

**SOCIOLOGY 4125
URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

**Fall 2006
Tuesday, Thursday 2:00-3:15pm
McEniry 146**

Dr. Stephanie Moller
485D Fretwell
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:00 and by appointment
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Course Goals

This course is designed to offer you a broad understanding of urban areas. The first part of the course will focus on the urban economy. We will primarily discuss globalization and the post-industrial city. The second part of the course will focus on urban society. We will read about, watch videos on and discuss issues associated with socio-economic status, race, education, gender, and crime in urban areas. Finally, we will discuss utopian society, and students will read a classic book that represents utopian thinking. This course will encourage critical thinking through short essays, and it will encourage collaboration through a group project. You will also apply your knowledge through computer and statistical application assignments. By the end of the course, you should understand and be able to critique how cities are organized economically and socially.

Texts

Bellamy, Edward. 2000. *Looking Backward 2000-1887*. Penquin Putnam Inc.

Bourgois, Philippe. 2002. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in el Barrio*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Sassen, Saskia. 2006. *Cities in a World Economy*, 3rd Edition. Pine Forge Press.

Grading

Short answers	20 percent
Peer Evaluation (3 @ 5%)	15 percent
Application Assignments (3 @ 5%)	15 percent
Essays (2 @ 10 %)	20 percent
Group Project	20 percent
Final essay exam	10 percent

I utilize a variety of assignments to encourage discussion, understanding and critical thought. The short answer assignments will ensure that you comprehend the readings. Since the class is too large to discuss the main points of the reading as one large group, the short answer assignments will offer students the opportunity to collaboratively discuss the reading while answering open-ended short answer questions. I don't require a traditional midterm or final because I don't think it is necessary for you to memorize details. However, to ensure that you

comprehend the reading, I will ask you to complete these assignments each class period. You may use your book and class notes. If you will miss a class due to a death in your family or an illness, you must contact me before class to arrange for you to take the short answer assignment. Otherwise, there are NO make-ups and no extra credit.

I expect you to complete required readings before class. This will permit all students to participate fully in the discussion. It will also ensure informed conversations in your groups and full participation in the short answer assignments. 15 percent of your final grade is determined by your peers in your groups.

Application assignments are given to help you apply the readings, become familiar with web-based resources, and think about inequality. Each of these assignments will be completed in class. They are not tests. You will complete these assignments collaboratively with other students.

The essay assignments are designed for you to apply and critique the readings and lectures. These essays are used in place of traditional exams to test your understanding of the material. I will offer ample opportunity for you to discuss the essay assignments in class. Your essays will be much stronger and will receive higher grades if you help each other think through your ideas. You may include ideas from your discussion in your essays, but you must write them in your own words. Your essays should be grounded in the readings and class notes. Late assignments will be penalized. Essays will be graded and returned within a week.

The group project will provide students an opportunity to learn from each other. Students will conduct research and present their findings at the end of the semester. Details on this project will follow.

Late Assignments

Late application and essay assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points each day they are late. Due dates are posted in each lesson. If an assignment will be late due to a death in your family or an illness, you must contact me BEFORE the assignment is due to make alternative arrangements. Short answer assignments may only be rescheduled if you are ill or have a death in the family... you may only reschedule the short answer assignment BEFORE missing the assignment.

Grading Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F Below 60

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes.

Lesson 1	Introduction
Tu 8/22	In class: Review Syllabus
Lesson 2	Urban Economies
Th 8/24	<i>Reading:</i> Sassen 2006: Chapter 1
Tu 8/29	<i>Reading:</i> Sassen 2006: Chapter 2
Th 8/31	<i>Reading:</i> Sassen 2006: Chapter 3
Tu 9/5	<i>Reading:</i> Sassen 2006: Chapter 4
Th 9/7	<i>Reading:</i> Sassen 2006: Chapter 5
Tu 9/12	<i>Reading:</i> Sassen 2006: Chapters 6-8 (long assignment)
Th 9/14	In Class: Group Research
Tu 9/19	Essay Due at Beginning of Class
Lesson 3	Urban Society
Th 9/21	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgois 2002: Chapter 1
Tu 9/26	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgois 2002: Chapter 2
Th 9/28	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgois 2002: Chapter 3
Tu 10/3	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgois 2002: Begin Chapter 4
Th 10/5	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgois 2002: Finish Chapter 4
Tu 10/10	Fall Break
Th 10/12	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgois 2002: Chapter 5

Tu 10/17	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgeois 2002: Chapter 6
Th 10/19	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgeois 2002: Chapter 7
Tu 10/24	<i>Reading:</i> Bourgeois 2002: Chapters 8-9
Th 10/26	In Class: Group Research
Tu 10/31	Essay Due at Beginning of Class
Lesson 4	Utopian Society
Th 11/2	<i>Reading:</i> Bellamy 2000
Tu 11/7	<i>Reading:</i> Bellamy 2000
Th 11/9	<i>Reading:</i> Bellamy 2000
Tu 11/14	<i>Reading:</i> Bellamy 2000
Th 11/16	<i>Reading:</i> Bellamy 2000
Tu 11/21	Group Research
Th 11/23	Thanksgiving
Tu 11/28	Group Presentations
Th 11/30	Group Presentations
Tu 12/5	Group Presentations
Tu 12/12	3:30-6:30 Final Exam