URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY 945
FALL 2012

Instructor: Gary Green
Department of Community & Environmental Sociology
346D Agricultural Hall
Voice Mail: 262-2710
Email: gpgreen@wisc.edu

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday
2:00-4:00
Voice Mail: 262-2710
Email: gpgreen@wisc.edu

This seminar introduces graduate students to the interdisciplinary field of urban development. Urban development incorporates theories and concepts from a variety of disciplines, including sociology, economics, political science, planning, and geography. Drawing on these different disciplinary approaches, we examine a wide range of issues facing urban areas today, including globalization, poverty and inequality, segregation, gentrification, sustainability, and regionalism.

The conceptual focus of this seminar is on the continuing significance of place and the physical environment in the urban development process. We are especially interested in how place continues to be a viable concept in the context of globalization and shapes economic and social opportunities in urban areas. One of the critical issues in this literature is how place is contested in urban areas.

The key objectives of this course are to establish an understanding of the key trends and substantive issues in the field of urban development. Although much of the material in the course focuses on urban areas in the U.S., most of the concepts and theoretical material apply to other contexts.
REQUIRED READINGS


Additional readings are available on Learn@UW.

PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION

This is a seminar, so I do not plan to lecture. In most weeks, I will provide a short discussion of the context or issues that relate to the reading. For each class session, a few students will take responsibility for leading the discussion of selected readings. Students should summarize the major arguments of the readings and provide a critical analysis and evaluation. We will use the discussion questions submitting by seminar participants to organize the remainder of the discussion. It is important that seminar participants come prepared to discuss the material each week. Occasionally, I will assign some additional readings to provide a deeper theoretical context or background for the discussion during that week.
ASSIGNMENTS

#1 - Weekly - For each class session, submit at least two questions that would be suitable for discussion in the seminar. Accompany your questions with brief comments that integrate the readings and the topic(s) for that session demonstrating you have read the weekly assignment. Submit this by e-mail to the entire class no later than 6:00 the evening before class. All students will be expected to read the comments and be prepared to respond to them in class the following day. The intent is to encourage careful and thoughtful reading that will lead to increased understanding and a more sophisticated evaluation of those readings.

#2 - Term Paper - There are several options for the term paper requirement. One option would be to select a topic situated in the urban development literature. The topic could be one of those covered in the course or another relevant issue (please discuss the topic with me in advance). Ideally, you would work with an existing data set to examine some issue related to urban development. It might be possible to use census data, for example, to examine development issues in major cities in the U.S. or other countries. A second option is to conduct a case study of urban development. This option might examine the development activities in a city or region. These are just suggestions and I am open to other possibilities as well. Our goal is to use this opportunity to develop a paper that can be presented at a professional meeting. You need to select your topic by February 1 and submit a brief summary of what you are studying, how you will study it, and why you are interested in this issue. A wide variety of approaches are acceptable (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, theoretical). The term paper is due May 3rd.

GRADES

Final grades will be based on: i) weekly assignments and preparation; and ii) term paper. Each will count for about 1/2 of your final grade.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1. Introductions, Agendas, & Overview


Week 2. Place and Politics


Week 3. Place and Economic Development


Week 4. Growth Machines/Regimes


Week 5. Globalization & Cities


Week 6. Urban Poverty


Week 7. Residential Segregation


Week 8. Spatial Mismatch


Week 9. Gentrification


Week 10. Creative Cities


Week 11. Urban Sustainability


Week 12. Regionalism


Week 13. Comparative Urban Development


Week 14. Class Presentations

Week 15. Wrapping Up