

Anthropology 380: URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY

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Wednesday, 6:00-8:40 pm, NU 227

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday 4:30-5:30 and by appointment

Syllabus, Fall 2006

In this course, we will look at anthropological perspectives on contemporary American cities. Topics to be covered include (among others): changes in the nature of cities from manufacturing sites to spaces for consumption and tourism; gentrification; racial and ethnic diversity in cities; urban social movements and new models for social services. This course will provide excellent preparation for the Field Methods in Ethnography class to be taught in the spring, but it can also be taken independently of the spring class. We will look both at the development of the study of urban life as a sub-field within Anthropology as well at the ways in which American cities have changed from the 1970s to the present.

In accordance with IUPUI's Principles of Undergraduate Learning (see www.universitycollege.iupui.edu/UL/Principles.htm), this course aims to help you develop your abilities in critical thinking and your communication skills through writing assignments and class discussion as well as enhancing your understanding of contemporary American society and of Indianapolis as an urban social setting.

The course requirements include completion of the assigned readings listed below; attendance at and participation in all classes; 2 short essays in which you will be asked to synthesize a week's reading; two short book reviews; and a take-home essay exam. Readings below marked [OC] appear on the class OnCourse site as pdfs; they can be downloaded and printed out from computers on campus or from your home computer if you have fairly good modem connection to the campus computers. If you have problems printing out the articles from the web site, please let me know ASAP and I can give you the readings on a CD. You will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat reader in order to open the readings; this is available free of charge and can be downloaded from the Adobe web site.

Please note that we will also have guest speakers and videos as part of our course materials: such presentations are not "days off" but are an integral part of the course. Therefore, you will be expected to discuss and analyze these presentations in your writing along with the assigned readings.

Note: In order to pass this course, all of the written assignments must be completed. Missing any one of these assignments is grounds for failing the course.

Required Texts (available at the IUPUI Campus Bookstore and at Indy College books, as well as through on-line vendors):

Dudley, Kathryn Marie 1994. The End of the Line: Lost Jobs, New Lives in Postindustrial America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-16910-3

Davis, Dana-Ain 2006 Battered Black Women and Welfare Reform. SUNY Press, ISBN 0-7914-6844-5.

Grasmuck, Sherri, 2005. Protecting Home: Class, Race and Masculinity in Boys' Baseball. Rutgers University Press, ISBN 0-8135-3555-7

Perez, Gina M. 2004. The Near Northwest Side Story: Migration, Displacement and Puerto Rican Families. University of California Press, ISBN 0-520-23368-9.

Grading and Evaluation

Attendance at class is mandatory. Everyone is allowed ONE missed class without explanation required or penalties; after the missed class, you will need to see me about any additional missed classes. Consistent absence from class will be grounds for dismissal from the class or for receiving a failing grade.

Class lectures and discussions will be based on the readings but will NOT be summaries of the readings. Therefore, in order to master the course materials, you will be expected to complete the readings on time and to attend class and participate in group discussions and other activities. Needless to say, I expect you to conduct yourself courteously in class. This means arriving on time, remaining in your seat until the end of class and not engaging in activities that will be distracting to your fellow students OR to the professor. (ALL CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF!)

If you have any special requirements concerning your successful participation in and completion of the course, please see the professor as soon as possible.

Your final grade will be based on:

2 short essays	18 pts each
2 book reviews	18 pts each
1 final exam	20 points
class participation/ extra credit assignments*	8 pts

100 pts total

****Please note that extra credit assignments may NOT be used in place of other assignments. These are supplementary and optional assignments. Extra credit assignments can be used to add two points to your total in cases where you would like to try to raise your final grade. Each student can only complete TWO extra credit assignments per semester. In calculating your final grade, if you have attended class faithfully and have participated in class discussion, the full 8 points will be added to your total.***

Extra-credit eligible events will be announced as they come up. To receive 2 points for attending an extra credit event, you need to submit a 1-2 page summary and commentary on the event. Most of these events will be speakers or films being shown on campus or nearby. There is one extra-credit assignment already listed. Everyone is ENCOURAGED to attend these events, whether for extra credit or not, just for your own benefit.

All written work must be submitted ON TIME. Plagiarism, that is the use of another person's work without appropriate attribution, is not acceptable and will be grounds for expulsion from the class or failure.

Please remember that I am here to help you succeed in this course. Please feel free to ask questions in class or to contact me by email outside of class. I am also available to help you either by appointment or during my office hours. I check my voicemail and my office email regularly and will usually respond to messages within 24 hours. It is better to contact me via my regular IUPUI email address than via the OnCourse mail system but I will check both regularly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GRADING SCALE AND GRADING RUBRICS FOR ESSAYS, SEE ADDITIONAL POSTINGS ON THE SYLLABUS PART OF THE ONCOURSE SITE.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Your assignments should be passed in to me in class on the date specified on the syllabus. You may also submit assignments electronically via OnCourse email by 6:00 pm (before class) on the date when the assignment is due. Because you have some options for when you write the 2 shorter essays and 2 book reviews (see below) I will have you submit to me your preferences for the weeks you wish to write and those will become your "official" due dates.

In all cases, you should always keep an electronic copy of the final version of your paper on your own computer or on a diskette, CD or flash drive. If I request an additional copy of your assignment, you must be able to print out a duplicate or you will not receive credit for the assignment.

IF YOU MISS A CLASS...

If you find it necessary to miss a class, please remember that this syllabus outlines all of the reading and writing assignments for the entire semester and will always be available to you on the OnCourse site. You are always welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have but please do not email or call me, asking what the assignment for the next class is. The assignments are all posted on the syllabus and on OnCourse and if there are any changes as we go along, they will be posted to the OnCourse web site.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

You must sign up by the second class for your shorter essay assignments and book reviews. PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE FORM FROM THE SYLLABUS PART OF THE SITE AND E-MAIL IT BACK TO ME ON ONCOURSE BY NEXT WEDNESDAY (AUG 30) AT NOON indicating on which weeks you wish to submit your two short essays and on which weeks you wish to submit your two book reviews. These will then become your official due dates. The due date for the take-home final is not negotiable. It must be passed in on the last day of class or via email by 6:00 pm on the last day of class.

Instructions for Shorter Essays

The two shorter essays are 3-4 pages or so each. I expect people who have signed up to write for those weeks to take an active role in shaping the class discussion. I will call on that week's writers at the beginning of class to briefly summarize the points you have pulled out of that week's readings and to provide a discussion question or two for us all to consider. The short essay options appear in Weeks 2-6; from among those 5 weeks, each person will choose TWO weeks that you find particularly interesting to write on.

I have provided questions for each of the short essay option weeks to guide your shorter writings, but here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- 1). Try not to summarize the readings for that week; instead, respond to the question I have posed for you, pulling out themes you feel are important and interesting.
- 2). Feel free to raise questions that the readings provoke for you and to point out where you see inconsistencies, differences or outright disagreements among the authors.

Instructions for Book Reviews

We will read four books in this class. Everyone in the class will choose TWO books to review. The book reviews are relatively short writings, 3 pages or so. The review should: (1) summarize concisely the author's argument; (2) evaluate the utility and implications of the author's work within the context of the course material. What strengths or possible deficiencies do you see in the author's approach to her topic? Again, on the weeks where book reviews are submitted, I will expect those reviewers to take an active role in shaping our class discussion. Please note that writing a critical analysis of the book does not mean you have to be negative about the book. If you think the book is great, use specific examples to show why you think the book is good. Back up all of your claims with evidence from the text you are discussing.

Please note: All of these books have been reviewed in various academic publications. I, myself, published a long review of Sherri Grasmuck's book. Please try NOT to consult these published reviews. The exercise will be much more intellectually useful for you if you evaluate the books yourself, based on your own ideas and on the material we cover in this class.

SCHEDULE FOR THE SEMESTER

(You are expected to have completed each of the readings by the date of the class where the assignment appears below. [OC] indicates that the reading for that day is posted to the OnCourse site; all of the other readings are from the four books.)

Wednesday, August 23

Introduction to the course.

Reminder: Before next week's class, please let me know via OnCourse email which weeks you have chosen for your two short essays and two book reviews.

Wednesday, August 30

Urban Ethnography: The Influence of the Chicago School

Readings: Suttles, Gerald D., 1976. "Urban Ethnography: Situational and Normative Accounts," Annual Review of Sociology, vol. 2, pp. 1-18. [OC]

Susser, Ida 1982. Urban Anthropology in the U.S.A., RAIN, No. 52: 6-8. [OC]

Abbott, Andrew, 1997. "Of Time and Space: The Contemporary Relevance of the Chicago School," Social Forces, vol. 75, no. 4, pp.1149-1182. [OC]

Abu-Lughod, Janet 2005. "Commentary: What is Special About Chicago?" City and Society, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 289-303. [OC]

Leeds, Anthony, 1994. "The Anthropology of Cities: Some Methodological Considerations," in Cities, Classes and the Social Order," edited by Roger Sanjek. Cornell University Press, pp. 233-247. [OC]

short essay option

What do you think has been the legacy of the Chicago School for Urban Anthropology? Based on the readings, what were the strengths and weaknesses of the Chicago School approach for the ethnographic study of urban neighborhoods?

Wednesday, September 6

How Policies Shape Neighborhoods

Readings: Kenneth T. Jackson, 1980. "Race, Ethnicity, and Real Estate Appraisal: The Home Owners Loan Corporation and the Federal Housing Administration," Journal of Urban History 6, pp. 419-52. [OC]

Hillier, Amy E., 2003. "Redlining and the Home Owner's Loan Corporation," Journal of Urban History 29, pp. 394-420. [OC]

Leeds, Anthony, 1994. "Locality Power in Relation to Supralocal Power Institutions," Cities, Classes and the Social Order," edited by Roger Sanjek. Cornell University Press, pp. 209-231. [OC]

Ruben, Matthew 2001. "Suburbanization and Urban Poverty under Neoliberalism," in New Poverty Studies: Power, Politics and Impoverished People in the US, edited by J. Goode and J. Maskovsky, New York University Press, pp. 435-467. [OC]

Williams, Brett 2002. "Gentrifying Water and Selling Jim Crow," Urban Anthropology, vol. 3(2): 93-121. [OC]

OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED: Lipsitz, George 2006. "Learning from New Orleans: The Social Warrant of Hostile Privatism and Competitive Consumer Citizenship," Cultural Anthropology 21(3): 451-468. [OC]

short essay option

How do these articles help us to understand analytically how urban neighborhoods change through time? In conducting ethnographic studies of urban neighborhoods, how should we incorporate attention to the role of policy in producing the spaces we see before us today?

Wednesday, September 13

Culture, Poverty and Power

Lewis, Oscar (1996 [1959]). "The Culture of Poverty," in Urban Life, edited by G. Gmelch and W. Zenner, Waveland Press. [OC]

Goode, Judith (2001). How Urban Ethnography Counters Myths about the Poor. Gmelch and Zenner, Urban Life. [OC]

Wilson, William Julius (1991-92). "Another Look at the Truly Disadvantaged," Political Science Quarterly 106(4): 639-656. [OC]

Williams, Brett (1992). "Poverty Among African Americans in the Urban United States," Human Organization 51(2): 164-174. [OC]

Nader, Laura, 1969. "Up the Anthropologist- Perspectives Gained from Studying Up," in Reinventing Anthropology, D. Hymes, editor. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 284-311. [OC]

short essay option

Many have argued that Lewis' "culture of poverty" thesis isolated particular behaviors of the poor from an analysis of the structural inequalities that produce and reproduce poverty and inequality. How do the authors above contest or support the notion of the "culture of poverty" as an analytic concept for understanding cycles of poverty? What

implications do you see in the culture of poverty theory for social policies pertaining to poverty?

Monday, September 18 EXTRA CREDIT EVENT

Talk by Paul Loeb, author of The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center at 6:00 pm. Place to be announced.

Wednesday, September 20

Urban Poverty, Urban Crime

Bourgois, Phillipe, 1996. "Office Work and the Crack Alternative Among Puerto Rican Drug Dealers in East Harlem," in Urban Life, edited by G. Gmelch and W. Zenner, Waveland Press. [OC]

Anderson, Elijah, 1998. "The Social Ecology of Youth Violence," Crime and Justice, vol. 24, pp. 65-104. [OC]

Wacquant, Loic, 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Community Meet and Mesh," Punishment and Society, vol 3 (1), pp. 95-134. [OC]

The Lifers Public Safety Committee of the State Correctional Institution at Graterford, PA, 2004. "Ending the Culture of Street Crime," The Prison Journal, vol. 84, no. 4, pp. 485-685. [OC]

short essay option

Compare the perspectives among these authors on the causes of urban crime and its links to poverty. How would you characterize the differences and similarities among them? What does each of them see as the causes of crime? What solutions does each author suggest for addressing the causes of crime? Or, if the author has not made a recommendation for solutions to the problems he identifies, what policies would you enact based on each author's analysis of the causes of crime?

Wednesday, September 27

Urban Activism

Susser, Ida 1986, "Political Activity Among Working-Class Women in a U.S. City," American Ethnologist, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 108-117. [OC]

Maxwell, Andrew 1988. "The Anthropology of Poverty in Black Communities: A Critique and Systems Alternative," Urban Anthropology 17 (2-3): 171-191. [OC]

Gregory, Steven 1996. "Race, Rubbish and Resistance: Empowering Difference in Community Politics," in Race, edited by S. Gregory and R. Sanjek, New Brunswick: Rutgers Press, pp. pp. 366-391. [OC]

Maskovsky, Jeff 2001. "The Other War at Home: The Geopolitics of U.S. Poverty," Urban Anthropology 30(2-3): 215-228. [OC]

short essay option

What does a focus on the study of neighborhood-based activism help us to understand about the nature of community life and the impact of urban social policy? What does it tell us about urban poverty and inequality more broadly?

Wednesday, October 4

From Production to Consumption I

Reading: Dudley, Kathryn Marie, End of the Line, Introduction, Parts One and Two

Wednesday, October 11

From Production to Consumption II

Reading: Dudley, Kathryn Marie, End of the Line, Part Three and Conclusion

book review option

Wednesday, October 18

Social Interventions in the New Economy I

Reading: Davis, Dana-Ain 2006. Battered Black Women and Welfare Reform, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

Wednesday, October 25

Social Interventions in the New Economy II

Reading: Davis, Dana-Ain 2006. Battered Black Women and Welfare Reform, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

book review option

Wednesday, November 1

Urban Neighborhoods in Transition I

Reading: Grasmuck, Protecting Home, Chapters 1, 2, 3

Wednesday, November 8

Urban Neighborhoods in Transition II

Reading: Grasmuck, Protecting Home, Chapters 4,5,6, Conclusion, Methodological Appendix

book review option

Wednesday, November 15

Transnational Cities I

Reading: Perez, The Near Northwest Side Story, Chapters 1, 2, 3

Wednesday, November 22

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS

Wednesday, November 29

Transnational Cities II

Reading: Perez, The Near Northwest Side Story, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

book review option

TAKE HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS

The take-home final will consist of three essay questions that will ask you to synthesize the course material. If you have kept up with the reading and attended class regularly, it should take you NO MORE THAN TWO (2) HOURS to complete the exam.

Wednesday, December 6

Conclusions: The Future of Urban Life in the U.S.

FINAL EXAM DUE IN CLASS...ABSOLUTELY NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED! Have a good winter break!