

SOC 401  
Analysis in Urban Sociology (3 units)  
W 2:30-5pm  
Spring 2012

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Nicholas Gibson

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Office: Saunders Hall 217  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3pm-6pm, Wednesdays 11am-1pm,  
Or email/appointment  
Phone: (808) 956-8462 (If you leave a message, leave your name and callback number  
clearly and slowly)  
E-mail: gibsonn@hawaii.edu  
Prerequisite: N/A

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Urbanization in developed and developing countries, the rural-urban continuum, structure and process of metropolitan regions, theories of urban location and growth, housing and urban renewal.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will assess theoretical perspectives for understanding urbanization and globalization. As a class, we will explore the contextual indicators of the urban existence regarding inequality, social and physical change, formal and informal processes of socialization within urban centers, and culture as an economy. Each student will create seven (7) summaries of the assigned readings for the course to inform the final projects. The final projects will be group-based work involving research, a group paper, and a final presentation. **Each group's work will focus on one urban center throughout the world, and will educate the class on how to understand the development and urbanization of geographic and social locations using sociological theory.**

3. LEARNING GOALS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

This course meets the University of Hawaii Diversification Requirements in the Social Sciences (DS) for the Core Competency standards for each of the following areas: Critical Thought, Communication, Civic Engagement, Ethical and Moral Development, Cultural Respect and Tolerance, and Global Awareness.

4. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Describe, connect and evaluate racial, religious, political, and social issues relevant to urban existence
- Illustrate and discuss through presentation and collaborative writing the application of social theory to the progress of urbanization
- Develop and refine clear, succinct and thorough writing skills

- Identify and demonstrate working understanding of sociological theories pertaining to urbanization, globalization, and the processes of urban life
- Demonstrate ability to critically analyze, critique and evaluate scholarly work on urban theory and urban development
- Successfully work in small groups to produce scholarly writing and present research to a larger class of peers

5. REQUIRED TEXT

*The Urban Sociology Reader* – Edited by Jan Lin and Christopher Mele  
 2007. New York, NY: Routledge  
 ISBN: 9780415323437

(This collection of articles and chapters is very well put together and is a thorough resource for investigating urbanization in-depth.)

We will sometimes explore certain concepts with outside readings, videos, or presentations.

6. GRADING POLICY

**Grading Criteria:**

<b>Reading Responses 7 x 10 each:</b>	<b>70 points</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Group Reports 5 x 10 each:</b>	<b>50 points</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Group Paper:</b>	<b>40 points</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Group Presentation:</b>	<b>30 points</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Group Evaluation:</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total available points:</b>	<b>200 points</b>	

Grading percentiles:

95 – 100%	A	90-94%	A-	
88 – 89%	B+	83-87%	B	80-82% B-
78 – 79%	C+	73-77%	C	70-72% C-
68 – 69%	D+	63-67%	D	60-62% D-
59% or lower			F	

The ability to retain knowledge will be measured in the classroom, and the skills of critical thinking and deeper theoretical synthesis will be assessed in the written assignments. Paper copies of the reading responses will be due in class the day of discussion. Any late assignments will be marked down by 10% for every calendar day they are submitted past the due date.

**Reading Responses:** These assignments will include a summary of the main points of each reading in each section, and a response from the student to the author(s). Each response per article should not take more than one long paragraph. At the end of the first half of the semester, each student should have an annotated bibliographic record of all the readings introduced throughout the course.

**Group Reports:** Each report should include an overview of the research completed for a given report period. All reports should take 12-15 minutes of class time per group. Report #1: general overview of the geographic and physical orientation of the urban center; Report #2: timeline of the development and urbanization of the city; Report #3: influence of globalization on the urbanization and social organization of the city; Report #4: summary of the economic and cultural influences within the urban center; Report #5: major social events within the previous 75-100 years within the urban center.

**Group Paper:** The group paper, when submitted, will count towards each student's final grade. The paper will include all of the information from the group reports, and will demonstrate a synthesis and analysis of the data collected over the course of the semester. The paper will be graded on: substantial inclusion of social theory, clarity of description of the urban center and its development over time, and general written proficiency.

**Group Presentation:** This will be the presentation of the group paper to the class. Each presentation should fill 20 minutes of class time. The final group presentations will be graded on: demonstration and analysis of concepts and urban transition, cohesion of theory and critical thought, and overall group member participation.

**Group Evaluation:** Each member of the class will complete a group evaluation of their colleagues. Completing this assignment will count towards 5% of each student's course grade, and will add to the instructor's ability to analyze the group participation portion of the group presentation grade.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Participation is required for full understanding of the material and group work during class meeting times. Since this course meets once weekly, more than two missed classes without documentation will count against the total course grade.

### **Missed Assignments**

Any assignment that is not submitted by the student will not be counted toward the student's final grade. Assignments submitted late will not be eligible for full credit. Each calendar day an assignment is submitted late, a loss of 10% of the total points for the assignment is assessed.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit opportunities may present themselves over the duration of the semester, and will be clarified when the opportunities are presented to the class. Any extra credit opportunity will be accompanied by secondary options, and not turning in extra credit will not negatively impact a course grade.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The University of Hawai'i explicitly prohibits cheating or plagiarism of any kind in the academic environment. The UH Code of Student Conduct, Section 1D. Academic Dishonesty states:

“Cheating includes but is not limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination; obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is given; submitting another's work as one's own; using prohibited sources of information during an examination; fabricating or falsifying data in experiments and other research; altering the record of any grade; altering answers after an examination has been submitted; falsifying any

official University record; or misrepresenting of facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms."

### **Grading Disputes**

Be sure to print out copies of the receipt of all exams turned in electronically, copies of extra credit work with grades, and any other communication between instructor and student in case of grade recording errors, which will be corrected if substantiated by the student. If there are any further disputes, academic affairs personnel are always available to support students.

#### **7. ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

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 with 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](tel:8089567612) (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

#### **8. CLASS MEETING ETIQUETTE**

- **Cell phones will be turned off during class meeting times, except with prior approval from the instructor.**
- Computers will be used for academic purposes only during meeting times
- Discussion topics will sometimes be controversial. Therefore, we will respect the confidentiality of the classroom, the diversity of the student body, and the importance of engaging in substantive discussions of social inequality and political/societal issues.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Meeting Dates	Reading	Topics/Assignments
Week 1 Week of: January 9		Introduction, overview, course schedule
Week 2 Week of: January 16	Part 1	Urbanism and Community Reading Response 01/18/12
Week 3 Week of: January 23	Part 2	The Form and Function of Cities Reading Response 01/25/12
Week 4 Week of: January 30	Part 3	Inequality and Social Difference Reading Response 02/01/12
Week 5 Week of: February 6	Part 4	Gender and Sexuality Reading Response 02/08/12
Week 6 Week of: February 13	Part 5	Globalization and Urban Change Reading Response 02/15/12
Week 7 Week of: February 20	Part 6	Culture and the Urban Economy Reading Response 02/22/12
Week 8 Week of: February 27	Part 7	Urban Exclusion and Social Resistance Reading Response 02/29/12
Week 9 Week of: March 5	Text Overview	Any overdue assignments must be submitted by 03/07/12
Week 10 Week of: March 12		Group report #1 due 03/14/12

Week 11 Week of: March 19		Group report #2 due 03/21/12
Spring Break Week of: March 26	No assignments	
Week 12 Week of: April 2		Group report #3 due 04/04/12
Week 13 Week of: April 9		Group report #4 due 04/11/12
Week 14 Week of: April 16		Group report #5 due 04/18/12
Week 15 Week of: April 23		Group Presentations
Week 16 Week of: April 30 Last Day of Class May 2		Group Presentations .
Finals Week Week of: May 7		Group paper due in Laulima by 10pm on May 9 <sup>th</sup>