

## Urban Social Problems

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ANSO 206  
Fall 2004  
TTH 11:00-12:15pm  
Class: Clough 102

Office Hours: MW 2-3pm; TTH 1:30-2:30pm; or By Appointment

### **Course Description and Course Objective:**

The course provides an overview of the origins of cities and urban development, types of urban lifestyles, aspects of urban inequality, urban challenges and change, urban politics and policies, and the future of cities. We will approach these issues using a variety of sociological theories. Through hands-on experience in Memphis, students will come to understand how urban issues affect people's everyday lives.

### **Required Readings**

Kleniewski, Nancy. 2002. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cities, Change, and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life

Palen, J. John. 2005. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. The Urban World

Siegel, Fred, and Jan Rosenberg, eds. 2003. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Annual Editions: Urban Society

I will ask you to prepare ahead of time for the readings that will be specifically discussed in class, but I expect you always to be prepared to discuss the weekly readings in relation to one another and to the lecture material.

### **Grading**

Participation	5%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Group Project	35%

### **Grading Scale**

A+ 99-100	B+ 87-90	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 59 or lower
A 95-98	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 91-94	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

### **Course Requirements**

1. **Attendance:** Class attendance is required. You may miss up to **two** classes for emergencies or illnesses with no penalty. For *every class missed after two absences*, students will have *3 points subtracted* from their final grade.

2. **Class Participation:** Class discussions are an important element in this course. What you get out of the course is as much dependent upon the preparation and participation of you and your classmates as it is upon my instruction. What you learn from one another can be as valuable as the lecture and reading materials. You will be graded on the level and quality of your participation.
3. **Exams:** Exams consist of multiple choice questions, short-answers, and short essays. The exams cover lectures, readings, and all class activities. You will have a midterm and a final exam.
5. **Group Project:** As a group, student will be assigned a family with demographic and social characteristics living in a specific area of Memphis. Throughout the semester, you will explore the challenges and advantages of urban life through the perspectives of people with those characteristics. Here are some questions you will consider: Where do they work? Where do their children go to school? Where do they shop, receive health services, do their banking, etc.? How do the families get to work, school, and the other places they need to go? What is the family income? What is a workable budget? Where do people go to express concerns about their urban neighborhoods and receive assistance?

### **Course Guidelines**

1. Please avoid disrupting class by arriving late or leaving early.
2. You are responsible for all announcements and assignments made in class.
3. You are required to check your e-mail once a day for any updates from me.
4. If anyone has special needs that require modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements, please contact me in the beginning of the semester and provide documentation from disability services, so that suitable accommodations can be made.
5. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the event of a documented emergency. If you cannot take the exam for any reason, you must contact me prior to the exam. Failure to do so may mean that you will not be able to take a make-up exam.
6. Academic misconduct and dishonesty (such as cheating or plagiarism) will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the Honor Code.
7. The following reading and lecture schedules are subject to revisions, however, the exam dates and the assignment due dates will remain the same.
8. This class will require you to look at your life and the lives of others through many different perspectives. This can be a very challenging experience. Although I want you to feel free to share your ideas, I expect you to respect one another when listening to other viewpoints.

### **Class Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
August 26	<i>Introduction</i>	
August 30, September 2	<i>Urban Issues</i>	Palen 1 Kleniewski 1
September 7, 9	<i>Theoretical Perspectives</i>	Kleniewski 2 Palen 4
September 14, 16, 21	<i>Urban Development in the United States</i>	Palen 3 Kleniewski 4
September 23, 28, 30	<i>Cities, Suburbs, and Metropolitan Areas</i>	Palen 5, 6 Kleniewski 6 AE 2
October 5	<i>Cities in the World</i>	Kleniewski 6, 7
October 7, 12	<i>Urban Lifestyles</i>	Palen 7 AE 1
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
October 19	Fall Break	No Class
October 21	<i>Immigrants and the City</i>	Kleniewski 8
October 26, 28	<i>Race and the City</i>	Kleniewski 9 Palen 10
November 2	<i>Social Class and the City</i>	Kleniewski 10
November 4	<i>Gender and the City</i>	Kleniewski 11
November 9, 11	<i>Urban Challenges</i>	Palen 8 AE 7
November 16, 18	<i>Cities and Change</i>	Palen 11 Kleniewski 12 AE 3
November 23	<i>Politics and Policies</i>	Kleniewski 13 AE 5
November 25	Thanksgiving Break	No Class
November 30	<i>Politics and Policies</i>	Kleniewski 14 Palen 12

December 2, 7

*Future of Cities*

Kleniewski 17, 18  
AE 8

**December 14**

**Final Exam**

**Tuesday, 5:30pm**