

**MODERN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY 645
SPRING 2012**

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Office Hours:
Tuesday/Thursday
1:00-3:00

Course Objectives: This course focuses on the relevance of the concept of community to American society. We review several basic theories of community, and analyze the nature of community in the broader political and economic context. Next, we examine political and economic processes in American communities, as well as strategies for social change at the local level. More specifically, we look at the impacts of globalization, economic restructuring, sprawl, and residential segregation. Finally, we consider several key issues facing American communities, including gentrification, sustainability, and social justice.

Required Reading:

James Defilippis, Robert Fisher, and Eric Shragge. 2010. *Contesting Community: The Limits and Potential of Local Organizing*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom. 2004. *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-first Century*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press.

Zukin, Sharon. 2010. *Naked City: The Death and life of Authentic Urban Places*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Plus additional readings are available on Learn@UW.

Course Requirements:

Grades will be based on two take-home exams, five reading reflections, and a term paper. Each exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and will be worth 30% of the final grade, for a total of 60%. The exams will cover lectures, readings, videos, and class discussion. The final exam is not comprehensive—it will only include the material from the last half of the course. Grades on exams will be based on the following scale:

A	=94 +
AB	=89-93
B	=83-88
BC	=77-82
C	=70-76
D	=60-69

In the reading reflections, you should: a) demonstrate you are engaged with the reading by discussing the main arguments or conclusions of the reading and b) relate the readings to the lectures, films, discussion in class or apply them to real community issues. Each reading reflection will be worth 10 points and collectively will constitute 20% of your final grade. Reflection papers are due on Fridays by 4:30 in the dropbox in Learn@UW. Reflection papers should be no longer than three pages. I will deduct grades for late reflection papers.

The term paper will examine the social, political, or economic changes occurring in a specific neighborhood or community. You can either use census data or other data sources to examine your neighborhood or community. The paper should be no longer than 15 pages and is due **April 27**. The term paper will constitute 20% of your final grade. Please submit the term paper in the dropbox in Learn@UW.

Attendance and Participation. Class attendance is extremely important for this course. Coming to class prepared and participating in the discussion will enhance your ability to learn the material presented in class. I will include material from each class on the exams (in many cases this material is not available in the readings or on Learn@UW). An official note is required if students miss more than three classes. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from classmates and any other information missed during class.

Academic Honesty. Cheating on exams and response papers will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive a grade of F on the exam and the case will be reported to the Dean of Students. Given the amount of writing required in the class you should familiarize yourself with rules at the University regarding plagiarism (<http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/uws14.htm#special>).

Lecture Notes. Lecture notes will be posted on Learn@UW before class. These notes are intended to provide you with a broad outline of the discussion, not specific details. It would help if you print out the notes in advance and bring them to class. The notes will not provide a lot of detail, so you will still need to take notes in class. If you miss a class, you should contact another student to obtain these notes from the class.

Readings. You are expected to read the assignments *before* class each week. I normally do not lecture from the readings, but try to make linkages with the discussions in class.

Disruptive Behavior. One of my responsibilities is to ensure that the environment in the classroom is conducive to learning. If you are late, you should find a seat in the back of the classroom. If you need to leave early, please let me know in advance and sit in a location where it will be easy to quietly leave the room. Turn off all cell phones and put away newspapers at the beginning of class. Finally, please hold side-conversations and discussions until after class.

No Laptops: Although computers are a valuable tool for research and study, they are inimical to participation and collegiality in the classroom. The use of laptops or other electronic devices for note taking or other purposes in class, therefore, will not be permitted. If you need some accommodation regarding use of computers in class, please see me.

1. Introduction

Reading: Berube, Alan, William H. Frey, Alec Friedhoff, Emily Garr, Emilia Istrate, Elizabeth Kneebone, Robert Puentes, Audrey Singer, Adie Tomer, Howard Wial, and Jill H. Wilson. 2010. *State of Metropolitan America: On the Front Lines of Demographic Transformation*. Washington: Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program. Available:
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/Programs/Metro/state_of_metro_america/metro_america_report.pdf.

Community Theory

2. Typological and Ecological

Reading: *Contesting Community* (Pp. 1-66)
Reading: Franklin Wilson. 1984. "Urban ecology: Urbanization and systems of cities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 10: 283-307.
Discussion of term paper topics

Reading Response Paper #1 Due: 2/3

3. Field Theory and Growth machine

Reading: *Contesting Community* (Pp. 67-133)
Reading: Harvey Molotch. 1976. "The city as a growth machine." *American Journal of Sociology* 82: 309-332.
Reading: J.C. Bridger, M.A. Brennan & A.E. Luloff. 2011. "The interactional approach to community." Pp. 85-100 in *Introduction to Community Development*, J. Robinson & G. Green (eds.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
Case Study: Edgewater Hotel [Background reading:
<http://host.madison.com/ct/topics/edgewater/>]

4. Networks and Social capital

Reading: *Contesting Community* (Pp. 134-182)
Reading: Robert Putnam. 1996. "The strange disappearance of civic America." *The American Prospect* 7: 3-15.
Reading: Miller McPherson, Lynn Smith-Lovin, & Matthew Brashears. 2006. "Social isolation in America: Changes in core discussion networks over two decades." *American Sociological Review* 71: 353-375.
Data Sources for Community Analysis

Reading Response Paper #2 Due: 2/17

Community Processes in America

5. Globalization

Reading: *Place Matters* (Pp. 1-63)

Reading: Maruo Guillen. 2001. Is globalization civilizing, destructive or feeble? A critique of five key debates in the social science literature. *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 235-260.

Film: *Is Wal-Mart Good for America*

6. Economic restructuring

Reading: *Place Matters* (Pp. 64-151)

Reading: Saskia Sassen. 1990. "Economic restructuring and the American city." *Annual Review of Sociology* 16: 465-490.

Discussion: Globalization & Economic Restructuring

Reading Response Paper #3 Due: 3/2

7. Suburban sprawl

Reading: *Place Matters* (Pp. 152-246)

Reading: Reid Ewing, Rolf Pendall, & Don Chen. *Measuring Sprawl and its Impact. Smart Growth America*. Available at:

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/sprawlindex/MeasuringSprawl.PDF>

Discuss Readings

8. Residential segregation

Reading: *Place Matters* (Pp. 247-309)

Reading: Camille Zubrinsky Charles. 2003. "The dynamics of racial residential segregation." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 167-207.

Reading: Sean Reardon and Kendra Bischoff. 2011. *Growth in the Residential Segregation of Families by Income, 1970-2009*. Available at:

<http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report111111.pdf>

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Social Change at the Community Level

9. Neighborhood organizing

Reading: Naked City (Pp. 1-62)

Reading: Robert Sampson. 1999. "What 'Community' Supplies." Pp. 241-292 in *Urban Problems and Community Development*, edited by Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens. Washington, D.C: Brookings Institution Press.

Speaker: Amy Mondloch, Madison Grassroots Leadership College

10. Gentrification

Reading: Naked City (Pp. 63-124)

Reading: Michelle Boyd. 2008. "Defensive development: The role of racial conflict in gentrification." *Urban Affairs Review* 43: 751-776.

Discuss readings

Reading Response Paper #4 Due:3/30

11. Community & Economic Development

Reading: Naked City (Pp. 125-192)

Reading: Timothy Bartik. 1991. *Who Benefits from State and Local Economic Development Policies?* Kalamazoo, MI (Pp. 17-58).

Reading: Green, Gary Paul. 2003. "What role does community play in local economic development?" Pp. 343-352 in *Challenges for Rural America in the Twenty First Century*, David L. Brown and Louis E. Swanson (eds.). University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Guest Speaker: Marianne Morton, Common Wealth Development

12. Environmental Justice

Reading: Naked City (Pp. 193-246)

Reading: Robert D. Bullard and Glenn S. Johnson. 2000. "Environmental justice: Activism and its impact on public policy decision making." *Journal of Social Issues* 56: 555-578.

Discuss Readings

The Future of Community

13. Community Sustainability

Reading: Scott Campbell. 1996. "Green cities, growing cities, just cities? Urban planning and the contradictions of sustainable development." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 62: 296-312.

Reading: Joan Fitzgerald. 2010. "Renewable cities." Pp. 31-77 in *Emerald cities: Urban sustainability and economic development*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Film: *Greening of Southie*

14. Civil Society & Democracy

Reading: Archon Fung. 2003. "Associations and democracy: Between theories, hopes and realities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 515-539.

Reading: J. Eric Oliver. 2001. "Remaking the democratic metropolis." Pp. 187-213 in *Democracy in Suburbia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Discuss readings

Reading Response Paper #5 Due: 5/4

15. The Future of Communities

Reading: Amitai Etzioni. "Back to we." Pp. 116-160 in *The spirit of community: Rights, responsibilities, and the communitarian agenda*. New York: Crown Publishers.

Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM--May 10