Urban America: 
Construction and Consequence
Fall Quarter, 2017
T., Th. 9:30 am -11:00 pm
SE2 1304

Course Objectives:

Students in this course will examine the historical, social, political and economic factors that contributed to the construction of the American urban context as we know it – a context that is highly poverty concentrated and racially/ethnically segregated. Students will also critically assess the consequence of growing up in America’s urban neighborhoods as it relates to education, delinquency, health and other individual and group outcomes.

Grading:

Students are expected to complete all readings and be prepared for discussion in class. Student learning will be assessed based upon performance in the following assignments.

1.) Midterm exam 30%
2.) Paper 30%
3.) Final Exam 30%
4.) Participation 10%

Assignments:

1.) **Mid-term exam.** It will be multiple-choice and have short answer questions (scantron and blue book) to test students’ understanding of the reading and lecture material.
2.) **Paper:** The paper will be 4-5 pages and will discuss and analyze a specific topic chosen from a list provided in class.

3.) **Final Exam.** It will be multiple-choice and short answer/essay (scantron and blue book) and will comprehensively test students' knowledge of course concepts and how they are used.

4.) **Participation.** Students will be evaluated based on their attendance to class, participation in class discussion and engagement with class material during office hours with the professor and/or teaching assistant.

In addition, students can expect **three pop quizzes** during the quarter. These will count for participation (3% each).

**Required Readings/Books to Purchase**


**Weekly Topics, Readings and Assignments**

**WEEK ZERO**

**INTRODUCTION**

9/28 Thursday

- Optional:


**WEEK ONE**

**SLUMS AND CREATION OF THE Ghetto**

10/3 Tuesday

- Readings:


• Optional: Segregated From Its History, How 'Ghetto' Lost Its Meaning

10/5, Thursday

• Readings:

  o Massey and Denton. Ch. 2 p. 26—42


• Optional: Mapping Inequality: Redlining in the New Deal Era.

WEEK TWO MIGRATION, NATIVISM & THE HARDENING OF RACIAL & CLASS LINES

10/10 Tuesday

• Readings:


10/12 Thursday

• Readings:


  o Optional: View documentary Harvest of Loneliness

WEEK THREE EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES, PRACTICES & GROWING
ISOLATION

10/17 Tuesday

• Readings:


10/19 Thursday

• Readings:

  o Massey and Denton. Ch. 2 pp. 42-59 (pick up from week 1)

  • Optional: The Making of Ferguson, Public Policies at the Root of Its Troubles

WEEK FOUR

EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES, PRACTICES & GROWING ISOLATION

10/24, Tuesday

• Readings:

  o Katznelson. Ch. 4-6 pp. 80-172 (especially chapters 4 & 5)

10/26, Thursday

  o Readings Katznelson. Complete

WEEK FIVE

10/31 Tuesday

Deindustrialization and a Changing Economy

• Readings:

Watch City Rising: Chapter 1 Legacy

11/2 Thursday      THE RISE OF INEQUALITY & POVERTY CONCENTRATION

• Readings:
  
  o Midterm Exam  Bring Scantron and pencils

WEEK SIX      THE RISE OF INEQUALITY & POVERTY CONCENTRATION (Cont.)

11/7 Tuesday     Film and Discussion: Inequality for All

• Readings:

  o Read “Cul-de-Sac Poverty,” The New York Times

  o The Foreclosure Crisis and Its Impact on Today's Housing Market


11/9 Thursday

• Readings:

  o Watch City Rising: Chapter 2 Resiliency

    o Read: The History of South Central Los Angeles and Its Struggle with Gentrification

    o The Rise of Residential Segregation by Income

WEEK SEVEN      PERSISTENCE OF THE COLOR LINE & POST 1965 IMMIGRATION

11/14 Tuesday

• Readings:

  o Massey, Douglas. 2007. Post-Civil Rights Era Discrimination in Ch. 3 p. 74-93


11/16 Thursday

• Readings:


  o Listen to NPR interview: Segregation In America: 'Dragging On And On'

WEEK 8 SCHOOLS AND PRISONS

11/21 Tuesday Schooling in the Urban Metropolitan Landscape

• Readings:

    o Massey, Douglas. 2007. Ch 3 “Reworking the Color Line” pp. 93-112

11/23 Thursday Thanksgiving Break -- Enjoy

• Readings:


  o Start reading Rios: Punished

  o Optional: Listen to excerpts from “Harper High School, Prologue & Part 1.” 2013. This American Life with Ira Glass

WEEK NINE SCHOOLS AND PRISONS (cont.)

11/28 Tuesday
• Readings:

11/30 Thursday

• Readings:
  o Rios, Victor. 2011. PART II: Consequences pp. 95-167
  o **Watch City Rising: Chapter 3 Return to the City**
  o Optional: Harry Gamboa’s *Chicano Male Unbounded*

**PAPER DUE: Friday, 12/5 @ 5pm**

WEEK TEN  NEW DIRECTIONS IN URBAN AMERICA

12/5 Tuesday  *Gentrification or Gentefication?*

• Readings:
  o **Watch City Rising: Chapter 4 Impact**
  o Optional: *Read: New Faces and a Contentious Revival*

12/7 Thursday  Overview of Urban American Course

o **Watch City Rising: Chapter 5 Mobilization**

**FINALS WEEK**

Final: Thursday, December 14, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 am.
Recommended Reading

