

Instructor: Professor Matt Patterson
E-mail: matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca
Office: SS 916 (Social Science)
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-2pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Session: Fall 2015

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 11-11:50 am

Location: MFH 160 (Murray Fraser Hall)

Course Description

Cities are complicated matters. It is not always clear how we should go about studying them, or even how we should define what a city is. Often the complexity of cities makes it difficult to understand and address the major social problems that face city dwellers across Canada and the world. These problems include inequality and segregation, homelessness, crime, alienation and the decline of community.

To help sift through the complexity of urban life, sociologists have developed several research perspectives that provide working definitions of what a city is and "toolkits" of theories and methods for studying the city. In this course you will be learning three such perspectives: human ecology, interactionism, and political-economy. Each of these perspectives is based on a slightly different idea of what a city is and what is important about urban life.

In addition to learning about the perspectives themselves, we will be applying the perspectives to better understand a series of urban social issues. Additionally, in the term paper assignment, you will have the opportunity to compare and contrast two of the perspectives to better understand an urban issue of your choice.

Goals and Learning Outcomes

- Understand three major theoretical approaches to studying cities, including their strengths and weaknesses, and the types of research questions that are associated with them.
- Learn about the state of Canadian cities in the 21st century with regard to several important social issues, including the economy, inequality, race and ethnicity, crime, and more.

- Learn to construct a sociological argument by comparing and contrasting two perspectives to a single issue.

Textbooks and Other Materials

Readings are assigned from three sources:

- Harry Hiller (editor). 2014. *Urban Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Available at the Campus Bookstore)
- SOC 353 Course Reader (Available at the Campus Bookstore).
- Online readings (links provided on D2L)

Evaluation

	<u>Due Date/Exam Date</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Mid-Term Test	Friday, October 16 th	30%
Term Paper	Monday, November 23 rd	40%
Final Exam	Exam Period	30%

Term Test

The mid-term and final exam will test your knowledge of the course material from the first and second half of the term respectively. In other words, the tests will not be cumulative. The mid-term will be written during regular lecture time and the final exam will be scheduled for the exam period. More information on the exact format of the tests will be provided later in the term.

Term Paper

The paper assignment will provide you with an opportunity to draw on course material to produce an original sociological argument and analysis. You will be asked to compare and contrast two of the major perspectives (e.g. political-economy) in urban sociology to one substantive topic (e.g. housing, crime, culture, etc.). More information about the paper assignment will be provided later in the term.

Grade Reappraisal

Within one week of the date the test/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of tests or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the grade. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and

rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Contact and Office Hours

Please include "SOC353" in the subject of your e-mails. I aim to respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the working week. To ensure a quick response, it is best to keep e-mails simple and straight to the point. More complicated questions should be asked in person during office hours. I also encourage you to ask questions during or right after lectures.

LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

WEEK ONE Introduction to Cities and Urbanization

Wednesday, Sept. 8th Lecture I: What is a City?

Friday, Sept. 11th Lecture II: Urbanization in Historical Perspective

Readings:

- Hiller, Introduction: Urbanization and the City
- Hiller, Chapter 1 – Canadian Urbanization in Historical and Global Perspective

WEEK TWO Canadian Urbanization/Human Ecology

Monday, Sept 14th Lecture I: Canadian Urbanization

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 2 – The Dynamics of Canadian Urbanization

Wednesday, Sept 16th Lecture II: The Chicago School

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 3 – Analyzing and Interpreting the City: Theory and Method

Friday, Sept 18th Lecture III: Neighbourhood Effects

Readings:

- Sampson – Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect (Reader)

WEEK THREE Community Studies and Interactionism

- Monday, Sept 21st Lecture I: Community Lost
Readings:
- Simmel – The Metropolis and Mental Life (Reader)
- Wednesday, Sept 23rd Lecture II: Networks and Social Capital
Readings:
- Hiller, Chapter 5 – Social Ties and Community in Urban Places
- Friday, Sept 25th Lecture III: Urban Ethnography
Readings:
- Duneier – Sidewalk (Reader)

WEEK FOUR Urban Political-Economy

- Monday, Sept 28th Lecture I: Introduction to Political-Economy
Readings:
- Hiller, Chapter 12 – The New Urban Political Economy
- Wednesday, Sept 30th Lecture II: Cities in the Global Economy
Readings:
- Sassen, Saskia. 2005. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept." *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 11(2): 27-43. (Online)
- Friday, Oct 2nd Lecture III: Neoliberalism

WEEK FIVE Inequality and Social Movements

- Monday, Oct 5th Lecture I: Inequality in Cities I
Readings:
- Hiller, Chapter 7 – Urban Inequality and Urban Social Movements
 - Hulchanski – Three Cities within Toronto (Online)
- Wednesday, Oct 7th Lecture II: Inequality in Cities II
- Friday, Oct 9th Lecture III: Urban Social Movements

WEEK SIX

Mid-Course Review

Wednesday, Oct 14th Lecture I: Review Class

Friday, Oct 16th IN-CLASS MID-TERM TEST

WEEK SEVEN

Race and Ethnicity

Monday, Oct 19th Lecture I: Ethnic Enclaves

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 8 – Immigration and Race in the City

Wednesday, Oct 21st Lecture II: Aboriginal Peoples

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 9 – Aboriginal Peoples in Urban Areas

Friday, Oct 23rd Lecture III: Discuss term paper assignment

WEEK EIGHT

Housing

Monday, Oct 26th Lecture I: Housing and Homelessness

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 14 – Housing and Homelessness: Sociological Factors
- Hiller, Chapter 11 – Gender and the City: Urban Restructuring, Social Exclusion, and Democratic Participation

Wednesday, Oct 28th Lecture II: Segregation

Friday, Oct 30th Lecture III: Gentrification

WEEK NINE

Crime

Monday, Nov 2nd Lecture I: Crime in Cities

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 10 – Big Cities, Social Pathology, and Crime

Wednesday, Nov 4th Lecture II: Broken Windows/Collective Efficacy

Friday, Nov 6th Lecture III: The Underground Economy

Readings:

- Venkatesh – Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor (Reader)

WEEK TEN

READING WEEK

WEEK ELEVEN

Culture and Consumerism

Monday, Nov 16th Lecture I: Consumerism

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 13 – Consumer Culture, City Space, and Urban Life

Wednesday, Nov 18th Lecture II: Cultural Districts

Readings:

- Patterson, Matt and Daniel Silver (2015) "The Place of Art: Local Area Characteristics and Arts Growth in Canada." *Poetics* 51(1): 69-87. (Online)

Friday, Nov 20th Lecture III: The Creative Class

WEEK TWELVE

Public Spaces

Monday, Nov 23rd Lecture I: Interactions in Public Space

NOTE: TERM PAPER DUE

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 6 – Urban Public Spaces: Streets, Strangership, and Securitization

Wednesday, Nov 25th Lecture II: The End of Public Space

Readings:

- Davis – Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space (Reader)

Friday, Nov 27th Lecture III: The Right to the City

WEEK THIRTEEN

Buildings and Infrastructure

Monday, Nov 30th

Lecture I: The Form of the City

Readings:

- Hiller, Chapter 16 – The Form of the City: The Case of Toronto

Wednesday, Dec 2nd

Lecture II: Buildings

Friday, Dec 4th

Lecture III: Review

WEEK FOURTEEN

Review

Monday, Dec 7th

Lecture I: Review Class

Note: Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Other Important Information

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Student Representation

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email:

suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student

Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Education Block - Food Court**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf