

This course is designed to explore the city from a sociological perspective with a focus on the central question of community in modern urban life. We will discuss various theories and research on cities, local communities, and neighborhoods. I will stress Evanston and Chicago neighborhoods and other aspects of Chicagoland as research sites. I encourage you to raise and research a question of interest to you for your term paper.

Books: Larry Lyon – The Community in Urban Society (Waveland 1999)
Harvey Warren Zorbaugh – The Gold Coast and the Slum (Chicago 1929/1976)
Readings- On Reserve/Blackboard (note an * = recommended, not required)

Grades: Two Exams 60% (30% each) 1st on April 30 2nd on May 28
Final Paper 40% (8-10 pages) due Mon June 8

Topics & Readings:

Week 1 – Pre-Amble (Around the City)

3/31 -4/2 Lyon – Chapter One – The Concept of Community
Zorbaugh – Introductions
Chapter I – The Shadow of the Skyscraper
Reading – Wirth – Urbanism as a Way of Life

Week 2 – Perspectives on the City

4/7-9 Lyon – Chapter Two – The Typological Approach
Chapter Fourteen – Field Research & Holistic Studies
Zorbaugh – Chapter II – An Area in Transition
Reading - Melvin – Neighborhood Definition
*Ross - Neighborhood Stability & Well-Being

** Statement of interests due in class Thursday April 9

Week 3 – Physical City

4/14-16 Lyon – Chapter Three – The Ecological Approach
Zorbaugh – Chapter XI – The City and the Community
Reading- Immergluck – Local Working
*Elliott & Sims – Ghettos, Barrios & Jobs
*Canache – Looking Out My Back Door

Week 4 – People – Family, Race, and Class

4/21-23 Lyon – Chapter Five – The Conflict Approach
Zorbaugh – Chapter VII – The Slum
Chapter VIII – Little Hell
Reading- Harris – Property Values & Blacks
*Logan – Family Neighbors

** Paper topics due in class Thursday April 23.

