

Hunter College
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning
Urban Life - URBS 101
Fall 2007

Tuesdays and Fridays 9:45-11:00
Room: Hunter West 205

Tuesdays and Fridays 2:10-3:25
Room: Thomas Hunter Hall 518

Instructor: Kimberly Libman
Office: Hunter West 1644

Office Hours: By appointment
E-mail: KimberlyLibman@gmail.com

When you email me here your message comes to my phone. If you would like to speak to me by phone send your phone number in the email and I will call you back ASAP.

Overview:

Urban Life is a course designed to give you an introduction to Urban Studies. We will investigate the historical, social, and economic forces that shape cities and city life through both reading and conducting fieldwork. Readings are drawn from a variety of academic disciplines including urban planning, geography, history, sociology, and psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- To gain an appreciation of the multiple disciplinary approaches to studying and understanding cities and urban life
- To critically reflect on, and connect personal experience with theoretical perspectives and research
- To describe neighborhood environments quantitatively and qualitatively
- To develop, conduct, and present an inquiry-based social science investigation
- To critically read and evaluate various types of literature, media, and figures
- To effectively communicate ideas in written and oral presentations

Readings:

The required texts for this course are compiled in a course pack available in the library reserves. While you do not have to purchase any books for this class you must copy the course pack. If for any reason you cannot pay for these copies please speak to me individually.

Throughout the semester I may post additional readings on Black Board. *All of these readings are required. It is your responsibility to print these and bring them to class.*

In addition the following books are highly recommended:

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor, 1995.

Zinsser, William Knowlton. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. New York: Harper Collins, 2006.
Gottdiener, Mark, and Budd, Leslie. *Key Concepts in Urban Studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2005.

Policy on Late Papers/ Incompletes:

Only major assignments will be accepted late and will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each 24-hour period they are overdue.

It is in your best interest not have an incomplete. Incompletes will only be given to students who have had a documented emergency. If you do not hand in assignments your grade will be calculated with these components being treated as an “F.”

Academic honesty:

“Any deliberate borrowing of the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgement of the source is intellectual theft and is called **plagiarism**.”

It is not plagiarism to borrow the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others if the source is clearly and specifically acknowledged. Students who consult such critical material and wish to include some of the insights, terms, or statements encountered must provide full citations in an appropriate form.” (Quoted from Hunter College’s academic policies and regulations)

Assignments turned in with plagiarized material will receive a failing grade.

Assignments and Grading:

Assignment 1:	
Autobiographical Introduction/ Linking identity and place	150pts
Assignment 2:	
Comparative Walking Tours/ Observational views of the city	200pts
Assignment 3:	
Interpreting Census Data/ Quantitative views of the city	150pts
Assignment 4:	
Community Board Observation/ Investigating local change	200pts
Presentations x 2	50pts (25 each)
Class Participation	250pts

This portion of your grade is tracked individually on an index card.

It includes credit you receive for completing in class assignments, quizzes, writing your controversial quote papers and posting reviews of urban studies related events and media on Blackboard.

EXAM DATES:

(9:45-11:00am) **Monday, December 17 from 9:00-11:00**
(2:10-3:25pm) **Tuesday, December 18 from 11:30-1:30**

Class Schedule:

Tuesday August 28—Introductions and review of syllabus

IDENTITY, INTERSECTIONALITY & PLACE

Friday, August 31

Ruddick, Susan. “Constructing Difference in Public Spaces: Race, Class, and Gender as Interlocking Systems.” *Urban Geography* 17.2 (1996): 132-151.

Tuesday, September 4

Selections from:

Colon, Jesus. *A Puerto Rican in New York and Other Sketches*. New York: Mainstream Publishers, 1961.

Sneed, Pamela. “The D train.” *Voices Rising: Celebrating 20 Years of Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Writing*. New York: Redbone Press, 2007.

Friday, September 7

****ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE****

URBANIZATION & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CITIES

Tuesday, September 11

Kliniewski, Nancy. “Urban Development in the United States.” *Cities, Change, and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2005.

Friday, September 14—NO CLASSES

Tuesday, September 18

Castells, Manuel. “The Historical Process of Urbanization” and “The Urban Phenomenon” (pgs 20-33). *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*. Ed. Susser, Ida. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

Friday, September 21—NO CLASSES

Tuesday, September 25

Harvey, David. “Cities or Urbanization.” *City* 1.1 (1995): 38-61.

Friday, September 28

Mumford, Lewis. “The Natural History of Urbanization.” *Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*. Ed. Thomas, William Jr. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1956.

NATURE AND THE CITY

Tuesday, October 2

****CONTROVERSIAL QUOTE PAPER DUE****

Short, John Rennie. “The City and Nature.” *Urban Theory: A Critical Assessment*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Friday, October 5

Olmstead, Fredrick Law. "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns." *The City Reader*. Eds. LeGates, Richard, and Stout, Frederic. London and New York: Routledge, 1996.

OBSERVING THE CITY

Tuesday, October 9

Duneier, Mitchell. "Appendix: A Statement on Method." *Sidewalk*. New York: Strauss and Giroux, 1999.

Friday, October 12 - Fieldwork

Tuesday, October 16

Selections from:

Hiss, Tony. *The Experience of Place*. New York: vintage, 1991.

Friday, October 19

Gibberd, Ben. "Children of Darkness." *The New York Times* 29 July 2007.

Also review the following websites:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_exploration

<http://infiltration.org/>

<http://nycexposed.com/>

<http://www.darkpassage.com/>

<http://www.undercity.org/>

Tuesday, October 23

****ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE WITH IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS****

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CITY

Friday, October 26

Kamenetz, Anya. "The Laws of Urban Energy." *Psychology Today* (2007): 81-87.

Milgram, Stanley. "The Experience of Living in Cities." *Science* 167 (1970): 1461-8.

SOCIAL ORDER, SOCIAL DISORDER AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Tuesday, October 30

Kliniewski, Nancy. "Urban Unrest and Social Control." *Cities, Change, and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2005.

Friday, November 2

Merrifield, Andy. "The Urbanization of Labor: Living-wage Activism in the American City." *Social Text* 18.1 (2000): 31-54.

Tuesday, November 6

****CONTROVERSIAL QUOTE PAPER DUE****

Pick one . . .

Smith, Neil. "Class Struggle on Avenue B." *The New Urban Frontier*. London and New York: Routledge, 1996.

Gandy, Matthew. "Between Borinquen and the Barrio: Environmental Justice and New City's Puerto Rican Community, 1969-1972." *Antipode* 34.4 (2002): 730-761.

URBAN POLICY AND ECONOMICS

Friday, November 9

Kliniewski, Nancy. "Federal Urban Policy." *Cities, Change, and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2005.

Tuesday, November 13

Wilson, William Julius. "Studying Inner-City Social Dislocations: The Challenge of Public Agenda Research: 1990 Presidential Address." *American Sociological Review* 56.1 (1991): 1-14.

Friday, November 16 Census data collection lab: Meet in TH 403

Anderson, Margo, and Fienberg, Stephen. "Who Counts? The Politics of Census Taking." *Society* (1997):19-26.

US Census Bureau. History. www.census.gov/scsd/www/history.html

Review census forms in course pack

Tuesday, November 20—NO CLASS . . . Classes follow a Thursday schedule

Wednesday, November 21 (Classes follow a Friday schedule)

******ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE******

Friday, November 23—NO CLASS

DESIGN, PLANNING & PARTICIPATION

Tuesday, November 27

Short, John Rennie. "The Designed City." *Urban Theory: A Critical Assessment*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Friday, November 30

******CONTROVERSIAL QUOTE PAPER DUE******

Arnstein, Sherry R. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation." *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 35.4 (1969): 216-224.

Angotti, Tom. "Race, Place and Waste: Community Planning in New York City." *New Village* 1 (1999): 5-9.

Tuesday, December 4

de Souza Briggs, Xavier. "Doing Democracy Up-Close: Culture, Power, and Communication in Community Planning." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 18 (1998): 1-23.

Friday, December 7

******ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE PRESENTATIONS******

Tuesday, December 11

******MORE PRESENTATIONS******