

## SOCL 4321 THE COMMUNITY

Fall 2017  
Room TBD

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Professor: **Michael S. Barton, Ph.D.**  
**139 Stubbs Hall**  
[mbarto3@lsu.edu](mailto:mbarto3@lsu.edu)

Office Hours: **After class each day and by appointment.**

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The study of the social organization of cities and neighborhoods has been a staple of American Sociology for over a century. The overwhelming consensus of this work is that where we live has important consequences including who we interact with, exposure to crime, housing availability, access to quality education among other phenomena. This course will explore these issues with an emphasis on their importance for community. Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent.

### **What should you expect to get from this course?**

1. An understanding of why cities and neighborhoods affect people's lives.
2. An appreciation of the broader social, political, and economic forces that affect the development of community in cities and neighborhoods.
3. To discuss the importance of the inequalities that emerge within and between cities and neighborhoods.

### Readings:

#### **REQUIRED:**

1. Harding, Alan and Talja Blokland. 2014. *Urban Theory: A Critical Introduction to Power, Cities and the Urbanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.
2. Articles posted to Moodle

### General Course Guidelines:

(1) *Classroom Participation and Etiquette:* All students are expected to participate in class discussions. Your participation helps you and your classmates to learn, practice, and actively engage with class materials. We will sometimes be discussing controversial and sensitive topics, during which time debates are not only acceptable, but expected. I expect that all classroom communications will be respectful. I work hard to create a learning environment where all viewpoints are respected and, thus, **will not tolerate racist, sexist, homophobic, or other insulting comments.**

(2) *Attendance:* **Punctual** class attendance is vital for learning and is required by university policy. **You are personally responsible for obtaining notes from classes that you miss.** I strongly encourage you to make friends with at least two other people in this class in case you (or they) need notes. I request that students be willing to allow other students to photocopy their notes. I will not release lecture notes, but PowerPoints will be posted after each class. Much of the

material covered in lecture IS NOT in your readings. Likewise, the readings introduce crucial material that helps illuminate the lectures and discussions.

**(3) Academic Integrity: Any student who engages in academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty), will receive a failing grade on the quiz or assignment for the first offense. Second offenses will result in referral to the University Judicial System, which includes more serious punishments (suspension, expulsion etc.) Please familiarize yourself with the Undergraduate Academic Regulations:**

<http://saa.lsu.edu/code-student-conduct>

**(4) Computers and other Technological Devices:** All laptops, PDA's, cell phones, pagers, iPods, iPads, iPhones, and other technology devices (and associated ear-buds) must be turned off and put away prior to class. Laptops are often used for other activities (aside from note taking) and can be very distracting to other students. Students are allowed to utilize international translator devices.

**(5) Disabled Students:** If you qualify for extra accommodations because of a diagnosed disability, please submit a letter to Dr. Barton from Disability Services by the third week of class so that arrangements can be made as needed. Disability Services is located in 115 Johnston Hall (225) 578-5919: <http://disability.lsu.edu/>

#### Course Grade:

- (1) Three Non-Cumulative Exams (20 points each).** Exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. Short answer questions will be addressable in a paragraph or less.
- (2) In-Class Assignments/ Periodic Reading Quizzes (10 points).** Periodically, we will do brief (2-10 minutes) individual or group exercises in class. These will be **unannounced** and involve answering a question, applying concepts or theories, or reflecting on an issue related to urban sociology. Each student will turn in a write-up, unless otherwise instructed. **Students are allowed to miss up to two (2) of these assignments without losing points.**
- (3) Journal Assignment (30 points).** All students must keep a journal that relates course material, classroom discussions and readings to outside sources such as lived experiences, television shows or news stories. The goal of this journal is to explore the material covered in this course by becoming more aware of city life and how people live in and utilize urban spaces. Your journal should include at least one entry per class meeting that is about 1-2 pages in length and may include a COMBINATION of all of the following:

- Reflections on reading assignments
- Reflections on classroom discussions
- Reflections on videos shown during class
- Reflections on lived experiences
- Clippings from magazines and newspapers (with an appropriate discussion)
- Brochures or maps (with an appropriate discussion)

**Journal entries should be varied so that they include a combination of reflections on course readings, discussions, lived experiences, etc.**

We have two class meetings devoted to the presentation of journal entries. Volunteers for presentation will be solicited first, but I reserve the right to call on any student to discuss one of their journal entries. Attendance on journal presentation days will be treated as an in-class assignment.

(4) **Grading:** The final letter grade will be based on the numeric score as follows:

Exams	= 60 points
In-class participation	= 10 points
<u>Journal Assignment and Presentation</u>	= 30 points

Total possible points = 100 points

**POINT TOTALS WILL ONLY BE ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER.**

A+ (97-100), A (93-96.9), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), C+ (77-79.9), C (73-76.9), C- (70-72.9), D+ (67-69.9), D (63-66.9), D- (60-62.9), F (0-59.9)

**Final Note: A Syllabus is a form of a contract designed to protect both the student and the professor so all parties are informed of the rules. If you have any concerns with the requirements of this class, please meet with Professor Barton early in the session.**

Tentative Course Schedule: All readings should be done PRIOR to class. All of the listed readings are found in the **Flanagan** book unless noted (\*), which can be downloaded from Moodle.

8/22	Overview of the syllabus / Why study cities?	
8/24	What are the basic concepts for the study of urbanization?	Chapter 1
8/29	How are urbanized areas and communities studied?	Brockeroff* (skim) Duneier* (read)
9/5	What is the answer to “The Community Question?”	Wellman (1979)*
9/7	How has community life changed with technology?	Hampton and Wellman*
9/12	What perspectives guide the urbanization process?	Chapter 2 (Pages 23-28) Chapter 4
9/14	Catch-up and Review for Exam 1	
<b>9/19</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
9/21	Growth and decline of urban areas (Emphasis on United States)	Chapter 3 Rappaport*
9/26	Urbanization around the world <i>Urbanized</i> documentary shown in class	No reading assigned
9/28	What issues are developing countries working through as they urbanize?	Brockeroff* (read/review)
10/3	How has suburbanization influenced the landscape of the United States?	Chapter 5 (140-145) (Denton and Gibbons*)
10/5	What is gentrification? Does it reflect a “Return to the City Movement?”	Barton 2016

<b>10/10</b>	What are the issues facing contemporary rural America?	Gurley*
10/12	<b>Exam 2</b>	
10/17	Historical development and importance of segregation	Chapter 5
10/19	<b>FALL HOLIDAY</b>	
10/24	Contemporary issues of segregation in the United States	Chapter 5 (131-140) Hurley 2016*
10/26	What impact do immigrants have on cities?	Hwang 2016*
10/31	Why are neighborhoods and communities important for crime?	Sampson and Raudenbush*
11/2	How does the neighborhood you live in impact your health?	Roux and Mair*
11/9	What strategies are cities using to “Go Green?”	Goodyear 2013* Hester 2016* O’Sullivan 2016*
11/14	Documentary: The Nature of Cities	No Reading Assigned
<b>11/16</b>	<b>Journal Development Day – No Class Meeting</b>	
11/21	How do Cities and Communities respond to Crisis?	Hafner 2016* Wachsmuth 2013*
11/23	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
11/28	Part 1 of Journal Presentations in class <b>Journal must be submitted electronically by the start of class.</b>	
11/30	Part 2 of Journal Presentations in class	
<b>12/4</b>	<b>Exam 3 administered during Final Exam period from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	