URBAN SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

• Course objectives and outcomes

Objectives:

1. To understand classical and contemporary theories of urban sociology
2. To explore how cities are shaped by humans and how cities in turn shape social behavior
3. To understand how urban growth and stability can be reached

Outcomes:

1. Elaborate on the processes that shape and define cities
2. Think analytically and critically about issues of urban life
3. Analyze the key debates in urban theory and ongoing urban transformations.
4. Express and present ideas to a broader audience regarding social/political transformation.

• Catalog description

This course approaches cities and urban lives from three different perspectives. First, it looks at the city as an infra-structure, both material and non-material that shapes social organization and behavior. Classic Sociological questions of the relation of the city to modernity and space and social control will be addressed here. Secondly, the course traces ongoing urban transformations with a special focus on cities of the Global South. Issues taken up here include migration, marginalization, and globalization. The final section of the course focuses on public practices in the city by looking at the overlapping realms of religion, market, culture, and community life. An understanding of these three distinct approaches will enable students to understand the city from a range of viewpoints. In focusing on a diverse range of urban forms, trends, and practices, this course also goes beyond the limitations imposed by focusing on cities only through the lens of development and progress.

• Text book(s) and references

* 1. Top of Form

William Flanagan, 2020, Urban Sociology, Rowman& Littlefield Publishers

Bottom of Form

• Syllabus breakdown in lectures

Topic 1: Week 1-2

Sociological Theories of Urbanization- Classical and Contemporary

Cities and Social Formations

*Reading*

- “The Metropolis and Mental Life” in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*; Simmel, Georg. 1950.

Topic 2: Week 3-4

Space and Modernity

*Reading*

-The sociology ofurban public spaces; Tonnelat

Topic 3: Week 5-6

Making sense of Urban Poverty

*Reading*

-Urban Poverty after The Truly Disadvantaged: The Rediscovery of the Family, theNeighborhood, and Culture; Small & Newman

-Slum as Theory: The South/Asian City and Globalization; Rao

Topic 4: Week 7-8

Migration and Urban Life

*Reading*

- Migrationand Urban Poverty; Tacoli et al; Intl. Organization for Migration 2015

Topic 5: Week 9-10

Race, Gender and Urban Marginalization

*Reading*

-Gender, Race, Age and Fear in the City; Pain

Topic 6: Week 11-12

Everyday life in the City

*Reading*

-Uncertainty and Urban Life; Zeiderman, Kaker, Silver, and Wood

Topic 7: Week 13

Religion and Urban Public Life

*Reading*

- Religion, Modernity, and Urban Space: The City God Temple in Republican Guangzhou; Shuk-Wah Poon

Topic 8: Week 14

Sustainable Urban Development

*Reading*

EU’s guidelines for Sustainable Urban Development

Week 15-16

Individual PP presentations on course paper, with class discussions and Q&A sessions.

• Computer usage

Lectures are conducted in smart class.

• Laboratory

Not required