



Urban Anthropology

ANTHRO 121J (60130)

TIME & LOCATION

M/W/F 10-10:50am
Room: HICF 100L

REQUIRED BOOKS

1. Bourgois & Schonberg. 2009. *Righteous Dopefiend*. UC Press. ISBN: 9780520254985
2. Zhang, Li. 2010. *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis*. Cornell Univ. Press. ISBN: 0801475627
3. Butler, Octavia. 2000. *Parable of the Sower*. Grand Central Publishing. ISBN: 0446675504

PROFESSOR INFO

Angela C. Jenks, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Mon 5-7pm,
Wed 11-1 or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Over half of the world's population lives in cities, and the United Nations predicts that this proportion will increase to over 70% by 2050. This course draws on a variety of anthropological questions, theoretical approaches, and methodological techniques to examine cities and city life.

We begin by examining the origins and development of cities and the identification of urban areas as sites for investigation in social theory.

In the second part of the class, we turn our attention to the study of urban poverty, interrogating the concept of the "ghetto" and exploring how ethnographers link everyday life on the social periphery to larger historical, political, and economic processes.

Next, we continue to explore the way urban spaces shape identities and communities by examining urbanization and

changing city landscapes outside of the U.S.

Finally, we end the course closer to home, examining Los Angeles and Orange County as postmodern cities that often form the basis for dystopian views of the urban future.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

- ◆ Apply an anthropological approach to the analysis of local, national, and global urban issues.
- ◆ Analyze ways in which the built environment both shapes and is shaped by sociocultural, political, & economic processes.
- ◆ Trace the development of theoretical interest in the city and critically evaluate theoretical approaches to understanding urban problems.



Course Website

Information for this course can be found through the EEE system at <https://eee.uci.edu/13f/60130>.

The course website includes links to readings, assignment information, lecture slides and handouts, discussion forums, and information about campus resources.

Course Requirements

Activities and Quizzes (15% of grade)

The weekly class sessions are a main source of learning for the course. Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session.

There will be multiple activities throughout the quarter that are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we have been learning in class. These may include quizzes, short reflections, film viewing guides, or other activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted. Missing more than two activities will have a negative effect on your grade in the class.

Riding the Bus Exercise (20% of grade)

For this project, choose an [OCTA](#) or [LA Metro](#) bus route that you can ride (in one direction) for at least 45 minutes. Ride the bus during daylight hours and take detailed notes about what you see on the bus and out the windows. Think about the following questions:

What areas are you riding through? Can you see changes as you move from one neighborhood to another?

What kinds of sidewalk activities do you observe (walking, jogging, street performers, vendors, etc.)?

What forms of land use do you see? Do you see mostly businesses, residences, or public areas? What do the

buildings look like? What kinds of signs do you see? Do you see graffiti, murals, or public art? Who gets on and off the bus?

Write a 1,000-word reflection in which you draw on course readings and discussions to report on your observations and conclusions. Additional information and a grading rubric will be distributed on the course website.

Midterm & Final Exams (40% of grade)

There will be one in-class midterm and a cumulative, take-home final exam. Exams will contain multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essay questions. Make-up and late exams will only be accepted in extraordinary (and well documented) situations.



Course Requirements, continued

Research Project (25% of grade)

For this research project, choose any topic related to the study of urban spaces or communities, whether it has been discussed in class or not. For example, you may want to learn more about issues in urban housing, education, health, or sustainability. Alternatively, you might use a combination of library and observational/ethnographic research to investigate a particular location in the area.

Complete the project in three stages:

1. **Proposal (15 points):** Write a 1-paragraph (~150 words) description of your research topic, and include the references for at least 3 scholarly sources you plan to use to begin research.

2. **Outline (25 points):** Write a 1-2 page outline of your paper, identifying your thesis statement and the arguments/evidence you will use to support it.
3. **Paper (60 points):** Write a 1500 word (~6 double-spaced pages plus a bibliography) paper analyzing and presenting your findings.

This project will be discussed more during class sessions and a grading rubric will be posted to the course website. Feel free to talk with the professor about your topic ideas, and remember that there are a variety of other resources available. The Anthropology Reference Librarian, Ms. Pauline Manaka, has developed an [online guide to Anthropology scholarship](#), and the [UCI Writing Center](#) offers drop-in peer consultations for students at any stage of the writing process.

GRADING

ACTIVITIES & QUIZZES	60 PTS
RIDING THE BUS EXERCISE	80 PTS
MIDTERM EXAM	80 PTS
FINAL EXAM	80 PTS
RESEARCH PROJECT	
Proposal	15 PTS
Outline	25 PTS
Final Paper	60 PTS
TOTAL	400 PTS

GRADING SCALE (PTS)

A+ ≥ 386	A ≥ 374	A- ≥ 360
B+ ≥ 346	B ≥ 334	B- ≥ 320
C+ ≥ 306	C ≥ 294	C- ≥ 280
D+ ≥ 266	D ≥ 254	D- ≥ 240
F ≤ 240		

Q&A

Course Policies

What's the best way to contact the professor?

To speak in person, come to my office hours on Monday or Wednesday afternoons or make an appointment. Email (ajenks@uci.edu) is generally the best way to contact me. During the week (M-F), I will respond to messages within 24 hours. Remember to include the name of the course in the subject line and your full name in your message.

I missed class. What should I do?

You are responsible for all material covered in class. In-class activities cannot be made up, although missing one activity will not have an effect on your grade. If you must miss a class session, check the course website to access any handouts and presentation slides, and ask another student for a copy of the notes.

Can I use my phone or laptop in class?

Electronic devices are useful tools but often distract from learning. Make sure your cell phones and mp3 players are silenced and put away during class. You may use a laptop/tablet in class, but only to take notes or access class materials like lecture slides. If you bring a laptop, please sit in the back row or against the side wall to avoid distracting other students.

What if I need an accommodation because of a disability?

The UCI Disability Services Center ensures access to educational programs and resources for all students. If you believe you need an accommodation because of the impact of a disability, please contact them at 949-824-7494 or visit <http://disability.uci.edu/> and bring your faculty notification letter to me.

Can I turn the paper in late or take a make-up exam?

Make-up or late exams will only be accepted in extraordinary and well-documented situations. Other assignments will lose 5 points a day for each day of lateness.

I think my grade is incorrect. What should I do?

If you believe there is a mathematical error in the calculation of your grade, please email me. Requests for a regrade should be submitted in writing. Please provide your original assignment and a detailed explanation of how you believe your work meets the requirements of the assignment/rubric.

What is the course policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty?

Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself. Violations of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in no credit for the assignment and possible course failure and referral for disciplinary action. If you are unfamiliar with UCI's policies on academic integrity, please go to <http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm>

Course Schedule & Assignments (Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 0: Introduction	Fri, 9/27	No readings.	
Week 1: Origins of Cities and Early Sociological Approaches	Mon, 9/30	Childe, V. Gordon. 1950. "The Urban Revolution." <i>Town Planning Review</i> 21:3-17. Sjoberg, Gideon. 1955. "The Preindustrial City." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 60(5):438-445.	
	Wed, 10/2	Engels, Friedrich. 1845. "The Great Towns." In <i>Condition of the Working Class in England</i> . Aldous, Joan, Emile Durkheim, and Ferdinand Tonnies. 1972. "An Exchange between Durkheim and Tonnies on the Nature of Social Relations." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 77(6):1191-1200.	
	Fri, 10/4	Weber, Max. 1969[1921]. "The Nature of the City." Pg. 23-46 in <i>Classic Essays on the Culture of Cities</i> . R. Sennett, ed. Simmel, Georg. 1969[1903]. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Pg. 47-60 in <i>Classic Essays on the Culture of Cities</i> , R. Sennett, ed.	
Week 2: Chicago School, Migration, and Ethnic Enclaves	Mon, 10/7	Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." <i>The American Journal of Sociology</i> 44(1):1-24. Burgess, Ernest W. 1967[1925]. "The Growth of the City: An Intro to a Research Project." Pg. 47-62 in <i>The City</i> , Park et al., eds.	
	Wed, 10/9	Drake and Cayton. 1945. <i>The Black Metropolis</i> . Excerpt.	
	Fri, 10/11	Anderson, Kay. 1987. "The Idea of Chinatown." <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 77(4):580-598. Foner, Nancy. 2010. "Transnationalism, Old and New: New York Immigrants." Pg. 363-377 in <i>Urban Life</i> , Gmelch et al., eds.	
Week 3: The Culture of Poverty and the Underclass Approach	Mon, 10/14	Foster, George and Robert V. Kemper. 2010. "Anthropological Fieldwork in Cities." Pg. 5-19 in <i>Urban Life</i> , Gmelch et al., eds. Lewis, Oscar. 1966. "The Culture of Poverty." <i>Scientific American</i> 215(4):19-25.	
	Wed, 10/16	Wilson, William Julius. 1987. <i>The Truly Disadvantaged</i> . Excerpt. Bourgois & Schonberg, <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> , Introduction.	
	Fri, 10/18	Bourgois & Schonberg, <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> , Chapters 1-3.	Research project proposal

Course Schedule & Assignments, cont. (Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 4: Representing the "Ghetto": Race and Class in Urban Ethnography	Mon, 10/21	Bourgois & Schonberg, <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> , Chapter 4-5. Stack, Carol B. 1974. <i>All Our Kin</i> . Excerpt.	
	Wed, 10/23	Bourgois & Schonberg, <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> , Chapter 6-7. Newman, Katherine. 2000. <i>No Shame in My Game</i> . Excerpt.	
	Fri, 10/25	Bourgois & Schonberg, <i>Righteous Dopefiend</i> , Chapter 8-9, Concl. Wacquant, Loic. 1997. "Three Pernicious Premises in the Study of the American Ghetto." <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> 21(2):341-353.	Riding the Bus Exercise
Week 5: Urban Inequality and Disasters	Mon, 10/28	Klinenberg, Eric. 1999. "Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave." <i>Theory and Society</i> 28:239-295. Stein and Preuss. 2006. "Oral History, Folklore, and Katrina." Pg. 37-58 in <i>There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster</i> , Squires and Hartman, eds.	
	Wed, 10/30	No readings: Review and catch up.	
	Fri, 11/1	MIDTERM EXAM	Midterm in class
Week 6: Global Cities and the Production of Space	Mon, 11/4	Webber, Melvin M. 2011[1968]. "The Post City Age." Pg. 549-553 in <i>The City Reader</i> , LeGates and Stout, eds. Sassen, Saskia. 2011. "The Impact of the New Technologies and Globalization on Cities." Pg. 554-562 in <i>The City Reader</i> , LeGates and Stout, eds.	
	Wed, 11/6	Low, Setha M. 1999. "Spatializing Culture: The Social Production and Social Construction of Public Space in Costa Rica." Pg. 111-137 in <i>Theorizing the City</i> , Setha Low, ed. Zhang, <i>In Search of Paradise</i> , Introduction and Chapter 1	
	Fri, 11/8	Zhang, <i>In Search of Paradise</i> , Chapters 2-3.	

Course Schedule and Assignments (Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 7: Community, Identity, and Urban Space	Mon, 11/11	NO CLASS: Veteran's Day	
	Wed, 11/13	Gabiam, Nell. 2010. "Rethinking Camps: Palestinian Refugees in Damascus, Syria." Pg. 144-156 in <i>Urban Life</i> , Gmelch, et al. Zhang, <i>In Search of Paradise</i> , Chapters 4-5.	Research project outline
	Fri, 11/15	Ghannam, Farha. 2008. "Two Dreams in a Global City: Class and Space in Urban Egypt." Pg. 267-287 in <i>Other Cities, Other Worlds</i> , Andreas Huyssen, ed. Zhang, <i>In Search of Paradise</i> , Chapters 6-7, Epilogue.	
Week 8: The LA School	Mon, 11/18	McWilliam, Carey. 1946. <i>Southern California: An Island on the Land</i> . Excerpt.	
	Wed, 11/20	Dear, Michael. 2002. "Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a Debate." <i>City and Community</i> 1(1):5-32. Spain, Daphne. 2011. "What Happened to Gender Relations on the Way from Chicago to Los Angeles?" Pg. 176-185 in <i>The City Reader</i> , LeGates & Stout, eds.	
	Fri, 11/22	Davis, Mike. "Fortress LA." Pg. 222-63 in <i>City of Quartz</i> and "How Eden Lost its Garden" in <i>Ecology of Fear</i> .	
Week 9: The Postmodern and Hypermodern City	Mon, 11/25	Soja, Edward. "Inside Exopolis: Scenes from Orange County" and Sorkin, Michael. "See You in Disneyland." Pg. 94-122 and 205-232 in <i>Variations on a Theme Park</i> . Sorkin, ed.	
	Wed, 11/27	Miles, Steven. 2012. "The Neoliberal City and the Pro-Active Complicity of the Citizen Consumer." <i>J of Consumer Culture</i> 12(2):216-230.	
	Fri, 11/29	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	
Week 10: Urban Dystopia	Mon, 12/2	Fine, David. 2000. "Endings and Beginnings: Surviving Apocalypse." Pg. 231-257 in <i>Imagining Los Angeles</i> . Butler, Octavia. <i>Parable of the Sower</i> . Chapters 1-13.	
	Wed, 12/4	Butler, Octavia. <i>Parable of the Sower</i> . Chapters 14-25.	
	Fri, 12/6	No readings.	Research paper final draft
Final Exam	Mon, Dec 9, 10:30am-12:30pm		Take home final exam due by 12:30pm