

**URBAN SOCIOLOGY:  
THE CITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE AMERICAS  
Spring 1999**

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SOC 210

2:30-3:20 MW

Robertson 100

Precepts: M 1:30-2:20; W 3:30-4:20

F 2:30-3:20; 3:30-4:20

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This course takes a comparative approach toward the study of social, economic, and political factors that led to the emergence and transformation of modern cities in the United States and selected areas of Latin America. We consider the city in its dual image: as a center of progress and as a redoubt of social problems, especially underdevelopment and inequality. We give attention to the historical processes that have resulted in the spatial aggregation and desegregation of populations differentiated by social class and race.

Readings come from two sources:

- ◆ Books available at the U-Store and in the Library Reserve Room.  
Readings in packet available at Pequod.

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**February 1, 3**

**Introduction:** The sociological enterprise: methods and approach.- Cities in a historical perspective.- Urbanization and industrialization.- Rural-urban migration.- The dual image of the city.

Readings:

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| ◆ <b>Pirenne</b> , Henri [1925] 1970. <i>Medieval Cities: Their Origins and the Revival of Trade</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press. |
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| <b>Dobb</b> , Maurice. 1970. <i>Studies in the Development of Capitalism</i> . New York: International Publishers: 83-175. |
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**February 8, 10 15, 17**

**Classical Models of Urban Development:** Concentric zoning, axiate growth and multiple nuclei.- Ecological theories.- The city as organism.- Political economy and the critique of classical models.- Land use and the market.- Transforming time and space into commodities.- The city in the era of world economic integration. The global city.

Readings:

**Logan** John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1986. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1-49.

◆ **Harvey**, David. 1973. *Social Justice and the City*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

**February 15, 17, 22**

**Inter- and Intra-urban Processes in Latin America:** A review of theories of socioeconomic development.- Colonialism and its legacy.- Modernization and metropolitan change.- The effects of Import-Substitution Industrialization.- Export-Processing Industrialization and the “opening to the exterior”.

Readings:

◆ **Roberts, Bryan**. 1996. *The Making of Citizens: Cities of Peasants Revisited*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

**Ardoy**, Jorge. 1972? “One Thousand Years of Latin American Urbanization.

**Portes**, Alejandro and John Walton. 1976. *Urban Latin America*. Austin:University of Texas Press: 1-110.

**March 1, 3, 6**

**A Sample of Illustrative Cases:** Mexico City.- Santiago.- Bogota.- Rio de Janeiro. Santo Domingo.- Havana.- Rural-urban dynamics.- International and domestic migration.- The geography of employment and residence.- Urbanization in times of crisis.- A comparative review of political and economic inequalities.

Readings:

◆ **Centeno**, Miguel Angel. 1994. *Democracy Within Reason: Technocratic Revolution in Mexico*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania University Press.

◆ **Sheper-Hughes, Nancy.** 1992. *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Portes, Alejandro.** 1989. "Latin American Urbanization During the Years of the Crisis. *Latin American Research Review* XXIV 3:7-44.

### **March 10, 22, 24**

**Urban Poverty and Labor Patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean:** The structure of formal employment.- Social stratification.- Gender, race and ethnicity in the labor market.- Industrial and service sectors.- The informal economy.-

Readings:

◆ **Ward, Peter.** 1998. *Mexico City.* Chichester, England: John Wiley and Sons

◆ **Evans, Peter.** 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

### **March 29, 31**

**Cities and States in Latin America and the Caribbean:** From nationalism to internationalism.- The state and civil society.- Predatory and embedded states.- Changing notions of citizenship.

Readings:

**Portes, Alejandro.** 1997. "Neoliberalism and the Sociology of Development: Emerging Trends and Unanticipated Facts." *Population and Development Review* 23 2(June): 229-259

◆ **Sassen, Saskia.** 1994. *Cities in a World Economy.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

### **April 5, 7, 12**

**Inter-and Intra-urban Processes in the United States:** The colonial city. Industrialization and international migration.- Suburbs, exurbs, and edge cities.-The role of race and ethnicity in the design of the American city.- Aggregative and disaggregative processes.- Residential segregation.- From slums to ghettos.- The global city.

Readings:

◆ **Philpott, Thomas Lee.** 1991. *The Slum and the Ghetto: Immigrants, Blacks and Reformers in Chicago, 1880-1930.* Belmont, California: Wadsworth

Publishing House.

◆ **Castells, Manuel.** 1998. *End of Millennium*. New York: Blackwell

◆ **Sennett, Richard.** 1998. *The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism*. New York: W.W. Norton

#### **April 14**

**Poverty and Marginality in the American City:** The meaning of poverty in the land of plenty.- Social capital and spatial segregation.- The War Against Poverty.- The War Against Welfare.- Poverty and the state.- Poverty and the private sector.- Unemployed or unemployable? The gender dimensions.- Public housing: a historical sketch.- A word on the homeless.- The misery of citizenship.

Readings:

**Fernández-Kelly, Patricia.** 1995. "Migration, Race, and Ethnicity in the Design of the American City." In *Urban Revisions*. Cambridge, MA: Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and MIT Press.

**Fernández-Kelly, Patricia.** 1995. "Social and Cultural Capital in the Urban Ghetto," in *The Economic Sociology of Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation Press.

#### **April 19, 21**

**Case Studies:** New York.- Boston.- Baltimore.- Miami.- Los Angeles.- Spatial similarities and disparities.- The racialization of neighborhoods.- Red-lining and block-busting.- White flight. Cyclical decline.

Readings:

◆ **Portes, Alejandro and Alex Stepick.** 1993. *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Scott, Allen J. and Edward W. Soja (Editors).** 1996. *The City: Los Angeles and Urban Theory at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 1-22; 76-105; 276-310.

#### **April 26, 28**

**Immigrants and the Transformation of Cities:** Types of migrants.- Labor migration.- The immigrant enclave.- Gender and class in the process of migration.- Self-employment

and business formation.- Formal and informal employment. Immigrant children.-  
Transnational communities.- Ethnic identity and the city.

Readings:

**Fernández-Kelly**, M. Patricia and Richard Schauffler.1994. "Divided Fates  
Immigrant Children in a Restructured Economy." *International Migration  
Review*, 28 xxviii: 662-689.

### *Course Requirements*

- ◆ Attendance is mandatory. Lectures complement readings. During our meetings together we will cover topics that may not be explicitly discussed in the readings. Unjustified absences may result in the subtraction of points from the final grade.
- ◆ Regular attendance to the Colloquium Series on Migration and Development.
- ◆ You are responsible for having read the materials above by the dates indicated.
- ◆ Take home midterm and final exams, consisting of 5 questions each. Each question requires a maximum 3-page double-spaced response.
- ◆ The grading criteria are as follows:
  - a. Familiarity with assigned readings = 33 points
  - b. Clarity of expression and logical coherence = 33 points
  - c. Evidence of comparative analytical ability = 33 points