

SOC211

Urban Sociology

Welcome

Welcome to our class website!

What are cities? How are urban communities organized? These are the central questions underlying the readings, writings and discussions that you will undertake in this class. We'll learn about the role that architecture and built space play in guiding social life. We'll read different perspectives on financial and political power in cities. We'll examine the roles played by race, inequality, and culture in shaping the urban landscape. Whenever possible, we'll look at these topics in the context of contemporary New York City neighborhoods. Ideally, at the end of the course, we will all be equipped with a better understanding of the city that surrounds us.

This website will serve as our platform for course information, readings and assignments. Pages devoted to the syllabus, assignments, grading, rules and policies for the class are available in the menu to the right and above. Welcome again to the class and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

REQUIRED BOOK: There is only one required book for this course: **Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele, 2005. The Urban Sociology Reader. New York: Routledge. First Edition.** This book is available used and relatively cheap [here \(https://href.li/?http://www.amazon.com/Urban-Sociology-Reader-Routledge-Series/dp/B005FS8WB6/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1344285266&sr=8-2&keywords=lin+urban+sociology+reader\)](https://href.li/?http://www.amazon.com/Urban-Sociology-Reader-Routledge-Series/dp/B005FS8WB6/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1344285266&sr=8-2&keywords=lin+urban+sociology+reader) and [here \(https://href.li/?http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Urban-Sociology-Reader/Jan-Lin/e/9780415323437\)](https://href.li/?http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Urban-Sociology-Reader/Jan-Lin/e/9780415323437), and a copy is on course reserve in the library.

Professor Mike Owen Benediktsson

- mob201@gmail.com
- 917.749.2410 (mobile phone for emergencies)
- Office Hours: Wednesday, 5:30pm – 7:00pm, Room W1648

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Syllabus

SOC 211: URBAN SOCIOLOGY

- Mon./Wed. 5:35pm – 6:50pm
- Professor: Mike Owen Benediktsson
- mob201@gmail.com
- 917.749.2410 (mobile phone for emergencies)
- Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30pm – 5:00pm, Room W1648

1. WHAT ARE CITIES AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

Monday, 1/27:

- No readings

Wednesday, 1/28: *The Birth of the Modern City*

- Massey (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/excerpts-massey-industrial-urbanism-strange-land.pdf>), excerpts from *Strangers in a Strange Land*, Chapter 5: “Industrial Urbanism”
- Lofland (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/lofland-world-of-strangers-bw.pdf>), excerpts from *A World of Strangers*, excerpts from Chapter 3: “The Early Industrial City”

2: URBAN REFORM AND THE MODERN CITY

Monday, 2/3: noon: Reading Responses Due!!

Monday, 2/3: SNOWSTORM: CLASS CANCELLED

Wednesday, 2/5: *Urbanization and its Discontents*

- Excerpt (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/urbanization-and-its-discontents-readings-small.pdf>) from Simmel and Wirth

Monday, 2/10: *The High Modern Response*

- Excerpt (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/>

Wednesday, 2/12: NO CLASS: LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Monday, 2/17: NO CLASS PRESIDENT'S DAY

3. SMALL URBAN SPACES

Wednesday, 2/19: noon: Reading Responses Due!!

Wednesday, 2/19: *Vitality and Urban Design I*

- Excerpt (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/jacobs-uses-of-sidewalks-safety.pdf>) from Jacobs, "The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety"
- Excerpt (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/jacobs-uses-of-sidewalks-contact.pdf>) from Jacobs, "The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact"

THURSDAY!!, 2/20: *Vitality and Urban Design II*

- Excerpt (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/excerpt-whyte-small-urban-spaces.pdf>) from Whyte, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*.
- Screening, *Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*

Monday, 2/24: *Vitality and Urban Design III*

4. SEGREGATION AND THE MODERN GHETTO

Wednesday, 2/26: noon: Reading Responses Due!!

Wednesday, 2/26: *The Making of an Urban Underclass*

- Wacquant and Wilson, "The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion" (USR)
- Massey and Denton "Segregation and the Making of the Underclass" (USR)

Monday, 3/3: *The Culture of Poverty*

- Encyclopedia Article on Culture of Poverty (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/culture-of-poverty-encyclopedia-of-anthropology.pdf>)
- Excerpt from Tally's Corner (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/talleys-corner-readable.pdf>)

Wednesday, 3/5: *The Code of the Street*

- Anderson, "[The Code of the Streets](http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/anderson-code-of-the-streets.pdf)" (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/anderson-code-of-the-streets.pdf>) (from *The Atlantic*)
- Screening, *The Wire*

Monday, 3/10: *Policed and Privatized Spaces*

- Kelling and Wilson, "[Broken Windows](http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/broken-windows-kelling-and-wilson.pdf)" (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/broken-windows-kelling-and-wilson.pdf>), from *The Atlantic*.
- Sridhar, "[Broken Windows and Zero Tolerance](http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/sridhar-critique-of-broken-windows.pdf)" (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/sridhar-critique-of-broken-windows.pdf>), from *The Economic and Political Weekly*.

Wednesday, 3/12: *The Carceral City*

- Excerpt (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/davis-fortress-los-angeles.pdf>) from Davis, City of Quartz. "Fortress Los Angeles.
- Goffman, Alice. "On the Run (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/goffman-on-the-run.pdf>)"

Monday, 3/17: MIDTERM**Wednesday, 3/19: NO CLASS****5. THE NEOLIBERAL CITY (power and place)****Monday, 3/24: Reading Response Due by Noon****Monday, 3/24: *The Battle for Brooklyn***

- Logan and Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine" (USR)
- Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine" (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/molotch-city-as-growth-machine.pdf>) (this is a different article than the one above, read both!!)
- Screening: *The Battle for Brooklyn*. 2011, Part 1.

Wednesday, 3/26: *The Battle for Brooklyn*

- Screening: *The Battle for Brooklyn*. 2011, Part 2.

Monday, 3/31: *Research Group Meetings and Resources***6. THE BRANDED CITY****Wednesday, 4/2: *The Neoliberal City and the Branding of New York***

- Miriam Greenberg, *Urban Restructuring and Tourism Marketing* (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/greenberg-branding-neoliberal-city.pdf>)

Wednesday, 4/7: Reading Response Due at Noon!!**Monday, 4/7: *How Brooklyn Lost Its Soul, Part I*.**

- Sharon Zukin Profile in New York Times (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/powell-nytimes-zukin-profile.pdf>)
- Watch Interview with Sharon Zukin [here](https://href.li/?http://bigthink.com/sharonzukin#!video_idea_id=18736) (https://href.li/?http://bigthink.com/sharonzukin#!video_idea_id=18736).
- Schwartz, *Gentrification and its Discontents* (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/schwartz-gentrification-and-its-discontents.pdf>)
- Screening: *My Brooklyn*. 2012. Part 1.

Wednesday, 4/9: *How Brooklyn Lost Its Soul, Part II*.

- Screening: *My Brooklyn*. 2012. Part 2.

Monday, 4/14 – Monday 4/21: SPRING BREAK!! NO CLASS

7. WINDING DOWN, SUMMING UP

Research Outlines due Tuesday, 4/23 at 10PM

Wednesday, 4/23: *Outlines Due / Meetings With Mike*

Monday, 4/28: *The Creative Class*

- Florida, "Cities and the Creative Class" (USR)
- Gottdeiner, "Looking at Themed Environments" (USR)

Wednesday, 4/30: *The Global City*

- Readings TBA

Monday, 5/5: *The Virtual City*

- [Barry Wellman, "Neighboring in Netville"](http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/wellman-neighboring-in-netville.pdf) (<http://urbansoc211.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/wellman-neighboring-in-netville.pdf>)

Wednesday, 5/7: *Your turn!*

- Group Presentations

Monday, 5/12: *Your turn!*

- Group Presentations

Wednesday, 5/14: *Your turn!*

- Group Presentations

Monday, 5/19, 4PM: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL!!!!

Wednesday 5/21, 10PM: FINAL DRAFTS OF ALL READING RESPONSES DUE!!!

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