

URBAN STUDIES 101
URBAN POVERTY AND AFFLUENCE
 (A "Perspectives on the Liberal Arts and Sciences" Course)
Sections 10M2A-J
Fall 2010

Lectures Presented by

Professor Melissa Checker
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Office Hours: M 9:45-10:45; 1-2pm; or by appointment

Discussion Sessions Led by

<p>Instructor Manissa Maharawal PH, Room 250J 718-997-5130 Mmaharawal@gc.cuny.edu Office Hours: W 12:15-1:15; or by appointment</p>	<p>Instructor Glenn Dyer PH, Room 250J Tel: 718-997-5130 gddyer1@yahoo.com Office Hours: W12:15-1:15; or by appointment</p>
<p>Instructor Alan Takeall PH, Room 250J Tel: 718-997-5130 atakeall@hotmail.com Office Hours: W12:15-1:15; or by appointment</p>	<p>Instructor Laurel Mei Turbin PH, Room 250J Tel: 718-997-5130 laurelmei@gmail.com Office Hours: W 12:15-1:15; or by appointment</p>
<p>Instructor Jure Anzulovic PH, Room 250J Tel: 718-997-5130 anzulovicj@hotmail.com Office Hours: W12:15-1:15; or by appointment</p>	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome. This course will introduce you to the field of Urban Studies. We will investigate why cities are places of economic and political opportunity for some and places of deprivation, discrimination, violence and impoverishment for others. We will explore how urban restructuring since WWII has increased the income gap in major metropolitan areas such as New York. We will also discuss different theories of urban poverty and inequality and examine the impact of immigration, racial segregation, suburbanization, public policies, and social movements on U.S. cities and on their inhabitants. Paying particular attention to inequalities based on race, class, gender, and sexuality, we will analyze proposals to reduce these inequalities.

**Revised 8/29/10*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The students will:

1. Learn the history of US urban restructuring from the latter half of the 20th century to the present.
2. Gain familiarity with contemporary approaches to the study of poverty and inequality from a variety of social scientific perspectives and disciplines.
3. Gain familiarity with basic urban research methods such as fieldwork, survey research, statistical research, and historical analysis.
4. Understand the difference between different disciplinary approaches to the study of urban areas.
5. Learn to read and critically analyze urban policy proposals.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This course fulfills two general education requirements. Through its discussion of urban studies approaches for studying the social systems, this course fulfills the "Analyzing Social Structures" Area of Knowledge and Inquiry requirement. Because this course engages in discussions of the American political system, social values and attitudes toward government and society, and the role of urban residents in shaping those institutions and values, it fulfills the "United States" Context of Experience requirement.

TIME AND PLACE

Class lectures are scheduled for Mondays from 10:50am to 12:05pm in RE101. Review sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays. Please **ONLY** attend the review session that corresponds with the section for which you are registered. You may not switch or "sit in" on another section!!!!

Section 10M2A, W8:00am-9:15am, PH 115 (Turbin)
 Section 10M2B, W9:25am-10:40am, PH 115 (Maharawal)
 Section 10M2C, W10:50am-12:05am, PH 115 (Maharawal)
 Section 10M2D, W1:40am-2:55pm, PH 202 (Takeall)
 Section 10M2E, W 9:25am-10:40pm, RE310 (Turbin)
 Section 10M2F, W10:50am-12:05am, RA219 (Anzulovic)
 Section 10M2G, W10:50am-12:05pm, PH106 (Dyer)
 Section 10M2H, W9:25am-10:40pm, RA219 (Takeall)
 Section 10M2J, W1:40am-2:55am, PH 115 (Anzulovic)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Class participation. Please come to lectures and review sessions prepared to discuss the assigned readings, to ask questions, and to listen and respond to others' questions and comments. Regular attendance is the best way for you to ensure your success in this course. PowerPoint lecture notes will be posted to BlackBoard every Monday morning by 10am. We encourage you to download them, print them out and use them during class.

2) Discussion Preparation. In order to encourage advanced preparation for discussion sessions, we ask you to complete **six** (out of a total of eleven) short homework assignments over the course of the semester. Assignments can be found in the "Assignments Folder" of the Blackboard site. You will receive credit only for accurate, timely and original work. You are free to choose any six of the eleven assignments (and therefore can choose which five to miss). Please also keep the following guidelines in mind:

a) Assignments must be submitted **ONLINE** to the BlackBoard site no later than MONDAY at 9am. Each week, you must answer the questions posted to the ASSIGNMENTS button on our BlackBoard course website. We cannot accept assignments by email; nor can we accept assignments left in our department mailboxes during or after class. You must put your name, section letter (A-J), and section leader's name on every homework assignment!

b) Assignments will be posted to our course Blackboard website **on the WEDNESDAY before they are due**. As a matter of course policy, we cannot send assignments to you by email. Sorry about this, but there are simply too many of you for us to be able to provide this level of individualized administrative support.

c) Because we allow you to miss five assignments for any reason, it follows that no late assignments will be accepted. It also follows that we cannot accept excuses after you have already skipped four assignments. We know that some of you will try anyway, but we really mean this. You read it here first: No exceptions!

d) Homework assignments will be graded on a 3-point scale as follows:

- 3: Student has read, reflected upon, and applied the assignment to larger, ongoing themes/issues either within or outside of the course in an above average way.
- 2: Student has read and reflected upon the assignment in a satisfactory way.
- 1: Student has inadequately reflected on the assignment.

You must receive the grade of 2 or better to receive credit for the assignment.

d) Syllabus Quiz! Your first **graded** assignment will be **due** in your **very first discussion** session. It is a quiz on the syllabus. You must take it online – it is available through the Blackboard site, under the folder marked Tests. Please bring your score (printed or hand-written) to your first discussion session. Your score will be added into your other homework grades.

3) Midterm Exam. This exam covers the first half of the course. The exam is comprised of multiple choice and medium-length questions. We will distribute a study sheet the week before the exam.

4) Final exam. This exam covers the second half of the course primarily; however, you may be asked conceptual questions from the first half of the semester. The exam is comprised of multiple choice, medium-length and essay questions. We will distribute a study sheet the week before the exam.

Grading: Discussion Preparation/Homework (including syllabus quiz), 35%
Midterm Exam, 30%
Final Exam, 35%

Please note also the following:

- People come to this class with different kinds of academic expertise, different life experiences, and different customs (both individual and cultural). These differences can, and hopefully will, contribute positively to the substance and quality of class discussion. However, because these differences are often related to social inequalities, they can also be a source of misunderstanding and frustration. It is thus important to keep in mind that active, respectful class participation is as much about listening to and engaging the ideas of others as it is about speaking one's own mind.
- Laptop use is **NOT** permitted during the lectures!! If you need to use your cell phone, BlackBerry, I-Pod, I-phone, or any other electronic equipment, please do so outside of the classroom; using these devices during class may be distracting to your fellow classmates. The recording of lectures or class discussions is not permitted.
- Incompletes will not be granted, except in extraordinary circumstances and with proper documentation. After-the-fact requests for extensions and incompletes will not be considered. We really mean this.
- Grade Change Policy (for all assignments): Students wanting clarification on a particular grade must submit a request in writing explaining their question and, if they are disputing an answer marked wrong, documentation of the grading error with evidence from the text.
- Email Policy: Please email your TA/instructor **first – that is, before** you email Professor Checker. It's nothing personal, but there are 250 of you and it's likely that your email will get lost in my Inbox or worse. It also helps if you observe the following guidelines: a) include a meaningful subject line; b) format the message as if it were a letter (with a salutation, body and closing); and c) end the email with your full name and telephone number. Please don't email us from an email account with an obscene or immature log in name. Believe me, we've seen it all.

BLACKBOARD

The Syllabus, weekly lecture outlines, homework assignments, and grades will be posted to our course web page on the CUNY Blackboard server. On that site you will also find useful materials designed to enhance your understanding of the course and its related topics. Information on how to log on to Blackboard is available through the Office of Converging Technologies.

REQUIRED READING

You will be assigned approximately 50 pages of reading each week, due on the day they are assigned. The one required text for the course is:

Goldsmith, William and Edward Blakely (2010). *Separate Societies: Poverty and Inequality in U.S. Cities* Philadelphia: Temple University Press (Available for purchase at the QC bookstore or through your favorite online vendor).

Additional reading materials are available via e-reserve, which can be accessed through the library home page, or at: <http://www.reserve.qc.edu/eres/default.aspx>.

Our course password is: che101.

1st Note: Relevant articles are sometimes listed by author's name, either last or first, or by title. You may need to look carefully through the e-reserve list to find the article(s) assigned for a particular week.

2nd Note: Our course is extremely timely and on occasion, we will assign you a specific newspaper or magazine article that is relevant to our course. In these cases, we will notify you ahead of time and post links to those articles on Blackboard.

OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT INFO

Professor Checker's office is **Room 250L** in Powdermaker Hall. Her office phone number is **718-997-5148**. Her e-mail address is mchecker@qc.cuny.edu.

Her office hours are **Mondays: 9:45-10:45 and 1-2 pm**. If you cannot make it during the office hours listed, please contact her by email or phone to schedule an appointment.

Instructors Manissa Maharawal, Glenn Dyer, Laurel Mei Turbin, Jure Anzulovic and Alan Takeall's offices are **Room 250J in Powdermaker Hall**. Their office phone #s are **718-997-5130**. Their office hours are **Wednesdays 12:15-1:15 p.m.**

If you cannot make it during the office hours listed above, please contact your instructor by email or phone to schedule an appointment.

Instructor Emails:

- Manissa Maharawal Mmaharawal@qc.cuny.edu
- Alan Takeall ATakeall@hotmail.com
- Glenn Dyer gddyer1@yahoo.com
- Laurel Mei Turbin laurelmei@gmail.com
- Jure Anzulovic anzulovicj@hotmail.com

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Queens College takes cheating and plagiarism very seriously; if caught you may fail the course and/or be suspended from the college. Don't copy other people's work. This means that you should not take the words or ideas of another person and submit them without acknowledging the original author. Examples of plagiarism include copying from another student's homework assignment or taking phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or statistical findings from a variety of sources and piecing them together without citing them. Taking phrases, paragraphs or papers from course readings, the internet or other students and representing them as your own falls under this category. You must always indicate when you have used an idea from someone else's work; anything else constitutes stealing from others and

violates both the ethics of this class and established academic standards. There are now sophisticated search engines that prove beyond a reasonable doubt when students have downloaded web-based material and submitted it as their own (CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity, adapted June 28, 2004. See <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Required readings are listed below. This schedule may be adjusted.

Date Readings/discussion topics

8/30 Introduction: What is Urban Studies?

Assignments:

- Please read this entire syllabus by 9/1.
- Please log onto our Blackboard course page and read all of the announcements by 9/1.
- Please take the syllabus quiz on the Blackboard site and bring your score to Discussion Session #1.

9/1 Discussion Session #1: Syllabus Quiz Due

9/6 No Class: Labor Day

9/8 NO DISCUSSION SESSION!

9/13 Lecture # 1: Rich and Poor in the 21st Century

- *Separate Societies*, Pages 1-13 & 35-50
- The Economist, "Meritocracy in America: Ever higher society, ever harder to ascend"
- Sherman and Stone "Income Gaps Between Very Rich and Everyone Else More than Tripled in Last Three Decades"
- Snyder "So Long, Middle Class"
- (HW#1 Due)

9/15 Discussion Session #2

9/20 Lecture # 2: Theories of Impoverishment

- *Separate Societies*, Pages 13-34
- Devah Pager and Bruce Western, "Race at Work"
- (HW #2 Due)

9/22 Discussion Session # 3

9/27 Lecture # 3: The Poverty Line & Underemployment

- *Separate Societies*, Pages 50-74
- Laura Maggi, "The Poor Count," American Prospect
- Cara Buckley, "City Refines Formula to Measure Poverty Rate"
- (HW#3 Due)

9/29 **Discussion Session #4**

10/4 **Lecture # 4: Globalization and the Working Poor**

- *Separate Societies*, Chapter 3
- Katherine Newman, *No Shame in My Game*, Chapter 1, p. 3-35.
- (HW#4 Due)

10/6 **Discussion Session #5**

10/11& 10/13 NO CLASSES: COLUMBUS DAY

10/18 **Lecture # 5: Urban Planning and the End of Public Space**

- Mike Davis, "Fortress Los Angeles: the Militarization of Urban Space"
- (HW#5 Due)

10/20 **Discussion Session #6**

10/25 **Lecture # 6: Urban Segregation, Gentrification and Displacement**

- *Separate Societies*, Chapter 4.
- Douglass Massey. "The Race Case." In *American Prospect*, 2003.
- Newman and Wily, "Gentrification and Displacement Revisited"
- (HW#6 Due)

10/27 **Discussion Session #7**

11/1 **MIDTERM EXAM**

11/3 **NO DISCUSSION SESSION!!**

11/8 ***Special Guest: Professor Bernadette Hanlon, University of Maryland**

11/10 **Discussion Session #8**

11/15 **Lecture # 7: The New Urban Economy**

- Peter Eisinger, "The Politics of Bread and Circuses"
- "Loot, Loot, Loot for the Hometeam"
- (HW#7 Due)

11/24 **Discussion Session #9**

11/22 **Lecture # 8: Migration and Inequality**

- Amy Traub, "Principles for an Immigration Policy"
- Robert G. Lee, "Making the Model Minority Myth"
- (HW#8 Due)

11/24 **Discussion Session #10**

11/29 **Lecture # 9: Welfare, Workfare and the Impoverishment of Women**

- Jane Collins, "The Specter of Slavery: Workfare and the Economic

- Citizenship of Poor Women”
- (HW#9 Due)

12/1 **Discussion Session #11**

12/6 **Lecture # 10: Criminal Injustice**

- Marc Mauer, “Giving the Pubic What it Wants: Media Images and Crime Policy.”
- Ronald Weich and Carlos Angulo, “Racial Disparities in the American Criminal Justice System.”
- (HW# 10 Due)

12/8 **Discussion Session #12**

12/13 **Lecture # 11: Environmental Racism, Sustainable Cities, and Climate Justice**

- Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia, “Air of Injustice: How Air Pollution Affects the Health of Hispanics and Latinos”
- Melissa Checker, “ ‘Like Nixon Coming to China’: Finding Common Ground in a Multi-ethnic Coalition for Environmental Justice”
- (HW# 11 Due)

******Final Exam – Week of 12/14-12/21 – NO MAKEUPS!!! Please make your holiday travel plans accordingly******