The city is a site of ambivalent awe -- both awesome and awful. This course is designed to explore the city from a sociological perspective with a focus on the central question of community in modern urban life. We will discuss various theories and research on cities, local communities, and neighborhoods. Class will be lecture and discussion of readings. Evanston and Chicagoland will often be our class research and reference sites coupled with your own experience. You will have the opportunity to pursue your own topic of interest in consultation with me and report your results in a final term paper.

Books: Required
Larry Lyon – The Community in Urban Society (Waveland 1999)
Harvey Warren Zorbaugh – The Gold Coast and the Slum (Chicago 1929/1976)

Other Required Readings: Articles On Reserve / Canvas

Grades: Two Quizzes 40% (2x20%) 1st on Tue 10/17 2nd on Tue 11/21
Final Paper 40% (8 pages) due Mon 12/4
Presenteration - Topic, Community, Article 10%
Reading Response/Participation 10%

Topics & Readings:

Week 1 – Pre-Amble (A Walk Around the City)
9/19-21 Lyon – Chapter One – The Concept of Community
Zorbaugh – Introductions
Chapter I – The Shadow of the Skyscraper
Reading – Wirth – Urbanism as a Way of Life

Week 2 – Perspectives on the City
9/26-28 Lyon – Chapter Two – The Typological Approach
Chapter Fourteen – Field Research & Holistic Studies
Zorbaugh – Chapter II – An Area in Transition
Reading - Melvin – Neighborhood Definition
Ross - Neighborhood Stability & Well-Being
Week 3 – Physical City
10/3-5
Lyon – Chapter Three – The Ecological Approach
Zorbaugh – Chapter XI – The City and the Community
Reading- Immergluck – Local Working
Elliott & Sims – Ghettos, Barrios & Jobs
Canache – Looking Out My Back Door

Week 4 – Race, and Class
10/10-12
Lyon – Chapter Five – The Conflict Approach
Zorbaugh – Chapter VII – The Slum
Chapter VIII – Little Hell
Reading- Harrris – Property Values & Blacks
Pattillo – Sweet Mothers & Gangbangers

Week 5 – Personal Problems – Family and Friends
10/17-19 *** First Quiz Tuesday 10/17
Lyon- Chapter Seven – The Loss & Quest for Community
Zorbaugh – Chapter IV – World of Furnished Rooms
Chapter VI – Rialto of the Half World
Reading- Molotch & Duneier – Interaction Vandalism
Logan – Family Neighbors

Week 6 – Parochial Community
10/24-26 Lyon- Chapter Four – The Community as a Social System
Chapter Six – The Multiple Approaches to Community
Zorbaugh- Chapter V - Towertown
Reading- Wellman – Community & Networks
South – Marital Transition
Hunter – Loss of Community
Week 7 - Perimeter of the City – Suburbia and Beyond

10/31-11/2 Lyon – Chapter Eight – Community Development

- Zorbaugh – Chapter III – The Gold Coast
- Reading – Logan – Minorities & Suburbs
  - Meredith – Sprawl & New Urbanism

Week 8 - Politics of the City

11/7-9 Lyon – Chapter Twelve – Community Power

- Chapter Thirteen – Measuring Community Power
- Zorbaugh – Chapter IX – Community Institutions, Social Agency
  - Chapter X - The Lower North Community Council
- Reading – Crenson – Networks & Politics
  - Marschall – Citizen Co-Participation

Week 9 – Planning and the City

11/14-16 Lyon – Chapter Nine – Planned Communities

- Chapter Fifteen – Quality of Life, Quality of Communities
- Zorbaugh – Chapter XII – Reform, Realism, and City Life
- Reading – Perry – Planning & Neighborhood
  - Goering – Neighborhood Policy

Week 10 – Second Exam

- Tue 11/21 *** In Class Second Quiz
- Thur 11/24 Thanksgiving

Week 11 – Reading Week

11/28-30 Available for Consultation on Final Papers

Week 12 – Exam Week

Monday 12/4 *** Final Paper Due Monday 12/4 by 5 pm at 1812 Chicago Ave., rm 203.