URBAN SOCIOLOGY

The demise of cities has been frequently forecast in recent years. This course emphasizes issues of diversity -- race and class, urban and suburban, Black and White. It will compare towns and processes of their expansion and contraction. Keating’s book calls attention to the possibility of racial integration in suburban, middle class areas. He explores the means by which racial segregation and integration can be achieved. Sassen argues that globalization has changed the class and gender composition of cities and has increased the importance of cities. She argues that the major global cities have been modernizing in telecommunications and transportation. In particular, she argues that the development of a new industry of professional business services requires new upper middle class housing, and the means for the middle class to find housing and jobs in the central city where new industries of business services have expanded dramatically. As such, core areas of global cities are changing – and even cities of the rustbelt are going through regeneration (like Cleveland). They have taken new forms and locations, (e.g. the edge city). They have begun to be manufacturing areas again and some districts in urban areas are being gentrified, such as the South Bronx. These urban areas have experienced positive processes such as urban sprawl, continuing suburban expansion, immigrants coping with the new settings with which they have to contend. Other issues include homelessness, racial integration (and segregation), and urban governance and housing processes. Students are invited to propose related topics of interest.

Class Format: Classes will combine short lectures with discussions, either small groups or the class as a whole. The quality of the discussions will depend on your preparation.

Evaluation: Three essays of at least 10 pages will be required. Topics will be drawn from the issues raised in the discussions and readings. The essays should also draw on at least 4 sources not on the reading list. The essays should be double-spaced and in 12 point font size.

Goals: The course is constructed to develop a broad comparative theoretical knowledge of urban structures and processes, within the context of globalization.

Books: Required
Keating, Dennis, THE SUBURBAN RACIAL DILEMMA
Medoff, Peter and Holly Sklar, STREETS OF HOPE
Portes, Alejandro and Alex Stepick, CITY ON THE EDGE

Recommended:
Sassen, Saskia, GLOBALIZATION: and its discontents.
Course Outline and Readings

Feb. 10-12  Introduction and Globalization:
Sassen, Saskia, GLOBAL CITIES, “Overview.”
GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS,
“Whose City is it? (E)
Portes and Stepick, “Preface,” pp. xi-xiv, and Ch.1, “Change without a
Blueprint.”
Note: read Sassen or Portes and Stepick to familiarize
yourself with the language.

Feb. 17-19  Urban Restructuring
(theories of restructuring regarding the impact on the world capitalist
economy which was shaken by the first oil embargo in 1973, and
the formation of the first OPEC oil cartel.
in their BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS.
Grogan and Proscio, Ch.2 in their “Mass Exit.” pp. 15-47 in COMEBACK
CITIES.(E)
Soja, Edward W., "Economic Restructuring and Internationalization of the
Los Angeles Region," in M.P. Smith and J. Feagin (eds.),
THE CAPITALIST CITY (E).

Feb. 24-26  Race and the City
Massey, D. and N. Denton, “The Missing Link,” Ch. 1 of AMERICAN
APARTHEID, (E)
Keating, Dennis, “Race, Housing and Neighborhoods in the
Metropolitan United States,” Read Chs., 3, 5, 7 (note differences
in the different towns and the policies and programs – critique).
What are mechanisms used to facilitate neighborhood integration
and change?
Frieden, Bernard and Lynne Sagalyn, “Sanitizing the City,” pp.15-38
in their DOWNTOWN, INC.

March 2-4  Race/Ethnicity, Women’s Immigration and Employment
Portes, A. and A. Stepick, begin reading CITY ON THE EDGE,
“Preface, Chs.1 and 2.”
Issues grow out of debates about the riots, creation of discourses
About Miami’s uniqueness compared to other cities, problem
immigrants, and the growth of a powerful new ethnic group
(Cubans).

She discusses the impact of new postindustrial production sites
for producer services. Immigrant women work in these industrial
areas. Sassen compares women employed in offshore production to
those employed as well as those employed immigrant women in
developed countries – see pp. 111-131.
March 16-18  Theories and Narratives of the Urban/City

Weber, Max, “The Nature of the City,” from his THE CITY.
Simmel, Georg, “The Metropolis and Mental Life.” (E)
Hall, Stuart, “The City of Towers,” (Corbusier)

March 23-25 Urban Sprawl and Neighborhood Struggles

Smith, Neil, “Class Struggle on Avenue B.”
Duany, Andres, Elizabeth Plater-Zybek, and Jeff Speck, Their “Suburban Nation,” and their New Urbanism.
Squires, Gregory D., “Urban Sprawl and the Uneven Development of Metropolitan America.”

March 27-April 5  SPRING RECESS *******

April 6-8 Race, Poverty, Intra-ethnic and Class Conflicts in Urban Areas

Stepan and Stepick, Ch.3 “A Year to Remember: The Riot and the Haitians.”
Kwong, Peter, “The First Multicultural Riot.”
Waters, Maxine (L.A. Congresswoman), Testimony before the Senate…
no author, “Riot Chronology.”
Rodriguez, Luis, “Deciphering LA Smoke Signals.”

April 13-15 Comparative Urban Poverty

Wilson, William Julius, “From Institutional to Jobless Ghettos,” and “Societal Changes and Vulnerable Neighborhoods,” in his WHEN WORK DISAPPEARS, Chs. 1 & 2 (E).

Video about the Dudley Street process.

April 20-22 The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
Medoff and Sklar, read “Introduction,” and “Creating the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative,” in STREETS OF HOPE.

April 27-29 New Spaces:
Garreau, T., EDGE CITIES.
Low, Setha, “Behind the Gates (E)
May 4-6  Poverty, Homelessness, New Spaces

Rossi, Peter, “Why We Have Homelessness and Extreme Poverty and What to Do About Them,” in his DOWN AN OUT IN AMERICA.
Snow, David and Leon Anderson, “The Subculture of Street Life,” in their DOWN ON THEIR LUCK.

May 11-13  Building the Enclave and the Global City

Portes and Stepick, Chs. 4-6, and Chs. 7-9, complete book.

May 15  Classes End