

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Cities and Social Change 3451W**

**Tuesdays-Thursdays 9:30 AM-12:00 PM
Carlson School of Management 2-224**

Instructor: Yagmur Karakaya

Room: Social Sciences 909

Office Hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays 12:30-1:30 or by appointment



Paintings of New York City by Georgia O'Keefe.

Course Overview and Objectives

What makes a space urban? How can we make sense of urbanism? How are cities different than the countryside, can they be interlinked? We will start our summer-long journey with these questions that have informed scholars of the urban, people who both theorized about and influenced the making of cities. In order to make sense of the urban phenomenon we will historicize it, as social scientists usually do. We will look at the idea of polis, following it in medieval European towns and industrial cities. Reading visions of architects and designers will help us investigate the link between modernism and cities. We will look at the suburban dream and its critiques. Before the midterm we will see how people fit in our historicized model of cities, who will of course be raced, classed and gendered and discuss how our backgrounds influence, and contribute to the urban experience. In the second half, we will do some weaving and connect the world by looking at global cities, unequal urban development, and deconstruct

the notion of development itself, through cases of Turkey and Brazil. Lastly, we will tackle with gentrification, city as a space of consumption, and nostalgia.

Required Textbook:

LeGates, Richard T. and Frederic Stout. 2016. *The City Reader*. Sixth edition. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Course Requirements

Response Papers (six of your choosing) due by Mondays and Wednesdays 10PM	36%
Midterm	24%
Class Participation and Attendance	10%
Paper Research	10%
Paper 1 st Draft	10%
Paper Final	10%
Bonus Points: Participate in Annotated Bibliography of Literature on Twin Cities Undertake	7%

Response Papers:

In two double spaced pages synthesize and criticize authors of the day and post on Moodle by 10PM Mondays or Wednesdays. These are pieces where you are expected to engage with other theorists in our syllabus, and engage in critical thinking especially towards the last three. Bring in what you know from life experiences and other courses to comment intellectually on the literature we read. Does the theorist miss some aspects of the urban, how can other theorists help fill in the gap?

Midterm:

Midterm consists of short answer questions, a short essay and comparison. It is a tool to assess how we are doing in class, and if we are ready to move ahead or linger some more on previous subjects.

Class Participation and Attendance:

Learning is an interactive experience. I will supplement readings with different visuals, media and in class writing exercises that you would not want to miss. I will keep attendance to keep the collective effervescence at optimum level. Each day we will also discuss research challenges and possible remedies. I am hoping for great brainstorming sessions. I envision the classroom to be a safe space of mutual respect where we will engage in dialogue. People will bring in their experiences and life-worlds, hopefully there will be differences in opinions and respect thereof.

Paper Research and Write-up:

You are expected to curate your own urban research project with the method of your choosing. You can do ethnographic observation, qualitative interviews, archival research or engage in

quantitative methodology to investigate a topic you are interested in that has to do with the urban. Twin Cities is the primary option, but not a must. If you are from somewhere else, or interested in somewhere else, you can propose that too. Topics are very flexible as long as you convince me it is related to cities and social change. You are expected to see me in my office hours approximately on the third week to discuss your topic and possible ways of research. This is supposed to benefit you as you will explore your interests and engage in critical writing. So make it a summer adventure, not a burden. Explore neighborhood cultures, think about gentrification, day dream about biking, think about sports and urbanism while you get some credit for it. Key here is the feasibility of the project, and the match between your research question and method.

Themes and Reading Schedule

Week 1

06/13/2017: Sociological Definitions of the City

Readings

Lewis Mumford: “What is a city?” Pages: 110-115 in *The City Reader*

Louis Wirth: “Urbanism as a way of Life” Pages: 115-124 in *The City Reader*

06/15/2017: Historical Transformations of Cities: Ancient Cities, Medieval Towns, and Industrial England

Readings

H.D.F. Kitto: “The Polis” Pages: 39-45 in *The City Reader*

Henri Pirenne: “City Origins” and “Cities and European Civilization” 45-53 in *The City Reader*

Friedrich Engels: “The Great Towns” 53-63 in *The City Reader*

Week 2

06/20/2017: Modernism and the City

Readings

Le Corbusier: “a Contemporary City” Pages: 379-388 in *The City Reader*

Frank Lloyd Wright: “Broadacre City: A New Community Plan” Pages: 388-394 in *The City Reader*

06/22/2017: American Industrial Metropolis and Suburbanization

Readings

Sam Bass Warner: “Evolution and Transformation: The American Industrial Metropolis, 1840–1940” Pages: 63-73 in *The City Reader*

Robert Fishman: “Beyond Suburbia: The Rise of the Technoburb” Pages: 83-92 in *The City*

Reader

Week 3

06/27/2017: Suburbanization and Its Critiques

Readings

Kenneth T. Jackson: “The drive-in Culture of Contemporary America” Pages: 73-83 in *The City Reader*

Jane Jacobs: “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety” Pages: 149-154 in *The City Reader*

06/29/2017: Urban Life and Race

Readings

W.E.B. Du Bois: “The Negro Problems of Philadelphia,” “The Question of Earning a Living,” and “Color Prejudice” Pages: 124-131 in *The City Reader*

Hunter, Marcus and Zandria Robinson. 2016. “The Sociology of Urban Black America.” Annual Review of Sociology 42:385. (on Moodle)

Hunter, Marcus Anthony, Mary Pattillo, Zandria F. Robinson, and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. 2016. “Black Placemaking: Celebration, Play, and Poetry.” Theory, Culture & Society 33(7–8):31–56. (on Moodle)

Week 4

07/04/2017: No class

07/06/2017: City and Gender

Midterm Review

Readings

Daphne Spain: “What happened to Gender Relations on the way from Chicago to Los Angeles?” Pages: 193-203 in *The City Reader*

Week 5

07/11/2017: Midterm

07/13/2017: Cities in a Globalized World, Rethinking What Urban Is.

Readings

Saskia Sassen: “The impact of the New Technologies and Globalization on Cities” Pages: 650-659 in *The City Reader*

Neil Brenner and Roger Keil: “From Global Cities to Globalized Urbanization” Pages: 666-677 in *The City Reader*

Neil Brenner video: <http://www.urbantheorylab.net/videos/> (will watch in class)

Week 6

07/18/2017: Urbanism and New Forms of Inequalities

Readings

Mike Davis: "Fortress L.A." Pages: 212-218 in *The City Reader*

Caldeira, Teresa P. R. 1996. "Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation." *Public Culture* 8(2):303-28. (on Moodle)

Candan, Ayfer Bartu and Biray Kolluoğlu. 2008. "Emerging Spaces of Neoliberalism: A Gated Town and a Public Housing Project in İstanbul." *New Perspectives on Turkey* 39:5-46. (on Moodle)

07/20/2017: Right to the City in the Information Age

Readings

Manuel Castells: "Space of Flows, Space of Places: Materials for a Theory of Urbanism in the information age" Pages: 229-240 in *The City Reader*

David Harvey: "The Right to the City" Pages: 270-279 in *The City Reader*

Week 7:

Research Paper 1st draft due

07/25/2017: Right to the City through Case Studies

Readings

Özkırıklı, Umut. 2014. *The Making of a Protest Movement in Turkey: #occupygezi*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan. (Chapter TBA on Moodle)

Reading 2 TBA

07/27/2017: Consuming Cities and Nostalgia

Readings

Zukin, Sharon. 2010. *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. (Introduction and Chapter 1)

Week 8

08/01/2017: Consuming Cities and Nostalgia Continued

Readings

Hannigan, John. 1998. *Fantasy City: Pleasure and Profit in the Postmodern Metropolis*. London;

New York: Routledge. (Chapters TBA)

08/03/2017: Review and Media Discussion Session