

Sociology 2960, Urban Sociology  
Fall 2009 (Tuesday 9-12)

This course will review alternative theoretical perspectives on urban and regional development with an emphasis on variants of ecological and political economy approaches. Substantive topics will include metropolitan restructuring in the U.S. and abroad, growth politics and growth control, neighborhood social networks and collective action, and incorporation of immigrants and minority groups in the metropolis.

There is one book that you should buy for this course: John Logan and Harvey Molotch, *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place (20th Anniversary Edition)*. All other readings are on the MyCourses web page.

There will be two essays assigned during the semester, corresponding to major sections of the course. These will be due on 11/3 and 12/14. In addition, the class will operate as a seminar in which every reading is introduced orally by one student (who will also prepare 1-2 page written summaries for distribution).

The schedule of topics and readings is as follows:

### **Ecological theory and urban political economy**

9/15 Introduction

Ernest Burgess. "The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project."  
In George Theodorson, *Urban Patterns: Studies in Human Ecology*.

9/22 John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Preface, Ch. 1-2.

Mark Gottdiener and Joe Feagin. "The Paradigm Shift in Urban Sociology."  
*Urban Affairs Quarterly*.

John Walton. "Urban Sociology: The Contribution and Limits of Political  
Economy." *Annual Review of Sociology*.

### **The neighborhood: social and political organization, race and immigration**

9/29 Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life"

Claude Fischer, "The Subcultural Theory of Urbanism: A Twentieth-Year  
Assessment" *American Journal of Sociology*.

Barry Wellman. "The Community Question: The Intimate Networks of East  
Yorkers." *American Journal of Sociology*.

John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Ch. 4.

10/6 Louis Wirth, "The Ghetto"

William Wilson. *The Truly Disadvantaged*. Ch. 2.

Min Zhou. *Chinatown*. Ch. 5-6.

John Logan, Richard D. Alba, and Wenquan Zhang. "Immigrant Enclaves and Ethnic Communities in New York and Los Angeles" *American Sociological Review*.

10/13 Herbert Gans. *The Urban Villagers*. Ch. 13.

Jonathan Rieder. *Canarsie: The Jews and Italians of Brooklyn against Liberalism*. Ch. 3.

Maria Kefalas. *Working Class Heroes*. Ch. 2.

10/20 Martin Sanchez Jankowski. *Islands in the Street*. Ch. 6.

Robert Sampson and W. Byron Groves, "Community Structure and Crime: Testing Social-Disorganization Theory" *American Journal of Sociology*.

Robert Sampson. "Moving to Inequality: Neighborhood Effects and Experiments Meet Social Structure" *American Journal of Sociology*.

10/27 Scott South and Kyle Crowder, "Escaping Distressed Communities: Individual, Community, and Metropolitan Influences" *American Journal of Sociology*.

Patrick Sharkey. "The Intergenerational Transmission of Context" *American Journal of Sociology*.

John Logan and Charles Zhang, "Global Neighborhoods: New Pathways to Diversity and Separation" *American Journal of Sociology*.

### **Growth politics, restructuring, and globalization**

11/3 John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Ch. 3

Clarence Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988*. Ch. 8.

Gordana Rabrenovic, *Community Builders*. Ch. 8-9.

11/10 John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Ch. 5

John Logan, Rachel Bridges Whaley, and Kyle Crowder, "The Character and Consequences of Growth Regimes" *Urban Affairs Review*.

Gerald Suttles, *The Man-Made City*. Ch. 5.

11/17 NO CLASS

11/24 John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Ch. 6.

David Harvey, "The Urban Process under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis" In Robert Lake, *Readings in Urban Analysis*.

Neil Brenner. *New State Spaces*. Ch. 5, pp. 219-256.

12/1 Min Zhou and J.R. Logan. 1996. "Market Transition and the Commodification of Housing in Urban China." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

Zhu, Jieming. 1999. "Local Growth Coalition: The Context and Implications of China's Gradualist Urban Land Reforms." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

Kasarda, John and Edward Crenshaw. 1991. "Third World Urbanization" *Annual Review of Sociology* 17:467-501.

Keith Pezzoli. "Sustainability, livelihood, and Community Mobilization in the Ajusco 'Ecological Reserve'" Ch. 7 in Peter Evans (ed.), *Livable Cities?*

12/8 Nezar Alsayyad and Ananya Roy. "Medieval Modernity: On Citizenship and Urbanism in a Global Era" *Space and Polity*.

John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Ch. 7.

Saskia Sassen. *The Global City*. Ch. 10.