

Draft January 9, 2018

**Sociology 401 Spring 2018
Analysis in Urban Sociology:
Housing, Homelessness, and Inequality—and Policy Responses**

Course time: Tu/Thursday 1:30-2:45
Professor Jennifer Darrah
Office: 235 Saunders Hall
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Office Hours: Thursdays 3-4pm and by appointment

Course Description:

The state of Hawai‘i is facing a “crisis” in homelessness. Many people struggle to find affordable housing, and Honolulu residents face the highest rent burden in the U.S. Yet, housing insecurity is not only a problem for Hawai‘i: some scholars argue it has reached epidemic proportions in many areas throughout the U.S., and even globally.

How can we effectively solve homelessness in Hawai‘i? Who will be served by the building of rail and associated “Transit Oriented Development”? Will Honolulu continue to “gentrify” and with what consequences? How do current housing crises and inequality relate to Hawai‘i’s history of colonialism?

This advanced course in urban sociology examines core debates at the intersection of housing, poverty, and inequality. We explore how housing insecurity perpetuates poverty and inequality—and especially racialized inequality. We critically assess state and city policy responses including the concerning trend of criminalizing chronically unsheltered individuals. We assess the underlying structural and political-economic dynamics that, when it comes to housing (or lack thereof), may serve elite interests at the expense of the public. Finally, we will strive to understand why policy interventions have too often gone wrong, and we will imagine better interventions for a more just future. Students will be asked to conduct their own research-based inquiries into a pressing housing problem facing Hawai‘i—or a location of interest—and will be asked to propose potential policy solutions to those problems.

This course meets the Writing-focus requirements, which include the following hallmarks:

- W1.** The class uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.
- W2.** The class provides interaction [e.g., conferences, written feedback] between the instructor and students while students do assigned writing.
- W3.** Written assignments contribute significantly to each student’s course grade.
- W4.** The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.

To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student’s writing, the class is restricted to 20 students

Course Learning Objectives:

- Students will understand and use theoretical perspectives from urban sociology related to the intersections of housing, urbanization, inequality and poverty.
- Students will gain confidence using methods of sociology by researching and analyzing social trends using data sources (including primary sources, such as newspaper data, survey data, etc. or secondary data).
- Students will learn to critically assess policies and government responses related to homelessness and housing affordability. Students will become familiar with major types of U.S. housing policies.
- Students will learn to communicate analytical arguments and policy recommendations effectively in writing

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is taken very seriously and any instances of plagiarism may result in failure of the assignment or course. Please see guidelines below and consult the UH System student code of conduct. The following definition of plagiarism comes from The University of Hawai'i System wide Student Conduct Code:

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (E7.208, Pages 4 and 5).

(For the entire Student Conduct Code, see: <http://www.hawaii.edu/apis/ep/e7/e7208.pdf> and http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/downloads/conduct_code/UHM_Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.)

You may also consult the ASA style guide for more information.

http://www.asanet.org/documents/teaching/pdfs/Quick_Tips_for_ASA_Style.pdf

Phones, Laptops, Electronic Devices:

For the sake of mutual respect, and in order to create a positive learning environment, use of electronic devices is strictly restricted to class or instructional work. Also, use of electronic devices for non-class purposes will negatively affect your participation grade.

Readings:

Lectures and class activities will build directly off of the assigned readings. Students are expected to attend class having read the assigned material, and to participate in class discussion and small group activities.

Required Course Texts:

These required books are available for purchase at the UH Bookstore. Additional articles or chapters will be distributed through Laulima → Resources → Course Readings (organized by week)

Desmond, Matthew. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and profit in the American city*. Broadway Books.

Goetz, Edward G. 2013. *New deal ruins: Race, economic justice, and public housing policy*. Cornell University Press.

Stuart, Forrest. 2016. *Down, out, and under arrest: Policing and everyday life in Skid Row*. University of Chicago Press.

Assignments and Grading:

All class assignments should be submitted to the instructor via Laulima to the appropriate “assignment” folders.

1) Analytical Paper (8-10 pages): Housing Insecurity its causes and its Consequences for poverty and inequality (Total 25% of final grade).

This paper will be based primarily on assigned class readings. You will submit a draft to the instructor and will receive comments on this draft from the instructor. You are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss your papers. You will also be required to conduct a peer review of your paper. Based on the comments received, you will revise your paper and submit a cover letter in which you explain how you addressed the instructor and peer review feedback and then you will submit the final draft. Your final paper grade for paper #1 will be broken down as follows

- Draft #1 (5%)
- Cover letter in response to Instructor and Peer Review Feedback (5%)
- Final Draft (15%)

2) Research Paper (8-10 pages) and Policy Brief (1-2 pages): Examination of a Housing challenge in Hawai'i (or another place of your choice) and Policy recommendations. (Total 40% of final grade)

You will identify a housing challenge or problem in Hawai'i or elsewhere. You will assess the scope of this problem and identify a research question or problem. You will then conduct research to learn as much about the issue as possible. *note: you may conduct research in groups.* Draw upon concepts from sociology in order to critically assess the cause of this problem, address broader implications, and critically evaluate policy responses to date. You will also write an associated 1-2 page policy brief, which summarizes your findings and which proposes policy solutions. You should model your policy brief on those found on the Scholar Strategy Network website (<http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/briefs-and-spotlights>). Your research paper and associated policy brief will be broken down into several smaller cumulative assignments that will be due throughout the course of the semester and which will culminate in a final paper (see below). You will receive feedback from the instructor after each submission of your small assignments. You will also receive written comments on the full draft and you are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss those comments. You will also be asked to conduct a peer review of your paper. Based on the comments received, you will revise your paper and submit a cover letter in

which you explain how you addressed the instructor and peer review feedback and then you will submit the final draft.

- Statement of Research Question/ Research Problem and Research Plan and annotated bibliography (5%)
- Full Draft #1 of Paper (5%)
- Cover letter in response to Instructor and Peer Review Feedback (5%)
- Final Draft of Paper (20%)
- Short Policy Brief 1-2 pages (5%)

Participation and Attendance (17.5% of final grade):

I will take attendance every day and this will count toward your participation grade. Only officially excused absences for medical reasons (including child or family member illness), university excused commitments, or family emergency will be accepted. In such cases, please contact the instructor with appropriate information or documentation.

Reading Responses (in-lieu of Exam) (17.5% of final grade):

You will post weekly reading responses to the assigned readings which will form the basis for class discussions. **These are due every TUESDAY before class by NOON to Laulima**

KOKUA for Students with Disabilities:

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities), to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956- 7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Writing Center:

Students are strongly encouraged to use the free services of the Writing Center (located in Sinclair Library). To make an appointment, visit: <http://english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/>

Course Themes

Local Issues: What's wrong with Hawai'i?

- Homelessness trends
- Housing Affordability
- Debates about Rail and Inclusionary Zoning

Housing and Poverty

- Vicious cycles: housing instability and poverty
- Consequences for children and families of residential instability
- Desmond, Matthew. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and profit in the American city*. Broadway Books.

Public Housing Policy and Racialized Inequality: Where and why policy failed

- Goetz, Edward G. 2013. *New deal ruins: Race, economic justice, and public housing policy*: Cornell University Press.

Policy Tools

- Understanding the range of U.S. housing policy tools
- Goetz, Edward G. 2012. "The transformation of public housing policy, 1985–2011." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 78(4):452-63.
- Selections from: Schwartz, Alex F. 2014. *Housing policy in the United States*: Routledge. [available as e-book through UH library]

Neoliberalism and the Privatization of Public Space

- Selections from: Mitchell, Don. 2003. *The right to the city: Social justice and the fight for public space*: Guilford Press.

Criminalizing Public Spaces and the Homeless: the Case of L.A.

- How policies and communities stigmatize the poor and unsheltered
- Police responses—how they help or hurt?
- Stuart, Forrest. 2016. *Down, out, and under arrest: Policing and everyday life in Skid Row*: University of Chicago Press.

Settler Colonialism: A history of evictions and displacement

- Sand Island, Mākuā, KalamaValley and now Kaka‘ako: Evicting people from land.
- Colonialism, and alienation of people from land and home
- Native Hawaiian housing indicators
- Puhipau. “The Ice Man looks back at the Sand Island Evictions.” in Goodyear-Ka‘ōpua, Noelani, Ikaika Hussey, and Erin Kahunawaika‘ala Wright. 2014. *A nation rising: Hawaiian movements for life, land, and sovereignty*: Duke University Press. [Available as e-book through UH library]
- Goodyear- Ka‘ōpua, Noelani. “Introduction” in Goodyear- Ka‘ōpua, Noelani, Ikaika Hussey, and Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright. 2014. *A nation rising: Hawaiian movements for life, land, and sovereignty*: Duke University Press. [Available as e-book through UH library]

Political Economy of Development: Who builds housing where and why and for whom?

- Why developers and property interests tend to prevail
- (Squires, Gregory D. 1989. "Public-private partnerships: Who gets what and why." *Unequal partnerships: The political economy of urban redevelopment in postwar America*: 1-11.

Our Visions for a Better Future

- Student Research and Presentations of Policy Briefs

Weekly Calendar: (Subject to Change as Needed)

Week #1

Jan 9 *Introductions*

Jan 11 *Housing and Urban Problems in Hawai'i; Discuss Format for Reading Response*

Week #2

Jan 16 DUE: Evicted (Prologue, Part 1)

Jan 18

Week #3

Jan 23 DUE: Evicted (Part 2)

Jan 25

Week #4

Jan 30 DUE: Evicted (Part 3, Epilogue)

Jan 25

Week #5

Feb 6 DUE: New Deal Ruins (Ch. 1-2)

Feb 8 DUE: New Deal Ruins (Ch. 3) *Writing Diagnostic Meetings (in class)*

Week #6

Feb 13 DUE: New Deal Ruins (Ch. 4-5)

Feb 15 DUE: New Deal Ruins (Ch. 6 and Conclusion)
Writing Diagnostic Meetings (in class)

Week #7

Feb 20 DUE: Darrah-Okike et al "It was Like I Lost Everything" (On Laulima); Selections from Right to the City (On Laulima)

Feb 22 **NO CLASS**—instructor travel

Week #8

Feb 27 DUE: Down and Out (Ch.1-2); Housing policy overview TBD (On Laulima)

Mar 1 Combined Lecture with DURP Graduate Students: Overview of Housing Policy in the U.S.

DUE: **Draft Paper #1, Friday, March 2, Noon**

Week #9

Mar 6 DUE Down and Out (Ch. 3-4)

Writing Workshopping with Peers and Professor

Mar 8 DUE: Submit prepared questions for Marc Alexander

Guest Speaker: Marc Alexander, City of Honolulu, Executive Director

Office of Housing (with DURP Graduate Students)

Week #10

March 13 Due Down and Out (Ch. 5 and Conclusion)

March 15 *Writing workshopping (as needed) with Peers and Professor*

DUE: **Final Draft Paper #1, Friday, March 16, Noon**

Week #11

March 20 DUE: “Intro” in Nation Rising (access through library as e-book)

[*TENTATIVE may be moved up*] *Library Workshop*

****Select Student Groups and Select Housing Problem to Study****

March 22 DUE: “Ice Man looks back” in Nation Rising

Film Selections on Sand Island Evictions

March 26-30 Spring Break

Week #12

April 3 DUE: Squires “Public-private partnerships” (On Laulima). Chosen selections from Selections from: Schwartz, Alex F. 2014. *Housing policy in the United States*. Routledge. [available from library as e-book]

April 5 *Lecture on Growth Machines: Student Group work*

DUE: **Statement of Research Problem for Paper #2 and Annotated Bibliography, Friday April 6, Noon**

Week #13

April 10 *Student Group work/ library work*

April 12 *Student Group work/ library work*

Week #14

April 17 *Writing Workshopping with Peers and Professor*

DUE: **Full Draft of Paper #2**, Wednesday April 18, noon.

April 19 *Writing Workshopping with Peers and Professor*

Week #15

April 24 Student Presentations of Policy Solutions

April 26 Student Presentations of Policy Solutions

DUE: **Final Draft of Paper #2**, Friday April 27, noon.

Week #16

May 1 (Last Class) Student Presentations of Policy Solutions

DUE: **Policy Brief, May 2, noon**