University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Urban Studies Programs
USP 983: Contemporary Urban Social Structure and Change

Spring 2014 Prof. Jennifer Jordan
Tuesdays, 6:30-9:10 Bolton 758
Office Hours: Wed 2:30-4:30, or by appointment Phone: (414) 229-5074
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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Available at the UWM Bookstore:

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage


Other readings will be available either on D2L or through the library’s databases, and details of each week’s readings will be available well in advance.

You are responsible for ALL readings listed here except for anything marked OPTIONAL. Readings will come from various sources: entire books (available for purchase and on reserve in the library), our D2L site, and the library’s online article databases. It is vital that you have good ways to access online resources for this course, even though we meet face-to-face.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

A note about the schedule: As the semester progresses, I WILL add additional articles (via online resources) and cut others, so the schedule of readings presented here is necessarily approximate. The readings through Week 6 are set, but after that I do plan to make some changes. While I have taught this course in the past, this year I am still updating and tinkering with the reading list, which also means there is some room for flexibility and change as the semester progresses. I will always give you plenty of notice about any changes, but wanted to let you know from the start that there may be changes as we go along.

Jan. 21 Week 1: Introduction
No reading.

Jan. 28 Week 2: Death and Life
Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage (ALL)
Feb. 4  **Week 3: Naked City**


Feb. 11  **Week 4: Classics (Simmel, Benjamin, Weber, Park, Wirth)**


Feb. 18  **Week 5: Classics, continued (De Certeau, Lefebvre, Harvey)**


David Harvey, *Condition of Postmodernity* (excerpts)

Michel De Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life* (excerpts)

Feb. 25  **Week 6: Real Estate, Housing, and Inequality**


March 4  
**Week 8: LIBRARY AND INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**

March 11  
**Week 7: Global Cities**


March 18  
**SPRING BREAK**

March 25  
**Week 9: Race, Ethnicity, and the US City**


**Week 9: Structures of Memory**

**PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS**

**April 1**  
**Week 10: Gentrification, Segregation and Inequality**


**April 8**  
**Week 11: Gender and Sexuality**


**April 15**  
**Week 12: The City and Memory**

Additional Readings TBA

**April 20**   **Week 13: Global Cities II**


**April 29**   **Week 14: Food in the City**

Readings TBA

**May 6**   **Week 15: Presentations**

**FINAL PAPER DUE** in Sociology main office on Tuesday, May 13 at 4:30 pm Milwaukee time

(No penalties for turning it in early!!)

**Optional Readings**


COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course has several goals. First, it will expose you to a wide range of work on the study of cities, in ways that will hopefully continue to inform your own research and writing, and help you develop a sense of what conversations within urban studies you will be joining. In addition, you will gain experience in very quickly reading and synthesizing relatively large amounts of information—a vital skill in preparing for your prelims, but also for graduate school and professional life more broadly. You will also learn how to develop a big picture of a field of literature—the importance of this skill cannot be overestimated. Without it, you will find it extremely difficult to prepare for prelims, AND to develop a doable thesis topic. We always stand on the shoulders of others as we do our research, and knowing how to assess the field and both conduct and write up a literature review are essential skills for being sure that your research is securely situated within ongoing academic debates and conversations. The readings are challenging, and it is vital that you come to class having completed that week’s readings.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Attendance and Participation are both essential for success in this course. More than one absence will seriously impact this portion of your grade, and it is vital that you participate actively in discussion each and every week. As a general rule, plan on talking at least twice each meeting—even if you are not particularly comfortable with class discussion, it is definitely important that you actively participate.

Central Argument Notes (CANs)
You will be required to turn in a total of eight sets of Central Argument Notes over the semester. I would strongly recommend completing as many as possible early in the semester. This is designed to help you with comprehension and retention of these often challenging readings. Please include the central argument for each chapter if we’re reading a book that week, or the central argument for each article in a given week. These notes MUST be in your own words—they may include brief, well-chosen quotations, but must primarily be in your own words. Do include page numbers when appropriate to
refer to the relevant places in the text. CANs must be typed (that is, printed out) and are due in class each week. The main point of this exercise is for you to be able to capture the argument of a given work in your words, and also to give you some material with which to participate in class discussion.

**Global City Presentation**

This assignment will require you to find a scholarly article or book in the disciplines of sociology, history, or geography, discussing a city outside of the United States. Your presentation will address this scholarly work, and

**Class Leader**

Later in the semester (after Week 6) you will each sign up to be class leader for one of the remaining classes. I will support you in this process, but it means you will need to come to that particular class prepared to lead discussion on the readings.

**Proposal**

Around the middle of the semester (date TBA) you will be required to submit a proposal for your final paper. Details of the proposal will be circulated closer to the due-date, but it will definitely involve doing some preliminary searches for relevant literature, and generating guiding questions for the final paper.

**Final Presentation**

Final presentations will take place in the last two class meetings. You will present the elements of your final paper (which will obviously not be entirely complete), and the presentation will focus not only on your findings, but also on the way in which you are going about conducting your searches for relevant literature, describing the research and thought process behind the paper. More details about the presentation will be circulated mid-semester, so that you can be collecting information for it as you work on the proposal.

**Final Paper**

Papers will be graded on analytical skill as well as clarity. It is vital that you proofread your paper before handing it in. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, in a 12-point standard font such as Times New Roman. The best papers will follow a standard approach to reviewing scholarly literature. It is thus essential that you cite your sources, and that your writing be clear and well-organized. Before the first paper is due I will provide a handout with more detailed information concerning the format and style of papers for this course. I strongly encourage you to visit my office hours BEFORE handing in the first paper. I will not read entire drafts, but I am more than happy to discuss an outline and introductory paragraph, and would welcome you to come talk to me even without those things in hand. The paper should be 15-17 pages long (shorter is too short, longer is too long). You may NOT turn in a literature review you have conducted for a different class or project—this must be an original work. Please make an appointment to talk with me if you have any questions about this, and also if you’d like to talk about how this paper might dovetail with other work you are doing (prelims, theses, etc.).

**Grades**

- 10% Attendance and Participation
- 10% CANs
- 5% City Presentation
- 5% Class Leader
- 15% Proposal
- 10% Final Presentation
Warning
Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are unacceptable, and will be penalized both with a 0 on the relevant assignment, and according to UWM Academic Disciplinary Procedures. If you have any doubts as to what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me or to consult university regulations. I HAVE caught plagiarism cases in the past (including at the graduate level), and I am NOT interested in having to deal with that! ANY TIME that you use someone else’s words, those words MUST be in quotation marks and MUST be thoroughly cited—no exceptions.

Late papers will be penalized one-third grade for each day late (an A- paper will drop to a B+, for example). Incompletes will only be granted in extremely rare and severe cases and only with relevant documentation.

************Please note: This syllabus is subject to revision.************
You are responsible for keeping track of any changes to the syllabus. If for any reason you are not in class when a change is announced, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what has been changed by asking me or a classmate. It is very possible that we will fall slightly behind or get slightly ahead of ourselves in terms of the reading, so each week I will make clear what the next week’s readings will be.
WORKLOAD STATEMENT

The university has asked departments to break down for students how much time they will spend working on various aspects of their classes.

As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on a course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time. For this course, over the semester you will spend a minimum of

- 37.5 hours in the classroom
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.
The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**H1N1 Flu Preparations:** In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an H1N1 swine flu outbreak, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to this syllabus that will supersede this version.

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Urban Studies Programs Director or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Urban Studies Programs Director, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. Procedures for student grade appeal can be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm

Update 08/31/2009