

San Jose State University
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science Department
SOCI 161-01: The City Life

Semester: Fall 2024

Instructor: Sneha Dutta Hazarika

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Units: 3

Classroom: DMH, Rm. 226A

Class Time: TR 1.30 – 2:45pm

Office Location: DMH 237A

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-1:00 pm
and by appointment (zoom)

Course Description:

This course will examine “the city as a setting for diverse lifestyles. Challenges facing urban dwellers and adaptive strategies they take. Comparison of city, suburb and rural countryside as social environments”. Specifically, it will examine historical and contemporary urban life in the US and in the international context. Additionally, the course will explore urbanization, communities, race, geography, urban and suburban cultures and lifestyles, stratification, housing, crime, economic and environmental issues, demographic changes.

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals:

In this course, the students will

- Examine the sociological theories to urban development and cities.
- Examine the growth and development of cities in United States and elsewhere.
- Examine the different experiences of people living in the cities based on race, class, ethnicity, gender in the United States and elsewhere.
- Examine metropolitan issues related to housing, sprawl, slums, and planning.
- Examine social problems in urban spaces like crime, homelessness, gangs, and poverty.
- Experience analyzing CA policies related to growth, sprawl, and public transportation.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

By the end of the course, students will

- The students will be able to evaluate and critically examine sociological arguments and data on growth and development of cities and urban spaces.



- The students will have opportunities to improve their writing skills and engage in open-minded dialogue on issues pertaining to urban sociology.
- Students will be able to understand how the city is shaped by the interests of the powerful and privileged, and how such interests produce inequalities of race, class, and gender.
- The students will have multiple opportunities to work collaboratively in diverse groups through discussions to understand the value of civic engagement and develop urban social policies to solve contemporary issues related to the cities and urban development.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of local, national, and global policies and practices that contribute to urbanization and development of cities and strategies for developing alternatives to the social problems related to urbanization.
- The student will be able to critically read, interpret, and analyze readings on urban sociology.

Required Reading:

- Palen, J, John, 2019, *The Urban World*, Oxford University Press, 11th Edition. The E book is available for purchase at [vital source](#). The price is \$54.99. Print ISBN: 9780190903169, 0190903163 and eText ISBN 9780190903190, 0190903198.
- ***Additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

Composition of Grade:

Final grading is based on one icebreaker activity, seven quizzes, one reflection paper, ten group discussions, and three film/video commentaries.

2 Online Writing Assignments	20 points
3 Online Exams	150 points
4 Film/Video Commentaries	20 points
7 Online Quizzes	90 points
12 Group Discussions	120 points
Total	400 points

Grading Summary:

The following is the grading summary.

94-100%=A	73-76% = C
90-93% = A-	70-72% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
83-86% = B	64-66% = D
80-82% = B-	60%-63% = D-
77-79% = C+	Below 59% = F

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation:

It is very important that each student attend class regularly. The course will meet in person every Tuesday and Thursday from 1.30 pm to 2:45pm. Please complete the necessary coursework for each given week, attend in – person class meetings, reading the assigned materials, reviewing PowerPoints, complete the online writing assignments, the online quizzes and the reflection paper in addition to participating in class and group discussions. Additionally, please refer to emails and Canvas communications for updates on the course. I do not take attendance but if you are absent on a day when there is an in-class activity or discussion, you will not be allowed to make up for it unless you provide documentation for your absence. **However, I reserve the right to determine whether or not your circumstances are excusable.**

Film/Video Commentaries:

Students will be able to view/watch four (4) documentaries/films as a part of the course content. Additionally, each student is required to write a short commentary on four (4) of the documentaries/films/videos. Each commentary is worth 5 points. Details will be posted on Canvas under Film commentaries. The commentaries are required to be submitted on Padlet. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Group Discussions:

To develop a community of energetic and committed learners, you are asked to engage in group discussions during class meetings. Students are REQUIRED to develop and participate in discussions in a timely and appropriate manner following the course schedule. The discussions would indicate and reflect your learning from the course materials, your ability to apply these concepts and to reason clearly from the premises. The purpose of the discussions is to promote the development of an analytic approach toward the study of sociology. Our task in these discussions is to use scholarly ideas to understand social realities and behaviors. Only factual and scholarly tools, and academic analyses are acceptable. Please exert extraordinary care and caution in addressing issues with others because of the sensitivity of the material. Please do not criticize the values, beliefs or practices of others. Please be very careful to not offend, diminish or degrade others or their contributions in any manner. During the semester, students are required to participate and complete twelve (12) group discussions. Each discussion is worth 10 points. Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.

Online Writing Assignments:

Students are required to complete two (2) writing assignments/activities throughout the semester. Each assignment is 10 points. I give very specific topic for the writing assignments pertaining to the weekly readings. There is no specific format for these in-class writing assignments but emphasis will be given on the content such as applying critical thinking and analytical reasoning to address complex challenges and problems related to the subject matter. Please read the required materials for

the week and be prepared to complete the writing assignments online using Journal available on Canvas. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Online Quizzes:

Students are required to complete five (5) quizzes based on the reading materials. The quizzes will contain multiple choice questions, true/false, short descriptive questions. Please refer to the course schedule for the dates. There will be no makeups for the quizzes. Each quiz must be completed by the end of the scheduled week. Each quiz is worth 15 points. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Online Exams:

Students are required to complete three (3) exams throughout the semester. These exams will be worth 50 points each. The exams are in the form of multiple choice, true/false and short essay questions. Study guides will be made available two weeks before the due dates. **Please refer to the due dates in the course schedule/calendar.**

Missed Exams – Exams are scheduled well in advance so discretionary activity should be scheduled around these dates. Missed exams will be counted as a zero (0) except for extraordinary circumstances.

Class Policies

Conduct and Etiquette:

Be respectful of your classmates and instructor. In any classroom, there is a diffusion of responsibility. In any discussion, attacks of a personal nature or use of slurs will not be tolerated. Disagreement and debates are welcome if conducted in a civil manner. While disagreeing with your fellow classmates during discussion forum boards, I encourage you to use the phrase “I disagree with you rather than I think you are wrong”.

Emails, Communications, and Response Time

If you have any questions about the course, please email me using your Canvas account and or my Gmail account and address me as Professor Dutta or Dr. Dutta. I will respond to your emails within 36-48 hours. I will also send periodic emails regarding important updates, such as reminders about upcoming quizzes and exams. For grading assignments and exams, please allow 7 to 10 days for feedback and grades.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](#) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Academic Integrity Policy

According to the University’s Academic Integrity Policy, cheating is “the act of obtaining credit, attempting to obtain credit, or assisting others to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means, while plagiarism is “the act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. The university’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at: <https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/SJSU-Academic-Integrity-Policy-F15-7.pdf> . If I determine there has been a violation of this policy, students will receive an automatic F for the paper. In addition, I may file a report with the Academic Affairs Judicial Officer regarding the violation of the academic integrity policy.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[Presidential Directive 97-03 \[pdf\]](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability. AEC will contact the instructor with further details, if needed. If special arrangements are needed in cases of emergency or if the building must be evacuated, please make arrangements with the instructor.

Timely Feedback on Class Assignments

Per [Timely Feedback on Assignments Policy S20-2 \[pdf\]](#), all students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. The instructor would normally take 7 to 10 days to provide feedback and grades.

Workload and Credit Hour Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Writing Center

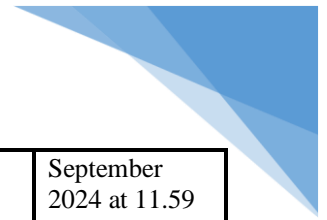
The SJSU [Writing Center](#) offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. The center offers writing resources, workshops, and one-on-one and small-group tutoring sessions. Services support writing for students in all disciplines and at all levels. Workshops and tutoring are also available online. Visit their website to make an appointment, or to use the many online resources available. You can also visit them on the 2nd floor of the MLK Library.



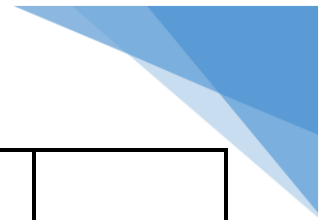
Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2024

The course schedule is a tentative and general plan for the course
Adjustments may have to be made and will be announced in class

Dates	Chapters	SLOs	Assessments
08/22/2024	Introduction and Syllabus Overview	Students will be able to examine the course syllabus and review the expectations as well as participate in a short online syllabus quiz; Students will learn about one another in the course	Introductions
08/27/2024	<i>Chapter 1: The Urban World</i> Watch a Video <i>Urban Wisdom</i> https://fod-infobase-com.proxylib.csueastbay.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=32481	Examine urban development and growth of cities and engage in informal discussion among peers on urbanization	Class Discussion
08/29/2024	***Jacobs, Jane. 2015. “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety.” In <i>The City Reader</i> , edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, 6th ed., 149–53. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge	Examine urban development and growth of cities as well as work collaboratively among peers to discuss urban development	Group Discussion#1
09/03/2024	<i>Chapter 2: The Emergence of Cities</i> Review chapter 2 and PowerPoint. Online Quiz#1 is based on chapter 1 and the reading by Jane Jacobs.	Examine the development of cities in preindustrial and industrial world; and urban revolution as well as demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology through a quiz	Online Quiz#1 due by Thursday 3 rd September 2024 at 11.59 pm
09/05/2024	***Reading: Burgess, Ernest W. [1925]. 1967. “The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project”, in <i>The City</i> by Robert E. Park, Ernest W. Burgess, and Roderick D. McKenzie, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.	Examine urban development and growth of cities as well as work collaboratively among peers to discuss urban development	Group Discussion#2
09/10/2024	<i>Chapter 3: The Rise of Urban America</i>	Examine the growth of urban America as well as	Online Quiz#2 due by Thursday 12 th



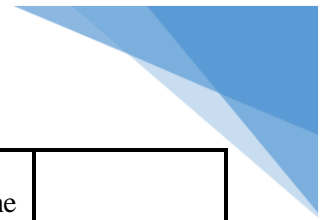
	Review chapter 3 and PowerPoint. Online Quiz#2 is based on chapter 2 and the reading by Ernest Burgess.	demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology through a quiz	September 2024 at 11.59 pm
09/12/2024	<i>Chapter 4: Ecology and Political Economy Perspective</i>	Examine and evaluate theories on urbanization and work collaboratively among peers to discuss urban development	Group Discussion#3
09/17/2024	<i>Chapter 5: Metro and Edge City Growth</i> Review chapter 5 and PowerPoint. Online Quiz#3 is based on chapters 3 and 4.	PLO1/PL06 Examine the growth and development of metro and edge cities as well as demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology through a quiz	Online Quiz#3 due by Thursday 19 th September 2024 at 11.59 pm
09/19/2024	*** Mckee, David L. and Mckee, Yosra A. 2001. “Edge Cities and the Viability of Metropolitan Economies: Contributions to Flexibility and External Linkages by New Urban Service Environments” in <i>The American Journal of Economics and Sociology</i> . <i>Review for Exam#1</i>	Examine and evaluate the growth of metropolitan areas. Demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology	Prepare for Exam#1
09/24/2024	<i>Chapter 6: The Suburban Era</i> Review chapter 6 and PowerPoint. Online Quiz#4 is based on chapters 6 and 7	Examine, interpret, analyze suburbanization as well as demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology through a quiz	
09/26/2024	<i>Online Exam#1 on Canvas</i>	Demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology and city life	Online Exam#1 due by Thursday 26 th September 2024 at 11.59 pm
10/01/2024	<i>Chapter 7: Urban Culture and Lifestyle</i> Online Quiz#4 is based on chapters 6 and 7.	Examine, interpret, analyze the heterogenous culture of the city and work collaboratively with peers to discuss urban culture. Demonstrate the knowledge of	Group Discussion#4 Online Quiz#4 due by Thursday 3 rd October 2024 at 11.59 pm



		urban sociology through a quiz	
10/03/2024	<p>***Anderson, Elijah. 2011. “The Code of the Streets” in <i>Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity</i>, edited by Charles Gallagher, Fifth Edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.</p> <p>***Mattson, Greggor. 2015. “Style and the value of gay nightlife: Homonormative placemaking in San Francisco” in <i>Urban Studies</i>. Vol. 52(16) 3144–3159. Urban Studies Journal Limited 2014</p>	Examine urban development and evaluate the varied experiences of people living in the cities as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss urban development	Group Discussion#5
10/08/2024	<p>Watch a Documentary</p> <p><i>Paris is Burning</i></p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI7EhpY2yaA</p> <p>Watch a Documentary</p>	Examine, interpret, analyze, and evaluate issues pertaining to urban development and lifestyles of people living in the cities as well as develop writing skills	Film/Video Commentary #1 on Padlet due by Thursday 10 th October 2024, at 11.59 pm.
10/10/2024	<p>*** Siddiqui, Sabena. 2018. “Homeless In America.” In <i>International Policy Digest</i>.</p> <p>https://intpolicydigest.org/author/sabena-siddiqui/</p> <p>***Duncan, James. 2012. “Men Without Property: The Tramp Classification and Use of Urban Space” in <i>The Urban Sociology Reader</i>, edited by Jan Lin and Christopher Mele. NYC: Routledge.</p>	Examine urban development and analyze and evaluate the social issues and problems of urbanization as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss urban development	Group Discussion#6
10/15/2024	<p><i>Chapter 8: The Social Environment of Metro Areas: Strangers, Crowding, Homelessness, and Crime</i></p> <p>Review chapter 8 and PowerPoint</p>	Examine urban development and analyze and evaluate the social issues and problems experienced by city dwellers and develop writing skills	Online Writing Assignment#1 by Thursday 17 th October 2024 at 11.59 pm
10/17/2024	<p>***Melissa R. Gilbert. 2012. “Race, Space, and Power: The survival strategies of working poor women” in <i>The Urban Sociology Reader</i>, edited by Jan Lin and Christopher Mele. NYC: Routledge.</p> <p>***Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 2012. “Segregation and Making of the Underclass” in <i>The Urban Sociology Reader</i>, edited by Jan Lin and Christopher Mele. NYC: Routledge.</p>	Examine, interpret, and evaluate social inequalities experienced of minority groups such as poor women and African Americans living in the cities as well as work	Group Discussion#7

	<p>***Shaer, Matthew. 2019. “How Cities Make Money by Fining the Poor.”</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/08/magazine/cities-fine-poor-jail.html.</p>	collaboratively with peers to discuss power, privilege, and inequalities	
10/22/2024	<p><i>Chapter 9: Diversity: Women, Ethnic, and African Americans</i></p> <p>Review chapter 9 and PowerPoint. Online Quiz#5 is based on chapters 8 and 9.</p>	Examine, interpret, and analyze the varied experiences of minority groups living in the cities as well as demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology through a quiz	Online Quiz#5 due by Thursday 24 th October 2024 at 11.59 pm
10/24/2024	<i>Review for Exam#2</i>	Demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology and city life	Prepare for exam
10/29/2024	<p><i>Chapter 10. Diversity: Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans</i></p> <p>*** Camarillo, Alberto. 2007. “Cities of Color: The New Racial Frontier in California's Minority-Majority Cities” in <i>Pacific Historical Review</i>. Vol. 76, No. 1 (February 2007), pp. 1-28.</p>	Examine, interpret and evaluate the varied experiences of racial and ethnic minorities living in the cities as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss social inequalities	Group Discussion#8
10/31/2024	<i>Online Exam#2 on Canvas</i>	Demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology and city life	Online Exam#2 due by Thursday 31 st October 2024 at 11.59
11/05/2024	<p><i>Chapter 11: Cities and Change</i></p> <p>Review chapter 11 and PowerPoint.</p>	Examine, interpret, analyze the urban crisis as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss cities and change	Group Discussion#9
11/07/2024	<p>*** Reading: Loretta Lees, Tom Slater, and Elvin Wyly, 2008, “Gentrification: Positive or Negative?” in <i>Gentrification</i>, Routledge.</p> <p>*** Richards, Kathleen. 2018. “Forces Driving Gentrification in Oakland”.</p> <p>https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/the-forces-driving-gentrification-in-oakland/Content?oid=20312733.</p>	Examine, interpret and evaluate the process of gentrification specially in Oakland, CA as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss possible changes	Group Discussion#10

11/12/2024	<i>Chapter 12: Housing Policies, Sprawl, and Smart Growth</i> Review chapter 12 and PowerPoint.	Examine, interpret, and analyze urban housing, sprawl and growth and develop writing skills	Online Writing Assignment#2 by Tuesday 12 th November 2024 at 11.59 pm
11/14/2024	*** Jan, Tracy. 2018. "Redlining Was Banned 50 Years Ago. It's Still Hurting Minorities Today." Washington Post. March 28, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/03/28/redlining-was-banned-50-years-ago-its-still-hurting-minorities-today/ *** Rogers, Paul.2017. "New report shows huge gains in Bay Area open space, but nearly 300,000 acres still at risk." https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/01/31/new-report-shows-huge-gains-in-bay-area-open-space-but-nearly-300000-acres-still-at-risk/	Examine, interpret and evaluate the process of urban housing, renewal/redevelopment programs, urban homesteading as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss possible changes	Group Discussion#11
11/19/2024	Watch a Documentary <i>The Fillmore</i> Watch a Documentary	Examine, interpret, analyze, and evaluate issues pertaining to urban renewal and activism as well as develop writing skills	Film/Video Commentary #2 on Padlet due by Thursday 19 th November 2024, at 11.59 pm
11/21/2024	<i>Chapter 14: Developing Countries</i> *** Davis, Mike. 2006. "Planet of Slums." <i>New Perspectives Quarterly</i> 23 (2): 6–11.	Examine, interpret, analyze, and evaluate issues pertaining to urbanization in the developing countries like India as well as work collaboratively with peers to discuss urbanization in developing countries	Group Discussion#12
11/26/2024	Watch a video <i>Slum Cities</i>	Examine, interpret, analyze, and evaluate issues pertaining to urbanization in the developing countries like India as well as develop writing skills	Film/Video Commentary #3 on Padlet due by Tuesday 26 th November 2024, at 11.59 pm.
11/28/2024	Thanksgiving Holiday		No class
12/03/2024	<i>Urban Revolution</i> ***Elshahed, Mohamed. 2011. "Tahrir Square: Social Media, Public Space." <i>Places Journal</i> , February.	PLO1/PLO2/PLO5 Demonstrate knowledge of strategies for	



	<p>https://placesjournal.org/article/tahrir-square-social-media-%20public-space/</p> <p>*** Kilat, Beatrice. 2018. "In Oakland, Artists Try to Build Intentional Community." https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/in-oakland-artists-try-to-build-intentional-community/Content?oid=20313138</p> <p><i>Tahrir Square</i></p> <p>Watch a Documentary</p>	<p>developing alternatives to the social problems related to urbanization as well as develop writing skills</p>	
12/05/2024	<p><i>Review for Final Exam</i></p>	<p>PLO1//PLO2/PLO 5/PL06 Critically examine, interpret, analyze and develop writing skills</p>	<p>Film/Video Commentary #4 on Padlet due by Thursday 5th December 2024, at 11.59 pm.</p>
12/16/2024	<p>Final Exam</p>	<p>Demonstrate the knowledge of urban sociology and city life</p>	<p>Final Exam due by Monday 16th December 2024 at 11.59 pm</p>