

CITIES IN SOCIETY (Sociology 207) – Fall 2016
Tu/Th 3:30 – 4:50, Annenberg G21

Professor Mary Pattillo

Office hours: Thurs 10am – 12pm, 5-111 Crowe, sign up at <https://mpattillonorthwestern.youcanbook.me/>

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TAs: Dominique Adams-Rowena and William Richardson, Office Hours TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to present and examine some of the major issues that cities face. Urban areas are dense settlements of diverse groups of people. Racial, gender, sexual, ethnic, cultural, economic, and political heterogeneity all require negotiation and sometimes lead to conflicts that play out in the streets and neighborhoods of major metropolises. Also, elite political and financial actors in cities have a heavy hand in shaping the direction of urban development and the allocation of resources. We will look at the role of both institutional actors and average city residents in affecting the following urban issues: housing and residential stratification by race and class, poverty, sprawl, crime, education, culture, and immigration.

EVALUATION:

Grades will be based on two exams (worth 20% each), four pop quizzes (worth a total of 10%, you can drop your lowest score), a book review and response (25%), and a final paper (25%).

READINGS:

The following required book is available at Norris Bookstore. It is also on Reserve at the Library. There are also required readings posted on Canvas. Readings are to be completed for the day listed on the syllabus.

Dreier, Peter, Todd Swanstrom, and John H. Mollenkopf. 2014. *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century*. 3rd edition. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.

Below are seven books about Chicago from which you can choose to write your book review and response (see instructions below). A limited number of these books are available at Norris. They are all on Reserve at the Library. You can also find them through various internet vendors. The ones with an asterisk (*) are available for free as e-books through NU's Library. Get the book early so you have enough time to read it and write your paper.

Ghaziani, Amin. 2014. *There Goes the Gayborhood*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.*

Klinenberg, Eric. 2015. *Heatwave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. 2nd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Pattillo, Mary. 2007. *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.*

Shedd, Carla. 2015. *Unequal City: Race, Schools, and Perceptions of Injustice*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Van Cleve, Nicole Gonzalez. 2016. *Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America's Largest Criminal Court*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford Law Books Press.

Vargas, Robert. 2016. *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Walley, Christine. 2013. *Exit 0: Family and Class in Postindustrial Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

EXAMS, PAPERS:

- The first exam is Tuesday, October 18th, during the regular class period in the regular classroom.
- The second exam is on the last day of class, Tuesday, November 22nd, during the regular class period in the regular classroom. The final is not comprehensive, although knowledge of the concepts from the first half is important.
- Both exams will be a series of short answer questions. You will use your laptops and upload your responses to Canvas. **Please contact me asap if you do not have access to a laptop.**
- The pop quizzes are unannounced. They will be short definitions, interpretations of data, or other information about the readings, assignments, or lectures. You can drop your lowest grade (which is the same thing as being absent once without penalty).
- The book review and response is due by 11:59 on Sunday, October 30th on Canvas. Write a 5-page paper on one of the books above about Chicago. The first half of the paper will summarize the author's arguments and findings and present a central urban problem that the book addresses. The second part of the paper will require *you* to be a policymaker, advocate, organizer, elected official, business leader, or concerned resident. You will present your plan or strategy for solving (or at least trying to solve) the problem. More instructions will follow.
- The final paper is due Monday, December 5th by 11:59pm on Canvas. Write a 5-page paper on your home city using one of the topics of the course, or another of your choosing (clear any other topics with the professor or a TA). You may discuss the history of an issue, demographics and trends, causes of a problem, or actual or proposed policy solutions. You must do additional research and reading outside of the course texts. You may use internet sources, but must not rely on them solely. That is, you must use scholarly books and journal articles on your city. More instructions will follow.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

- I have a No Laptop Policy during the class. Research by Northwestern faculty members shows that in-class laptop use has a negative effect on class performance (see <http://www.northwestern.edu/magazine/spring2014/campuslife/digital-distractions.html>)
- Of course, if there are no laptops, that means no tablets, smart phones, smart watches, etc.
- Please review information on academic integrity at <http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/academic.html>. All forms of academic dishonesty – copying from a neighbor, cutting and pasting from websites without attribution, using other people's ideas/papers from the internet, having notes on your computer during an exam – will be immediately reported to the Dean's Office.
- All late papers will be downgraded 5% (e.g., a 100pt paper will have 5 pts deducted for each 24hrs late).
- I do not grant extensions for any reason other than serious illness or a family emergency.
- ACCESSIBLE NU: Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and provide me with an accommodation notification, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

Week 1: Overview

9/20 Course Introduction

9/22 Definitions and Demographics

- Visit <http://factfinder.census.gov/> and explore data for your hometown. Other sites: <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/>, <http://diversitydata.org/>, and www.socialexplorer.com
- David Kirp, et al., “Shades of Fear - *Mount Laurel* and Beyond” (on Canvas)
- *Place Matters*, Chpt 1

Week 2: Theory

9/27 Classical Theory

- Ferdinand Tönnies, “Community and Society” (on Canvas)
- W.E.B. Du Bois, “The Philadelphia Negro” (on Canvas)
- Louis Wirth, “Urbanism as a Way of Life” (on Canvas)

9/29 Contemporary Theory. IN-CLASS FILM: “Taken for a Ride” and discussion

- Harvey Molotch, “The City as a Growth Machine” (on Canvas)
- Saskia Sassen, “Whose City Is It?” (on Canvas)

Week 3: Policy and Planning

10/4 Metropolitan Sprawl

- *Place Matters*, Chpt 4

10/6 Federal and Local Interests

- *Place Matters*, Chpts 5 and 6

Week 4: Segregation

10/11 Economic Segregation

- *Place Matters*, Chpts 2-3

10/13 Racial Segregation

- Michael Bader and Maria Krysan, “Community Attraction and Avoidance in Chicago: What’s Race Got to Do with It?” (on Canvas)
- Richard Wright, et al., “Replacing Whiteness in Spatial Assimilation Research” (on Canvas)

Week 5: EXAM #1 and (Im)migration

10/18 *EXAM #1*

10/20 Re-making Cities and Suburbs

- Philip Kasinitz et al., “Becoming American/Becoming New Yorkers,” (on Canvas)
- Wendy Cheng, “The Changs Next Door to the Diazes” (on Canvas)

Week 6: Culture

10/25 Culture of Cities

- Nina Martin, “Food Fight!” (on Canvas)
- Zandria Robinson, “Post-Soul Blues” (on Canvas)

10/27 Cities in Culture

- Lucy Hewitt and Stephen Graham, “Vertical Cities” (on Canvas)
- Jeffrey L. Kidder, “Parkour, The Affective Appropriation of Urban Space, and the Real/Virtual Dialectic” (on Canvas)

BOOK REVIEW AND RESPONSE IS DUE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 11:59PM ON CANVAS

Week 7: Crime and Criminal Justice

- 11/1 Crime Trends and Criminal “Justice”
- Ingrid Gould Ellen and Katherine O’Reagan, “Crime and U.S. Cities: Recent Patterns and Implications” (on Canvas)
 - Victor Rios, “Policed, Punished, and Dehumanized: The Reality for Young Men of Color Living in America” (on Canvas)
- 11/3 Local Experiences of Criminal “Justice”
- Todd Clear, “In Their Own Voices” (on Canvas)
 - Jennifer Ridgley, “Cities of Refuge” (on Canvas)

Week 8: Education

- 11/8 Diversity and Segregation
- Linn Posey-Maddox et al., “Seeking a ‘critical mass’: middle-class parents’ collective engagement in city public schooling” (on Canvas)
 - Wanda Rushing, “School Segregation and Its Discontents” (on Canvas)
 - Karolyn Tyson, “Belonging” (on Canvas)
- 11/10 Urban School Change and Reform
- Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, et al. “Making Migration Work” (on Canvas)
 - Mary Pattillo, “Everyday Politics of School Choice in the Black Community” (on Canvas)

Week 9: Activism and Change

- 11/15 Planning and Policies
- *Place Matters*, Chpt 9
- 11/17 Organizing and Politics
- *Place Matters*, Chpt 7

Week 10: EXAM #2

- 11/22 * EXAM #2*

FINAL PAPER IS DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH BY 11:59 ON CANVAS

HAPPY WINTER BREAK!