

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

Sociology 380: Urban Sociology

Fall Semester, 2019

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Class Times: Tuesday 6:30 to 9:30

Office Hours: Monday: 10:30 Noon to 12:00 Noon; Tuesday: 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM;
Wednesday: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM or by appointment.

Course Guidelines: In order to have a productive semester, the following guidelines will be used in this course. If you do not want to abide by these guidelines, 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 also 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. Please keep track of your grades. I will not e-mail test results. 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.
7. **Read the course syllabus:** If you e-mail me with a question pertaining to something that is clearly pointed out on the course syllabus, I will just direct you to the syllabus. Make sure that your e-mails are necessary and constructive. Lazy e-mails will receive very brief or no responses.

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 five 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 industrial and post-industrial cities in the *Global South* and the *Global North*. Here, consideration is given to the transition from manufacturing in industrial cities to the rise of service sector employment and what this means for the location of various groups within cities. We will discuss how the connection of various social classes and other forms of social division to various spaces in the city shifts over time. Consideration will also be given to the impact of globalization on cities as immigrants, investment and ideas get transferred across the planet. *Section Three* covers urban forms and livelihoods with reference to the unequal social and spatial contexts based upon gender, ethnic and racial background, (dis)ability and sexuality in urban areas. *Section Four* examines the city as a site of social protest and displacement. Here, we cover demands by city residents to have a ‘right to the city’, as well as the social consequences of evictions from urban space due to ‘urban renewal’ or civil war. *Section Five* 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), water governance, waste, transportation and global climate change.

Textbooks

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

Evelyn Peters, Matthew Stock and Adrian Werner, *Rooster Town: The History of an Urban Métis Community, 1901-1961*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2018

Evaluation

There are **five** evaluation components:

Class Participation: 15 marks: You are expected to attend class each week and participate in the discussion of class materials. This will be an accessible format. Students will be informed each week about what will be covered in class in the next week. You are expected to read assigned materials before each class. If you are not comfortable talking in class, you will be asked to write down your reflections on paper as we engage in the class discussion. These reflections will be turned in to me at the end of each class. In all cases, whether in verbal or written form, your reflections must be based upon the assigned reading materials. If you just discuss and/or write your ‘opinions’ devoid of context, these will not constitute a valuable contribution to class discussions. Remember class attendance does not equal class participation. Of course, if you do not come to class, you cannot participate.

Test 1: Tuesday, October 1 – *20 marks* (held at the beginning of class – 75 minutes)

Test 2: Tuesday, November 5 – *20 marks* (held at the beginning of class – 75 minutes) .

Book Review Essay: This is worth *20 per cent* of your final grade. The guidelines are in Moodle. These will be discussed in class on Tuesday, September 10. The paper is due in class (no e-mail attachments are accepted) on Tuesday, November 12.

Final Examination: *25 marks.*

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: The City in Comparative and Historical Perspective to (September 3 and 10)

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: Industrial, Post-Industrial and Global Cities (September 17, 24 and October 1 [second half of the class])

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

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.

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

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

Section Three: Social Divisions in the City (October 8, 22 and 29 [first half of the class])

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

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

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

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: Urban Social Protest, Displacement and Urban Space (October 29 [second half of the class] and November 5 [second half of the class])

Ebru Ustundag and Gokboru S. Tanyildiz, “Urban Public Spaces, Virtual Spaces, and Protest”, pp. 209-226.

Nicolé Laliberte and Dima Saad, “Urban Geopolitics: War, Militarization and the ‘Camp’”, pp. 227-242.N

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

Section Five: Cities, the Environment and Global Climate Change (November 12, 19 and 26)

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

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.

Craig Townsend, “Global Convergence and Divergence in Urban Transportation”, pp. 411 to 425.

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