 to 308.

Nancy Worth, Laurence Simard-Gagnon and, Vera Chouinard, “Disabling Cities”, pp. 309 to 325.

David K. Seitz and Natalie Oswin, “Cities, Sexualities, and the Queering of Urban Space”, pp. 326 to 343.

Section Four: Urbanization, the Environment and Global Climate Change (Three Weeks)

Laura Shillington and Alice Hovorka, “Plants, Animals, and Urban Life”, pp. 347 to 360.

Goodwin Akru and Richard Sadler, “Healthy Cities”, pp. 361 to 376.

Rebecca McMillan, Sawanya Phakphian, and Amrita Danière, “Urban Water Governance”, pp. 377 to 393.

Carrie L. Mitchell, Kate Parizeau, and Virginia Maclaren, “Delivering and Managing Waste and Sanitation Services in Cities”, pp. 394 to 408.

Daniel Aldana, “Urban Policy and Planning for Climate Change”, pp. 155 to 169.