University of Minnesota  
Department of Sociology  

Spring 2022  

SOC 3461: Sociology of Neighborhoods – 3 Credits  

Professor: Evan Roberts  

Lecture Times:  
Tues & Thur, 1:00 – 2:15  

Email: eroberts@umn.edu  
(this is the best way to get in touch with me)  

Office: Social Sciences 1078  

Office hours:  
Professor Evan Roberts: Tuesday 11:15-12:30 and Wednesday 1-2 in SocSci 1078 and by appointment (https://doodle.com/meetevan). Don’t be shy!  

COURSE CONTENT  

This course is an introduction to neighborhoods in American society. We will be operating the class in the style of a research lab, and working together to research Minneapolis neighborhoods and their associations in an era of important change in city policies. This structure provides you with an immersion in the specific sociology of the neighborhood you and your group are studying. Discussions and course readings are selected to help you make connections to what other students are observing, and to broader sociological questions about neighborhoods. We will encounter many of the classic issues and questions in neighborhood sociology, but not necessarily in the same order or logic as if we used a textbook on urban sociology.  

Expected workload  
In accordance with CLA Guidelines, you are expected to spend 9 hours per week on SOC 3461. This includes the 2.5 hours of class time in lecture and discussion on Tuesdays and Thursday.  

Communication of additional information: Information about any course changes will be announced in lectures, or sent via email.
Email and shared resources: Because of the collaborative nature of this class Canvas will not function as smoothly as it does in other classes. We will set up a shared Google Drive for most of our work.

Please set up your student email account to redirect messages to your preferred email address if you do not regularly check your student email account. You should be checking your email regularly for course related messages.

Email response policy:
You should check your email at least once every weekday.

I expect that if I send an email about a class happening more than two days ahead you will read it and take any action required. (e.g; if I send a message on Thursday afternoon about Tuesday’s discussion, you should have read it before Tuesday).

In return, you can expect that if you email me about SOC3461 I will reply within 24 hours during the week (and hopefully sooner). The aim of this policy is to facilitate quick communication, but without raising the unreasonable expectation that you (or I) will always be checking email.

I encourage you to submit class-related queries via email. A written record of the discussion avoids confusion later. Also, if the answer to your question would be interesting to the rest of the class, email allows me to easily expand the discussion. You can be sure that if I forward correspondence to the rest of the class I will either ask your permission, or edit your question so it doesn’t identify you.

READINGS

There are two kinds of required readings:
• Two required books: No Place Like Home and Gentrifier
• Assigned articles that are available online, and distributed in advance of the class our Google Drive.
The hyperlinks for each article will get you to a readable copy (HTML or PDF) if you are logged in on campus. If you want to get access from off-campus, you can
- Save the article while on campus to a device for reading later (this might include saving to a Dropbox or Google Drive folder or USB drive)
- Authenticate through the library and search for the journal or use the citation linker.
- Connect to the UMN Virtual Private Network and make it appear to the rest of the internet that you are on-campus (it.umn.edu/service-details/virtual-private-network-vpn)

**ASSESSMENT**

There are five pieces of assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation diary</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnographic observations from neighborhood meetings</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood statistical profile</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of interview transcripts and memo about interviews</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster produced in group</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent range</th>
<th>Points range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent range</th>
<th>Points range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and above</td>
<td>465 or more</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 75.9%</td>
<td>365 - 379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92.9%</td>
<td>450 - 464</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72.9%</td>
<td>350 - 364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86 - 89.9%</td>
<td>430 - 449</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66 - 69.9%</td>
<td>330 - 349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 85.9%</td>
<td>415 - 429</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>63 - 65.9%</td>
<td>315 - 329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82.9%</td>
<td>400 - 414</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>62% or lower</td>
<td>less than 315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 - 79.9%</td>
<td>380 - 399</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

As young adults you are responsible for making up your own mind about your time. But you should know when making your decisions that, on average, students who study for an extra hour a day have a GPA that is one-third of a grade point higher (e.g; the extra hour of study raises your GPA from a B to a B+).\(^1\) I recommend that you attend as many lectures and discussions as you can to get the most out of the class.

CAREER READINESS INITIATIVE

CLA is working with faculty to help us make courses more relevant and connected to your career. I am participating in this initiative as a “Faculty Fellow”. We will be reflecting on how we can translate what we learn in Sociology of Neighborhoods into practice in your future careers.

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http://www.bepress.com/bejeap/vol8/iss1/art14/
PENALTIES FOR LATE WRITTEN WORK

1. Grace period for one assignment. I realize that personal, medical, and miscellaneous events that prohibit students from turning work in on time do arise, and since this class is comprised of responsible adults, I have no desire to monitor reasons for late work. A 48-hour grace period will be granted once per semester to any student needing to take advantage of this policy. You are under no obligation to explain the circumstances to me, and the grace period can only be utilized once during the course of the semester.

2. Penalties for subsequent late assignments. After using their grace period students will be penalized for late submission of work—a deduction of 5 (Assignment 1 & 2) or 7 (Assignment 3) points for the first day late, and 2 points per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

Assignments more than 8 days late will receive a grade of 0.

But if you are ill, have an emergency, or are participating in university-sanctioned activities the due date for assignments can be changed. In such cases prior information is helpful. Please contact us as soon as a potential problem emerges – not right before the deadline. The earlier you can talk to us about late assignments, the better.

We also understand that “life happens,” and that sometimes it is hard to meet all your deadlines. Please come and see me, and we can discuss your options for doing your best to complete the work in a timely fashion. If you do receive an extension, we will put the new deadline in writing (email) so that we’re all clear on the dates.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Punishments for theft in World War I were severe … don’t find out how we punish plagiarists!

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University’s learning, teaching and research activities are based. The University of Minnesota’s reputation for academic integrity adds value to your degree.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else’s work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. “Someone else’s work” means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University’s website: http://writing.umn.edu/tww/sources/definitions.html

Plagiarism is prohibited at the University of Minnesota and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Student Conduct Code and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

1. An oral or written warning
2. Academic probation
3. Suspension from the course or the University.
**Schedule:** Because this class is designed as collaborative research towards a jointly written research paper, class time will focus on discussion of what we have learned at the neighborhood meetings we attend, working together to develop interview schedules, and looking at the statistical resources to study these neighborhoods.

In the second half of the course, our schedule will adjust depending on the number and timing of interviews we can set up.

Roughly, this will be our schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week (Tuesday)</th>
<th>Main activity</th>
<th>Main reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td><em>NPLH</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nokomis neighborhood visit</td>
<td><em>NPLH</em>, Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Social Explorer</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to coding documents and transcripts</td>
<td><em>NPLH</em>, Chapter 3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Central/Kingfield visits</td>
<td><em>NPLH</em>, Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Revise interview schedules</td>
<td><em>NPLH</em>, Chapter 6 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nokomis neighborhood visit Reflection on neighborhood meetings</td>
<td><em>Gentrifier</em>, Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Finalize statistical profiles</td>
<td><em>Gentrifier</em>, Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interviews with residents</td>
<td><em>Gentrifier</em>, Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Interviews with residents</td>
<td><em>Gentrifier</em>, Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Interviews with residents</td>
<td><em>Gentrifier</em>, Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Interviews with residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Interviews with residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Transcription and coding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Writing memos on neighborhood interviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Writing memos on neighborhood interviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Poster presentation (30 April)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
**Reading list**
There are two required books which we will read throughout the course on the schedule described above (for an image of each book, see page 2).


**Week 1: Definitions, context, and exemplary examples of recent neighborhood studies**

**Studies**


**Definitions**

**Local context**

**Week 2: Neighborhood associations**

*No Place Like Home*, Chapters 1-2


**Week 3: Observing neighborhood association meetings**

Chapters on ethnography from


**ADD MATERIAL FROM ANNETTE LAREAU BOOK INSTEAD?**

**Week 4: Interpreting your observations**

Reid, Colleen, Lorraine Greaves, and Sandra Kirby. 2017. *Experience research social change: Critical methods*: University of Toronto Press (Chapter 9)

Discuss *No Place Like Home*, Chapter 3-5
Week 5: Zoning and its effects

Week 6: Neighborhood associations and planning
Discuss No Place Like Home, Chapter 6-7

Week 7: “Neighborhood defenders”?
Einstein, Katherine Levine, David M Glick, and Maxwell Palmer. 2019. Neighborhood Defenders: Participatory Politics and America's Housing Crisis: Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 1 and 2)

Week 8: Home and housing
Thurston, Chloe N. 2018. At the boundaries of homeownership: Credit, discrimination, and the American state: Cambridge University Press

Week 9: Diverse neighborhoods in a segregated nation
Pattillo, Mary. 2010. Black on the block: The politics of race and class in the city: University of Chicago Press (selected chapters)

Week 10: Diverse neighborhoods continued

Week 11: Housing politics of diversity


**Week 12: Neighborhoods and diversity in conversation and imagination**


**Week 13: Residential moves**


College of Liberal Arts Policies

Grades: University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/4xxx) is indicated on the registration website; changes in grade scale may not be made after the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in courses required for the major/minor. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

A  Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 grade points)
A- 3.67 grade points
B+ 3.33 grade points
B  Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements (3.00 grade points)
B- 2.67 grade points
C+ 2.33 grade points
C  Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
C- 1.67 grade points
D+ 1.33 grade points
D  Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
F  Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
S  Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
N  No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
I  Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a "reasonable expectation" that you 1) can successfully complete unfinished work on your own no later than one year from the last day of classes and 2) believes that legitimate reasons exist to justify extending the deadline for course completion. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work. If a course is not completed as prescribed or not made up as agreed within the year, the I will lapse to an F if registered on the A-F grade base or an N if registered on the S-N grade base.
W  Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester. You must file a course cancellation request before the end of the sixth week of the semester to ensure that the W, rather than the F, will be formerly entered on your record.

Final Examinations (see schedule on the Calendar web site at https://onestop.umn.edu/academics/final-exam-times): You are required to take final examinations at the scheduled times. Under certain circumstances, however, you may request final examination schedule adjustment in your college office. Instructors are obligated to schedule make-up examinations within the final examination period for students who have three final examinations within a 16-hour period. Instructors also are encouraged to reschedule examinations for students with religious objections to taking an examination on a given day. You must submit your request for an adjustment in your schedule at least two weeks before the examination period begins. For assistance in resolving conflicts, call the CLA Student Information Office at 625-2020. If you miss a final, an F or N is recorded. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the examination. Final examinations may be rescheduled by the instructor only through the official procedure for that purpose (as noted on the above web page). Final examinations may not be scheduled for the last day of class or earlier or for Study Day. If an examination is rescheduled at the instructor's request, and you have an examination conflict because of it, you are entitled to be given the final examination at an alternative time within the regularly scheduled examination period for that semester.

Class Attendance: As a student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up of work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (https://policy.umn.edu/education/makeupwork).

Course Performance and Grading: Instructors establish ground rules for their courses in conformity with their department policies and are expected to explain them at the first course meeting. This includes announcement of office hours and location, the kind of help to be expected from the instructor and
teaching assistants, and tutorial services, if available. The instructor also describes the general nature of the course, the work expected, dates for examinations and paper submissions, and expectations for classroom participation and attendance. Instructors determine the standards for grading in their classes and will describe expectations, methods of evaluation, and factors that enter into grade determination. The special conditions under which an incomplete (I) might be awarded also should be established. The college does not permit you to submit extra work to raise your grade unless all students in the class are afforded the same opportunity.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave (the policies regarding student conduct are outlined on-line at https://communitystandards.umn.edu/know-code/consequences).

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: University instructors may restrict or prohibit the use of personal electronic devices in his or her classroom, lab, or any other instructional setting. For the complete policy, visit: http://policy.umn.edu/education/studentresp

SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT: The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows: Scholastic Dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. Students cannot evade (intentionally or unintentionally) a grade sanction by withdrawing from a course before or after the misconduct charge is reported. This also applies to late withdrawals, including discretionary late cancellation (also known as the "one-time-only drop"). For the complete policy, visit: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND STRESS MANAGEMENT: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/.

* SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES *

GRADE INFORMATION: Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 3 business days after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through the MyU Portal.

INCOMPLETES: It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor as early as possible if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that if completion of the work requires the student to attend class in substantial part a second time, assigning an “I” grade is NOT appropriate. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor. Students need to have completed a substantial portion of the course in order to be even considered for an Incomplete.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS: Arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements. Circumstances for missing an exam include, but are not necessarily limited to: verified illness, participation in athletic events or other group activities sponsored by the University, serious family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances.
It is the responsibility of the student to notify faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible.

**GRADE CHANGES:** Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor and/or teaching assistant.

Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked. See the departmental advisor in 923 Social Sciences to explore options.

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. For more info contact Disability Resource Center in 180 McNamara.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** "Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Faculty, Graduate Students, and full time Staff are Mandated Reporters for prohibited conduct. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment, or related retaliation; or if you have questions about any EOAA-related issue, please contact Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) at (612) 624-9547 or eoaa@umn.edu For the complete policy, visit [https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Sexual_Harassment_Sexual_Assault_Stalking_Relationship_Violence.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Sexual_Harassment_Sexual_Assault_Stalking_Relationship_Violence.pdf).

**SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS INFORMATION:** The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should view the online-information session about the major. Due to COVID-19, further information can be obtained from the following persons via email or online at [http://cla.umn.edu/sociology](http://cla.umn.edu/sociology)

- General information, Sociology Department – soc@umn.edu
- Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Bobby Bryant – socadvis@umn.edu
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Kathy Hull – hull@umn.edu
- Soc Honors Faculty Representative, Prof. Kathy Hull – hull@umn.edu
- Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Joe Gerteis – gerte004@umn.edu
- Graduate Program Associate, Becky Drasin – drasi001@umn.edu

Undergraduate jobs, internships, volunteer and research opportunities, scholarships, and much more can be found in the Undergraduate Resources site - [https://sociologyundergrad.wordpress.com/](https://sociologyundergrad.wordpress.com/)