Modern American Communities:
Sociology 645
Tues/Thurs, 11:00am-12:15 PM
Room 6228 Social Science
Professor Franklin D. Wilson

Spring Semester, 2006-2007

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of urban communities as they exist in the United States. The primary issues to be explored include individuals' and groups' adaptation to and transformation of the urban communities in which they live. The following areas will be discussed in detail:

1) a review of basic concepts and theoretical approaches

2) American communities in historical perspective

3) Models of urban growth and urbanization

4) the determinants of residential differentiation

5) Immigration, ethnicity, and subcultures

6) urbanism as a way of life: living in the city

7) urban neighborhoods

8) suburbanization of population

9) The urban future

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Grading

A. Exams

Students taking this course for credit are expected to take two take-home exams, a mid-term and final, and write an essay (topic to be selected by instructor). The mid-term will be due 14 March, 2007 (1 PM); the final will be due on date indicated in timetable; and the essay will be due 16 April (1 PM), 2005. The final Grade for this course will be
determined by weighting the scores received from two exams (90 percent of course grade) and the essay. Each exam will be worth 50 raw points (60 points for graduate students), but weighted and summed to derive the following point system:

a. **Undergraduates.**
   1) best score -- exam = 50 points (X) .50 (X) 2 = 50 points;
   2) second best score -- exam = 50 points (X) .40 (X) 2 = 40 points;
   3) Essay = 10 points.

b). **Undergraduate Honors and Graduate Students**
   1) best score -- exam = 60 points (X) .50 (X) 2 = 60 points;
   2) second best score -- exam = 60 points (X) .40 (X) 2 = 48 points;
   3) total exam score = (60 + 48) [X] .833 = 89.96 points
   4) Essay = 10 points.

**Students who fail to turn in an exam by the day and time indicated will be penalized 10 raw points for that exam; and late essays will be penalized 3 points.** An exam or essay turned in one week or more after the due date will receive a zero score. Final grades will be awarded on the basis of the following point totals: A = 92.5 +; AB = 87-92.49; B = 82.5-87.49; BC = 75.0 -82.49; C = 65-74.9; D = 58.0 - 64.9; F, a score of less then 58.

2. **Office hours:**
   Regular office hours will be 2-4:00 pm, Tues. and Thurs., or by appointment.
   Office Location: 4446 Social Science Bldg. Phone: 262-2182
   E-Mail address: Wilson@ssc.wisc.edu.

3. **Required Readings**

Copies of required readings are available at the Social Science Reference Library, Room 8432, Social Science Building. These readings can also be accessed via E-Reserve at: [http://my.wisc.edu/portal](http://my.wisc.edu/portal). Look under (course listing) Sociology, then Soc 645. You may also obtain a copy of the reading from me by bring a blank CD-ROM disk to my office.
Readings - Sociology 645

I. Approaches to the Study of Communities (January 25, 30, Feb 1)


II. Historical Background (Feb 6, 8, 13)

1. Blake McKelevy, American Urbanization: A Comparative History, Chapters 1-3, 5,8


III. Models of Urban Growth and Urbanization (February 15, 20, 22)


   A. Chapter 14. The three jobs of the Future
   B. Chapter 17. Why the Rich are getting Richer and the Poor, Poorer.

IV. Parameters of Urban Structure (February 27. Mar 1)

A. Land Use Differentiation: The Neighborhood


B. Urbanism as a Way of Life (March mar 6, 8)


V. Residential Segregation by Race and Ethnicity

A. Trends (March 13, 15, 20)


B. Causes of Residential Segregation by Race and Ethnicity (Mar 22,27, April 10)


VI. Suburbanization and Urban Sprawl and Urban Gentrification (April 12, 17, 19, 24)

1. Article on gentrification


   A. Chapter 19, The Education of Symbolic Analyst (II)
   B. Chapter 21, The Decline in Public Investment
   C. Chapter 23, The New Community
   D. Chapter 24, The Politics of Secession

VII. Urban Future (April 26, May 1)

1. Peter Hall. 1998. Cities in Civilization, Chapter 30, pp 943-989

Supplemental Readings

I. Approaches to the Study of Communities

4. Diana DeAre and Larry Long, Did the U.S. Undergo Ruralization in the 1970s?

5. Fischer, The Urban Experience, Chapters 1 and 2


10. Nancy Kleniewski, *Cities, Change and Conflict*, Chapters 1 and 2


II. Historical Background

   2. David R. Goldfield and Blaine Browneel, *URBAN AMERICA: A HISTORY*


A. Colonial Period
B. Westward Expansion and Rapid Urban Growth

C. Industrialization and Urbanization

D. Urban Spatial Structure and the Urban Mosaic

III. Models of Urban Growth and Urbanization


2. David Mulkey and B.L. Dillman, "Location Effects of State and Local Industrial Development Subsidies," Growth and change, April 1976


5. Feagin and Parker, Building of American Cities, Chapters 2-4, 9.


IV. Parameters of Urban Structure


A. Urbanism as a Way of Life


A. Urbanism as a Way of Life


3. Claude Fischer, The Urban Experience, Chapters 4,7,8.


B. Land Use Differentiation


2. A. J. Scott, "Locational Patterns and Dynamics of Industrial Activity in the Modern Metropolis."

3. Franklin D. Wilson, Residential Consumption, Economic Opportunity, and Race, Pp. 3-12, and Chapter 4.

4. Fischer, The Urban Experience, Chapter 3.


6. Feagin and Parker, Building American Cities, Chapters 7 and 8.

7. Logan and Molotch, URBAN FORTUNES, Chapter 4, pages 147-181.

V. Residential Segregation

A. Introduction


2. C. Fischer, The Urban Experience, Chapters 5 & 6.


B. Family Status and Social Class


C. Ethnicity and Race


5. Franklin D. Wilson, Residential Consumption, Economic Opportunity and Race, Chapter 7.


VI. Poverty, Homelessness and Neighborhood Change


3. Feagin and Parker, Building American Cities, Chapter 5.


8. Logan and Molotch, URBAN FORTUNES, pp 181-199.

VII. Suburbanization and Urban Sprawl


2. F.D. Wilson, Residential Consumption, Economic Opportunity and Race, Chapter 5.


VIII. Urban Decline and the Prospects for Rejuvenation


6. Wardwell, John and David Brown (eds.) New Directions in Rural to Urban Migration, Chapter 4.


10. Logan and Molotch, URBAN FORTUNES, Chapter 7.

