

Gaziantep University
Department of Sociology

Year 2 Students
2024-2025

Spring Term

SOC202 Urban Sociology

Module Outline

Lecturer-Convenor: Dr. Ayşegül Yıldırım, ayild002@gold.ac.uk,
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Module Description

Urbanization remains a significant global trend shaping societies and economies, reflecting historical shifts from agrarian to urban lifestyles driven by industrialisation and technological progress. It is a process which brought about configurations regarding categories including class, race and gender specific to urban space, now an ever-expanding hub for capital accumulation which further feeds back into the demarcation of these categorisations. The aim of this module is to unpack the intertwined relationship between urban space and social reality through exploring a diversity of approaches of contemporary urban theorists. A sociological look into urban space will explicate not only the constructedness of such spaces, but also the divergence (or convergence) of social groups and categories which are specifically shaped by the dynamics within the city as well as the intensity of capitalist urban growth.

Upon successful completion of this module, students will achieve the following learning objectives:

- Discern the differences between multiple approaches to the emergence and functions of the urban spaces,
- Evaluate issues specific to urban spaces with a sociological lens,
- Understand the fundamental relationship between industrialisation and capitalism in the emergence and growth of the cities,
- Understand the reciprocity of urban space and social reality.

Readings

Weekly readings are compulsory and will be noted below. Students are required to complete the key readings before their corresponding lecture.

How to access these materials will be made clear during the lectures.

Reading list:

Miles, M., Borden, I. & Hall, T. (2000). The City Cultures Reader. Routledge.

Lin J. & Mele C. (2013). The Urban Sociology Reader. Routledge.

Each week you will read one or two chapter(s) from these books as key reading (apart from a few exceptions).

Course requirements

You are expected to engage with **both the key readings and lecture notes** in your assessments for this module. **Weekly readings are required to be done before the class** and will be noted below.

Attendance is compulsory. Those who are unable to attend any lecture due to unforeseen circumstances should notify me in the first instance using above e-mail address (preferably the first one as it is monitored more often). Mass absences leading to cancellation of the class is a waste of time and detrimental for your learning.

Please ensure I have your up-to-date e-mail address as all essential correspondence are being conducted via e-mail.

Assessment is **40% mid-term exam, 60% final exam.**

Plagiarism and use of AI-written texts are not to be tolerated.

Grammar and structure issues decrease the readability of your work and can lead to significant reduction in your marks. If your overarching argument is not clearly stated in your work, it is not possible for me to assess your submission properly. *I am here to help by guiding you in the right direction. However, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to improve on grammar with extra effort to catch up with the pace of the modules.*

If you are in doubt about any aspect of the course, please **e-mail** me and I will respond during the working hours (9am-5pm). Alternatively, you can visit in-person during the **office hours**. You are also welcome to visit before or after the classes about your inquiries, depending on my availability.

Weekly Readings¹

BLOCK I

WEEK 1 – Introduction and overview

No reading set for this week. Students are required to review the module outline.

WEEK 2 – “Community and Society”, Ferdinand Tönnies in Lin J. & Mele C. (2013). The Urban Sociology Reader. Routledge, pp.16-22.

WEEK 3 – “The Metropolis and Mental Life”, Georg Simmel, The Reader, pp.23-31.

WEEK 4 – “Urbanism as a Way of Life”, Louis Wirth, The Reader, pp.32-41.

WEEK 5 – “Theories of Urbanism” Claude S. Fischer, The Reader, pp.42-49.

WEEK 6 – “Human Ecology”, Robert Ezra Park, The Reader, pp.83-90.

WEEK 7 – Assessment advice

No reading set for this week. Students may catch up with other readings.

WEEK 8 - MID-TERMS - No Lecture.

BLOCK II

WEEK 1 – “The Urban Process under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis”, David Harvey, The Reader, pp.100-108.

WEEK 2 – “The City as a Growth Machine”, John Logan and Harvey Molotch, The Reader, pp.109-117.

WEEK 3 – “Cities and the Geographies of ‘Actually Existing Neoliberalism’ ”, Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore, The Reader, pp.138-147.

WEEK 4 – “Segregation and the Making of the Underclass”, Douglas S. Massey and Nancy A. Denton, The Reader, pp.192-201.

WEEK 5 – “ ‘Race,’ Space, and Power: The Survival Strategies of Working Poor Women”, Melissa R. Gilbert, The Reader, pp.260-269.

¹ For reference only. May be subject to change during term time.

WEEK 6 – “The Right to the City”, David Harvey, *The Reader*, pp.429-432.

WEEK 7 – Assessment advice.

No reading set for this week. Students may catch up with other readings.

WEEK 8 - FINALS - No Lecture.