

# Urban Sociology

Soc158

Lecture: T/TH 5 – 6:15pm

Location: Haines Hall 39

## Instructor: Professor Chris Herring

Office Hours sign-up: <https://calendly.com/profherring/15min>.

Office: Haines 283

Email: [cherring@soc.ucla.edu](mailto:cherring@soc.ucla.edu)

## Teaching Assistants

Dan Chai: [danchai@ucla.edu](mailto:danchai@ucla.edu)

Irene Del Mastro: [idelmastro@ucla.edu](mailto:idelmastro@ucla.edu)

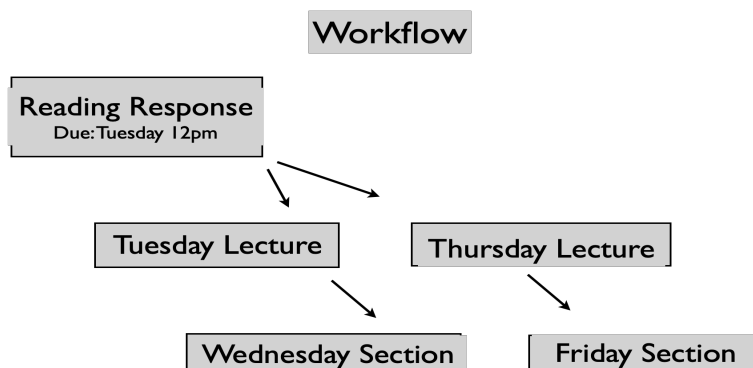
Surya Kumar: [skumar42@ucla.edu](mailto:skumar42@ucla.edu)

Leah Jacobson: [lcjacobson@ucla.edu](mailto:lcjacobson@ucla.edu)

## Overview of the Course

This course will introduce students to the study of urbanization in sociology with a focus on the US. First, we explore core theoretical and methodological approaches to studying the city through foundational texts, focusing on US urbanization in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Second, we study key dimensions of postwar urban restructuring marked by mass suburbanization, urban decline, and the new class, racial, and political divisions that this formed. The final part of the course considers the interrelationships of contemporary urban issues including globalization, gentrification, urban enclaves, the suburbanization of poverty, housing and houselessness, policing and community safety, cities and environmental crisis, and struggles over the right to the city. Across all three parts of the course, we will trace how class and racial inequality are produced, manifested, and challenged through urbanization and the city.

## Course Design and Workflow



Readings and lectures in this course are organized as pairings centered around complimentary readings. Required readings should be completed before each lecture. The weekly reading responses will ask you to relate, compare, or contrast, both sets of readings. These must be completed by Tuesday @12pm before Tuesdays lecture and the week's sections.

Lectures will be centered on the day's assigned readings, but I will only spend 15 or so minutes reviewing the key arguments and concepts from those readings directly. Most of lecture will be spent providing context to the readings and presenting case studies in both the US and abroad. I will also be making connections between the readings and contemporary debates, policies, and struggles around urban issues in LA neighborhoods and other California cities that will be especially relevant to the final papers.

The weekly section is designed to collaboratively discuss the readings and lecture: to interpret and review key arguments; connect and compare the distinctions between thinkers; and extend the authors' lessons and ideas to our own areas of interest and personal experiences. The TA's role is to clarify points from the readings and lecture and to facilitate discussion. *Your* role is to come prepared by 1) having read and ruminated over the materials each week *prior* to section meeting. 2) having attended lecture; and 3) having taken time to think about your own reactions and questions to *both* the reading and lecture.

## Evaluation and Grading

### Section Attendance and Engagement (10%)

Sections meet once a week, and we will continuously be building comparisons and contrasts across the works covered. Therefore, attendance is crucial. You are allowed one unexcused, no-questions asked absences. *For each additional unexcused absence, your attendance grade will decrease by a full letter grade.* Be punctual out of respect for others in the seminar and the TA - Arriving more than 5 minutes late on two occasions will count as an absence. You must email your TA as far in advance as possible if you expect to miss a class or be late and have a valid reason for doing so or a doctor's note.

### Lecture Attendance (5%)

It is essential and required that you watch or attend each week's lectures before your section. Lecture material will be required on exams and the final paper. All lectures will be video recorded and made available on bruincast. Lectures inherently cannot facilitate the same degree of interaction and engagement as sections. Nonetheless my lectures will engage only with those who are live and in-person, will occasionally include short break-out discussions, and facilitate multiple points for open questions. At the same time, I want to accommodate sickness, medical issues, childcare, emergencies, and people's hectic schedules to maximize your time/effort that you put toward other demands of this course (engaging in section, writing reading responses, studying for exams, composing the final paper). To strike a balance, to earn full credit for lecture attendance it is required that you attend 50% of the semester's lectures in person, which will be registered through a QR code or clicker each lecture. \*\*You are still

expected to watch ALL lectures you do not attend in person prior to section\*\* *Additional attendance will count as extra credit to final course grades! (75% = +.25%, 90% attendance = +.5%)*

### *Reading Responses (10%)*

Each week you will receive a selection of prompts to respond to with a short (250-400 word) response **due by Tuesday 12pm** on Canvas. The purpose of these assignments is to guide your reading and prepare for our weekly discussion. We will engage collectively with these responses during section, and they will serve as key resources for your final paper. You are allowed one skip week without penalty and one late submission. *For each additional missed response, your grade will decrease by a full letter grade.* Prompts will be occasionally reviewed by your TA's. They are not graded on a scale, but on a pass/fail basis, with responses passing if they demonstrate a good faith effort in fulfilling the components as detailed on the "Reading Response Guidelines."

### *Midterm Exam (35%)*

There will be one midterm for the course. You will answer two short essays of 500 words each. You will be given three choices of essay questions of which you can select two to respond to. The midterm will be open-book and posted Thursday Oct. 26 @ 6:30pm, and will be due Wednesday, Nov 1 at 12pm noon.

### *Graded Reading Response (5%)*

One of the weekly reading responses from weeks 6-10 will be randomly selected and graded.

### *Research Essay (35%)*

For the final paper students will write a Research Essay of 1250-1500 words (5 pages double-spaced). Students will be responsible for investigating a place-specific topic in LA or another city/suburb such as gentrification in West Adams, urban (re)development around the LA Olympics, police reform in South LA, the suburbanization of poverty in Irvine, etc. through secondary research (news articles, policy reports, census data, academic articles). You will then be required to utilize readings and lectures from the course to help analyze your case. Details of this assignment will be discussed during week 5. An abstract is due to your TA on week 9. The Research Essay is due Wednesday, December 13 at 5pm.

*\*Lateness Policy: Reading Responses, Exams, and Final Papers will be considered late if they are turned in an hour after the deadline. You will lose ½ letter grade each subsequent day for lateness.*

**Required Texts:** All course materials will be available as downloadable PDFs on Canvas.

**Academic Integrity:** Note that plagiarism is not limited to stealing an entire paper. Using quotes without properly citing them or using ideas without acknowledging their source also constitute plagiarism. <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>. Do your own

work and reference any words that were not originally from you. See Bruin Success with Less Stress: <https://guides.library.ucla.edu/bruin-success> for an interactive online tutorial designed to help students understand intellectual property issues and proper citing techniques.

**Office hours:** All office hours are by appointment at the following link:

<https://calendly.com/profherring/15min> and can be done in person or zoom. Please sign-up for one or two 15-minute slots. If slots are full for the week please sign up for future week. If the day/time of the slots available each week do not work with your schedule, please email me to make a special arrangement. If we make an appointment, I expect you to be punctual. If you must cancel, please contact me at least two hours prior.

**Special accommodations:** If you have special learning needs, please see me as soon as possible. Special needs are defined broadly—this can include a learning disability, athletic participation, parenthood, etc. While you are not required to inform me about personal matters, if you are struggling with the course, it is crucial that you let me know as soon as possible if you'd like help or accommodation. If you wish to request an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501, (310) 206-6083 (telephone device for the deaf). Website: [www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu).

**Writing Resources:** Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources that UCLA provides students to promote better writing skills. You may contact the UCLA Student Writing Center for appointments at [wcenter@ucla.edu](mailto:wcenter@ucla.edu) to receive feedback on your writing. Please see the Writing Center's website at <http://wp.ucla.edu/index.php/home> for further information. The UC-Berkeley Department of Sociology has published a writing guide to promote sociologically informed college writing. It includes very useful tips for composing strong and effective analytic papers as well as for improving your general writing skills: [http://sociology.berkeley.edu/documents/student\\_services/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf](http://sociology.berkeley.edu/documents/student_services/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf)

### Learning Objectives

- Learn how economic forces and social structures such as race, class, government policies and citizen activism influence how cities are socially and spatially organized, and how that has changed over time.
- Acquaint students with the major approaches to the study of cities and urbanization in sociology and equip them to relate those approaches to contemporary urban issues, policies, and debates across varying US contexts and especially LA (evaluated in the final research paper).
- Improve students writing and critical thinking through the practice of weekly responses aimed at making connections between different thinkers and cities covered in the course (evaluated through two rounds of non-graded TA feedback, midterm, and graded reading response in the final weeks)

## Part I: Foundations

### Introduction: Cities, Space, Power

#### Thursday, September 28

- No Lecture Meeting: Watch Course Intro Video
- Read Ahead! First Reading Response due Tuesday, October 3 @12pm for Week 1 Readings, which requires readings for both Tuesday AND Thursday.

### Week 1: Chicago School and Metro Marxism

#### Tuesday, October 3

- Park, Robert and Ernest Burgess. 1925. Selections from *The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment*. Burgess, "The Growth of the City" (47-58). McKenzie, "The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community" (73-79).
- Zorbaugh, Harvey. 1929. Selections from *The Gold Coast and the Slum*. P 46-49; 63-68; 127-158.

#### Thursday, October 5

- Engels, Friedrich. 1845. Selections from *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. "Dedication: To the Working Class of England," "The Industrial Proletariat," "The Great Towns" (23-27; 45-48; 53-60).
- Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Chapter 1 "The Social Construction of Cities" (1-15).\*

### Week 2: The Atlanta School and Ethnic LA

#### Tuesday, October 10

- DuBois, W.E.B. 1899. Selections from *The Philadelphia Negro*. Ch. 2 "The Negro Problem" (5-9). Ch. 7 "Sources of the Negro Population (73-82), Ch 9. "The Occupation of the Negroes" (126-131). Ch.14 "The Causes of Crime and Poverty" (283-286) Ch. 15. "The Environment of the Negro" (287-299). Ch 16 "The Contact of the Races" (322-329).

#### \*Honors Seminar: LA = The Fragmented Metropolis.

- Soja, Ed. 1994. "Los Angeles 1965-1992: Six Geographies of Urban Restructuring." (p7-35).
- Li, Wei. 1998. "Anatomy of a New Ethnic Settlement: The Chinese Ethnoburb in Los Angeles." *Urban Studies* 35(3):479-501.

#### Thursday, October 12

- Laslett, J. 1996. "Historical Perspectives: Immigration and the Rise of a Distinctive Urban Region, 1900-1970". In Waldinger, R. & Bozorgmehr, M., Eds. *Ethnic Los Angeles*. Russell Sage Foundation (39-71).

## Part II: Postwar Suburbanization and the Urban Crisis

### Week 3: Postwar Suburbanization

#### Tuesday, October 17

- Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Selection from Chpt 3. "The City as Growth Machine," (50-75). Selections from Chpt. 5 "How Government Matters" (151-159; 166-171)

#### Thursday, October 19

- Jackson, K. 1985. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. Oxford University Press. Ch. 11, "Federal Subsidies and the Suburban Dream" (190-218).
- Taylor, Keeangha-Yamahta. 2018. "How Real Estate Segregated America." *Dissent*.

### Week 4: Hyper-ghettoization and Resistance\*

#### Tuesday, October 24

- Wacquant, Loïc. 2008. *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Selections from Chpt. 2 "From Communal Ghetto to Hyperghetto" (43-92) Malden, MA: Polity Press

#### \*Honors Seminar: Urban marginality and resistance in LA.

- Nicholls, Walter. 2016. "Politicizing Undocumented Immigrants One Corner at a Time: How Day Laborers Became a Politically Contentious Group." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 40(2):299–320.
- Forrest Stuart. 2016. *Down Out & Under Arrest: Policing and Everyday Life in Skid Row*. Ch 5 "Policing the Police" (205-249)

#### Thursday, October 26

- Bloom, Joshua. 2013. *Black Against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (56-62; 138-152).  
OR
- Watch the Documentary *Black Panther: Vanguard of the Revolution*

#### Thursday, October 26

Midterm Posted at 6:30pm

### Week 5: Midterm

**No Sections or Tuesday Lecture. No reading response, BUT read Sassen and Florida before Thursday lecture. Attend/view Thursday Lecture**

#### Wednesday, November 1

Midterm due at 12pm.

## Part III: Contemporary Topics in Urbanization

**Thursday, November 2**

### Globalization and the New Economy

- Sassen, Saskia. 2012. *Cities in a World Economy*. Ch1 "Place and Production in the Global Economy," (1-22). "The New Inequalities Within Cities." (241-272). New York, Sage.
- Florida, Richard. 2013. "Building the Creative Community." Ch27 in Brown-Saracino, Japonica. 2013. *The Gentrification Debates: A Reader*. Routledge. (345-354).

### Week 6: Gentrification and the Suburbanization of Poverty\*

**Tuesday, November 7**

- Stein, Samuel. 2019. *Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State*. Verso Books. Planning Gentrification (41-75).

### \*Honors Seminar: Gentrification in Global LA

- Huante, Alfredo. 2021. "A Lighter Shade of Brown? Racial Formation and Gentrification in Latino Los Angeles." *Social Problems* 68(1):63–79.
- Lin, Jan. 2021. "10. Boulevard Transition, Hipster Aesthetics, and Anti-Gentrification Struggles in Los Angeles." *Aesthetics of Gentrification*

**Thursday, November 9**

- Freeman, Lance. 2013. "Neighborhood Effects in a Changing Hood." Ch 26 in Brown-Saracino, Japonica. 2013. *The Gentrification Debates: A Reader*. Routledge. (337-343)
- Perez, Gina M. 2013. "Gentrification, Intrapolitan Migration, and the Politics of Place." Ch 24 in Brown-Saracino, Japonica. 2013. *The Gentrification Debates: A Reader*. Routledge. (319-329)

\* Veterans Day is Friday, Nov. 10. Reschedule section?

### Week 7: Housing / Homelessness

**Tuesday, November 14**

- Desmond, Matthew. 2012. "Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty." *American Journal of Sociology* 118(1):88-133.

**Thursday, November 16**

- Herring, Chris. 2019. "Complaint-Oriented Policing: Regulating Homelessness in Public Space." *American Sociological Review* 84(5):769–800.

### Week 8: Housing / Homelessness Continued

**Thanksgiving Week. No Sections. Reading Response still due. Honors Sections Still Meets**

\*Start outlining/researching research essay

**Tuesday, November 21**

- Rosen, Eva. 2020. Selection from “The Voucher Promise”

**\*Honors Seminar: Struggles for Housing and Against Homelessness in LA**

- Selections from Lichterman, Paul. 2020. *How Civic Action Works: Fighting for Housing in Los Angeles*. Vol. 9. Princeton University Press.
- Roy, Ananya, Ashley Bennett, Jennifer Blake, Jonny Coleman, Hannah Cornfield, La Donna Harrell, Terrie Klein, Samuel Lutzker, Hilary Malson, and Jessica Mendez. 2022. *(Dis) Placement: The Fight for Housing and Community After Echo Park Lake*.

**Thursday, November 23**

\*No Class Thanksgiving

**Week 9: Policing and Community Safety**

\*Continue outlining/researching research essay or drafting sections

**Tuesday, November 28**

- Wacquant, Loïc. 2001. “When Ghetto and Prison Mesh.” *Punishment and Society* 3(1). Selections (95-98. 105-120).

**Thursday, November 30**

- Martinez, Cid. 2017. Chapter 1 “Neighborhood Councils: City Hall Competes with the Street for Legitimacy.” *The Neighborhood Has Its Own Rules: Latinos and African Americans in South LA*

**Week 10: Environmental Crisis and Contesting Urban Futures**

**Tuesday, December 5**

\*Start drafting research essay

- Dawson, Ashley. 2017. *Extreme Cities: The Peril and Promise of Urban Life in the Age of Climate Change*. Selections from Ch 1 “Capital Sinks” (31-59)

**Honors Seminar: Contesting Urban Futures**

- Selections from Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette, and Manuel Pastor. 2021. *South Central Dreams: Finding Home and Building Community in South LA*. Vol. 13. NYU Press. Selections from Chapter 6 “Organizing Community, Building Power” (212-243).

**Thursday, December 7**

- Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette, and Manuel Pastor. 2021. *South Central Dreams: Finding Home and Building Community in South LA*. Vol. 13. NYU Press. Selections from Chapter 6 “Organizing Community, Building Power” (212-243).

**Finals**

**Wednesday, December 13**

Research Essay due by 5pm.