

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOC 290: Urban Sociology
FALL SEMESTER, 2020
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Megan Klein, PhD

Student drop in hours: Tuesdays 7:30-8:30 PM or by appt.

Office #: Online in Zoom

Email: mklein@oakton.edu

I. Course Information

| Course Prefix | Course Number | Course Name | Credit | Lecture | Lab |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| SOC | 290 | Urban Sociology | 3 | 3 | 0 |

II. Prerequisite

Recommended: SOC 101, SOC 103, SOC 232

III. Course Description

Course deals with the study of the social organization and social interaction of people and groups within urban areas. This includes an analysis of the built environment, governmental policy (or lack thereof), major forces like capitalism, globalization and migration, as well as gender, race, and class. Course will highlight both current dynamics and trends in urban spaces as well as the historic forces that shaped the development of urban areas. This course will focus on cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

IV. Learning Objectives

The student will:

1. Identify processes of urbanization and patterns of urban development and change of cities/metropolitan districts across the globe including major cities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.
2. Identify and describe the work of early and contemporary scholars and theorists in the field of urban studies including human ecology, socio-spatial approach, new urban sociology, and urban ethnography.
3. Identify and understand the key issues and policy debates in the areas of economic development, transportation, regionalism, and sustainable development, among others.
4. Apply sociological concepts to the analysis of urban and suburban settlement patterns in cities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.
5. Identify how economic forces and social structures such as gender, race, and class influence how cities are socially and spatially organized both historically and in the current moment.

V. Academic Integrity and Student Conduct:

Students and employees at Oakton Community College are required to demonstrate academic integrity and follow Oakton's Code of Academic Conduct. This code prohibits:

- cheating,
- plagiarism (turning in work not written by you, or lacking proper citation),
- falsification and fabrication (lying or distorting the truth),
- helping others to cheat,
- unauthorized changes on official documents,
- pretending to be someone else or having someone else pretend to be you,
- making or accepting bribes, special favors, or threats, and
- any other behavior that violates academic integrity.

There are serious consequences to violations of the academic integrity policy. Oakton's policies and procedures provide students a fair hearing if a complaint is made against you. If you are found to have violated the policy, the minimum penalty is failure on the assignment and, a disciplinary record will be established and kept on file in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for a period of 3 years.

Please review the Code of Academic Conduct and the Code of Student Conduct, both located online at www.oakton.edu/studentlife/student-handbook.pdf

VI. Outline of Topics:

Week 1: Introduction

Readings:

Brief excerpt from *The Story of More* (Jahren) - D2L

Week 2: What is urban sociology?

Readings:

"Urban Lives: Stories from Tehran" (Madanipour) - D2L

"Community & Society" (Tönnies) - USR

"Worlding the South: Toward a post-colonial Urban Theory" (Roy) - D2L

Week 3: Urbanization and community + colonization

Readings:

Historical underpinnings: colonialism and urban development - D2L

"Metropolis and Mental Life" (Simmel) - USR

"Urbanism as a Way of Life" (Wirth) - USR

Week 4- Urbanization, globalization and community

Readings:

"Theories of Urbanism" (Fischer) -USR

"The Uses of City Neighborhoods" (Jacobs) - USR

"Global City Formation: An Historical Analysis" (Abu-Lughod) - D2L

Focus: What does it mean to be a global city? Why are global cities primarily in the West?
Place-making and subcultures in Seoul and Tokyo

Week 5 Growth (week 1)

"Human Ecology" (Park) - USR

"The Growth of the City" (Burgess) - USR

"Migration, Urbanization, and Poverty in Dhaka, Bangladesh" (Hossain) - D2L

Focus: Growth and rural to urban migration in Asia (China, India and Bangladesh) and Africa

Week 6 (Growth cont.)

Readings:

"The Urban Process Under Capitalism" (Harvey) - USR

"The City as a Growth Machine" (Logan and Molotch) - USR

"Lagos' megacity dreams are a nightmare for some working people" (Adeshokan)- D2L

Focus: Growth and capitalism in Lagos, Nigeria and Dubai, UAE

Week 7- Exam

One-on-one meetings about semester project

Week 8- Cities and culture

Readings:

"Whose Culture? Whose City?" (Zukin)- USR

"Staying Vietnamese: Community and Place in Orange County and Boston" (Aguilar-San Juan)-USR

"City Life: West African Communities in NY" (Stoller and McConatha)- USR

Focus: Diasporic communities across the globe

Week 9 Racial and Social inequality (part 1)

Readings:

"The Environment of the Negro" (DuBois)- USR

"The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion in the Inner City" (Wacquant and Wilson)- USR

"Between Violence and Desire: Space, Power and Identity in the Making of Modern Metropolitan Delhi" (Baviskar)- D2L

Focus: Race and class in Johannesburg, South Africa, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Delhi, India

Week 10 Racial, gender, and social inequality (part 2)

"Segregation and the Making of the Underclass" (Massey & Denton)- USR

"Race, Space and Power: The Survival Strategies of Working Poor Women" (Gilbert) - USR

Focus: Housing, intersection of race/class/gender and work, structural racism in the US and abroad (Cali, Colombia, Jakarta, Indonesia, and Bangkok, Thailand)

Week 11 Globalization and migration

"Global and World Cities: A View from Off the Map" - D2L

"Social Remittances: Migration Driven Local-Level Forms of Cultural Diffusion" - D2L

"Whose City Is It? Globalization and the Formation of New Claims" (Sassen) - USR

City spotlights: Managua, Nicaragua, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, San Salvador, El Salvador, and Guatemala City, Guatemala

Weeks 12 Cities and climate change

"Environmental Problems of Third World Countries"- D2L

"Climate Dangers and Atoll countries"- D2L

Adaptation to flooding in the Philippines - D2L

City spotlights: Manila, Philippines, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Amman, Jordan, Mexico City, Mexico

Week 13- Cities and sustainability

Davis, "Reverberations- Mexico City" (Davis)- D2L

"Just Sustainability in the Global South: A Case Study of the Megacity of Dhaka (Saleh)- D2L

"Spatial and Environmental Planning Challenges in Amman, Jordan" (Meaton and Alnsour)- D2L

Week 14 Social movements and justice in urban spaces

Readings:

"The Right to the City" (Harvey)- USR

"Spaces of insurgent Citizenship" (Holston)- USR

"Citizens of Porto Alegre, Brazil"- D2L

"Cyber activism in Cairo"- D2L

Focus: Current movements around racial inequality across the globe, social movements and social change, COVID and cities of the Global South

Week 15 Student presentations

Week 16 Exam

VII. Methods of Instruction

Methods include lecture, weekly discussion, and semester-long case studies that foster critical thinking about urbanization.

Video lectures & readings: This class will be taught entirely online. Each week there will be a Weekly Module available to you in the Content tab. These modules include video lectures that will complement the material you are reading in the required textbook and elsewhere on-line. **Each Monday morning throughout the term be sure to check the Weekly Overview for that week to see what is due.**

Discussion: Every week I will post questions to which you are expected to respond; as others post their responses I will expect to see further interaction as you reply to what they have written. Be sure to carefully review section X below for more on this topic.

Exams: Both exams will be short answer and/or essay.

VIII. Course Practices Required:

Course may be taught as face-to-face, hybrid or **online** course.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L). This course uses D2L (Oakton's course management system). All assignments will be posted to this site and you will be expected to engage in online discussions, quizzes, and tests via D2L throughout the semester. **You are expected to log onto D2L at least three times a week (though I highly recommend logging in everyday) to review the week's reading assignments, watch the video lectures, watch required videos, check your e-mail, post comments on the discussion board and respond to others' postings.** You will also be using the email system *within D2L* to communicate with me and other classmates.

Reading: College-level reading skills are expected. Please be sure to keep up. You can expect to read 3-4 articles per week in our required textbook and/or in D2L.

Writing: College-level writing skills are expected. According to department standards: "Students will be required to write for the class the equivalent of 12-15 typed pages of material that will be graded. This writing may take the form of a research or term paper, summaries of journal articles, and/or a series of shorter, analytical papers." In this class, your writing will come from short answer and essay questions on the exams as well as your semester-long case study and weekly discussion posts.

Critical Thinking: While enrolled in this class you will be expected to look beyond your preconceived notions of social life and engage in a process of thinking critically about the world around you. This involves taking nothing for granted and being able to look below the surface in order to understand why we do what we do (from a sociological perspective).

Respecting Diversity: The Oakton Community College Catalog states: Oakton Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status in admission to and participation in its educational

programs, activities and services, or employment practices. The College does not tolerate sexual harassment or sexual assault by or of its students or employees.

In keeping with this policy of tolerance and non-discrimination, in this class all of us (myself included) should strive to listen and give careful consideration to all ideas expressed in class, especially those that are different from our own, without attacking or demeaning the people who have those views. We should also strive to avoid using insulting terms or telling offensive jokes when talking to or about individuals or groups.

I expect that over the course of the semester, there will be a significant amount of awareness or consciousness raising so let's be patient with each other as we process and come to understand the problems at our own paces.

IX. Instructional Materials:

Required textbook: Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele. 2013. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. New York: Routledge. (Abbreviated as USR)

All additional articles and case studies will be available in D2L.

Note: Current textbook information for each course and section is available on Oakton's Schedule of Classes

X. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress:

Participation: I expect you to participate in the course by logging on regularly (at least 3 times per week) and reading the lectures or watching the videos posted in the CONTENT tab for each week.

Discussions: Every week there will be discussion questions posted. To access the weekly discussions, click on "Discussions" from the homepage and look for the current Discussion Based Question (DBQ). Generally these questions will be in the nature of a reflection about the material. You can also access the DBQs through the week's module. You are expected to be involved in these discussions in two ways:

- **Original postings:** You are required to post a minimum of 1 original comment to each question; by original, I mean that you apply ideas from that week's readings and not merely offer an "opinion" or restate something already said by another student. Original responses to these questions are due **by 11:59 PM on Tuesday** of the particular week, although discussion will continue until the end of the weekend. In this way, everyone will have ample time to respond to each other's postings before discussion is closed Sunday night at midnight. Please post your original comments using the "Create a Thread" button. This will help keep the discussion more orderly. Note: Your original responses should be 250 words or more!
- **Response postings:** Besides posting your own thoughts, you are required to respond thoughtfully to others' posts a minimum of once during the week. These responses may be to either or all of the questions posted for the week. **Saying "I agree" does NOT constitute a meaningful/thoughtful response.** I expect you to help each other learn by

clarifying and/or questioning people's posts in a supportive and constructive manner. Also, if a classmate is missing the sociological point of the discussion prompt, please try to help him or her out by offering a sociological connection in your response. Your response post should add something to the learning process, rather than simply re-state or agree. While responses can be made throughout the week, all responses to classmates must be completed before **Friday at 11:59 PM** of the week in order to earn full credit.

- **Summary: You are expected to post a minimum of two comments per DBQ in each week that a discussion is required: your original post and one response post to a classmate's post.**
- **NOTE: If I respond directly to one of your posts with a follow-up question, please respond to this for full credit that week.**

Exams: There are **two** exams in this class, one at the midterm and one at the end of the semester. Both exams will be short answer and/or essay exams.

Grading:

| Component of Grade | Points | Grade Distribution |
|---|--------|--------------------|
| Discussion leader | 50 | A = 90%-100% |
| Case-study presentation | 50 | B = 80% - 89% |
| Weekly Discussions (10 DBQs x 10 points each) | 100 | C = 70% - 79 % |
| Exams (2) | 200 | D = 60% - 69% |
| Semester-long case study | 100 | F = below 60% |

Shortly after the due date for each requirement, I will release the results. You can find your grades in the GRADES tab on the D2L course home page.

An Incomplete (I) Grade:

An Incomplete must be requested **no later than** the week before the final exam date. It is not awarded automatically when coursework is incomplete. In order to qualify for an **"I"**, students must have already taken the first two exams and handed in their corresponding assignments. The remaining course requirements must be completed within the eight-week period allowed by the college. After that period of time, students who do not finish the course requirements will receive an **F** as their final grade.

XI. Other Course Information:

If you have a documented learning, psychological or physical disability, you may be entitled to academic accommodations or services. To request accommodations or services, contact the **Access and Disability Resource Center at the Des Plaines** or

Skokie campus. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. The College will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course or degree program.

Oakton Community College is committed to maintaining a campus environment emphasizing the dignity and worth of all members of the community, and complies with all federal and state Title IX requirements.

Resources and support for pregnancy-related and parenting accommodations; and victims of sexual misconduct can be found at www.oakton.edu/title9.

Resources and support for LGBTQ+ students can be found at www.oakton.edu/lgbtq.

Oakton Community College recognizes the broad diversity of religious beliefs of its constituencies. The College has embraced a practice of shared responsibility in the event that a religious observance interferes with class work or assignments. Students who inform instructors in advance of an intended absence for a major religious observance will not be penalized. The instructor will make reasonable accommodations for students.

Important dates for the FALL Semester 2020:

Last day to withdraw from the course: September 21, 2020

Last day to withdraw from the course: October 26, 2020