

Prof. Molotch

TAs: Steve Fletcher, Sybil Cooksey, Jason Stanley

Introduction to Metropolitan Studies

New York University

V55.0631 (Fall 2007)

We want to understand how the city works, both as a totality as well as in its detail, including:

- 1) The nature of everyday urban life;
- 2) How localities relate to both internal and external forces (economic and political);
- 3) The way architecture, symbol system, and other aspects of local art play their particular roles;
- 4) How cities and regions interact with natural environments.

Requirements:

Two brief papers (3 pages each), which count 15% each toward your final grade.

A short-essay Midterm that counts 25%.

A short-essay Final that counts 35%.

Instructors assign 10% of your grade on class participation.

Schedule:

First research report due: Week of Oct 8 (hand in at section).

Midterm: Wednesday Oct 17 (regular class time)

Second research report due: Week of Nov 26 (hand in at section).

The Final: Monday, Dec 17, 2:00-3:50 pm.

Please check your vacation, work, and family obligations against this schedule, including your other final exams. Drop the course NOW if you cannot make these dates.

Required Texts:

Mitchell Duneier, *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux (paper).

Richard Florida, *The Rise of the Creative Class* Basic Books

John Logan and Harvey Molotch, *Urban Fortunes* (2nd Edition) University of California Press

Recommended:

James Loewen, *Lies Across America*

Sharon Zukin, *The Culture of Cities*

Michael Storper, *The Regional World*

Dalton Conley, *Being Black, Living in the Red*

Gray Brechin, *Imperial San Francisco*

Readings

I. Ways to Understand: The City as a System

An Ethnographic Approach

Duneier, Part I, "The Informal Life of the Sidewalk" pp 3-114.

The approach from Human Ecology:

Ernest W. Burgess, "The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project" from Robert Park, et. al., *The City* (1925) Reprinted: University of Chicago Press, 1967 .

A Political Economy Approach

John Logan and Harvey Molotch, "Preface to the 20th Anniversary Edition" "The Social Construction of Cities" (Chap. 1: pp. 1-16) and "Places as Commodities" (Chap. 2: pp. 17-49) in *Urban Fortunes*.

II. Who Runs Cities and How Do They Do It?

Logan and Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine" Chap 3, *Urban Fortunes*.

Kenneth T. Jackson, "Federal Subsidy and the Suburban Dream: How Washington Changed the American Housing Market" pp 190-218 from *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. NY: Oxford, 1985 .

III. Neighborhood and Ways of Life

Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," *American Journal of Sociology* 44 (July 1938)

Duneier, "Sidewalk: Sleeping," "When You gotta Go,"

Logan and Molotch, Chap. 4, "Homes"

Laud Humphries, *Tearoom Trade* (excerpt)

IV. Troubled Interaction

Jane Jacobs, excerpts from: *Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

<http://www.ecoplan.org/carfreeday/EarthCFD/partners/writer-jacobs.htm>

Duneier, "Talking to Women" "New Uses of Sidewalks: How Sixth Avenue Became a Sustaining Habitat" pp 115-156.

Elijah Anderson. 1994. "The Code of the Streets." *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Boston: May 1994. Vol.273, Iss. 5; pg. 80, 11 pgs. [download from proquest]

Sherri Grasmuck, "The Neighborhood and Race Sponsorship" from *Class, Race, and Masculinity in Boys' Baseball*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005.

V.

Displacement and Inequality

- Duneier, "Regulating the People Who Work the Streets," "The Construction of Decency".
- Calvin Trillin, "U.S. Journal: Atlantic City, Assemblage" *The New Yorker* Jan. 8, 1979, vol. 54, pp. 44-48
- Dalton Conley, "The Geography of Poverty" *Boston Review* (32,2) bostonreview.net/BR32.2/conley.html
- Logan and Molotch, Chap 5, "How Government Matters"

Visit this website for inequality data: <http://www.demos.org/inequality/facts.cfm>

VI. Ideology and Media

- Todd Swanstrom, "The Politics of Default" pp. 154-177 in *The Crisis of Growth Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press
- Joel Best and Horiuchi, "The Razor Blade in the Apple: The Social Construction of Urban Legends." *Social Problems* vol. 32, no. 5 pp. 488-499
- Mark Fishman, "Crime Waves as Ideology" *Social Problems* 1978 vol. 25 (no 5): 532- 543
- Gray Brechin, "Pecuniary Emulation: The Role of Tycoons in Imperial City-Building" from *Reclaiming San Francisco: History, Politics, Culture*. A City Lights Anthology edited by James Brook, Chris Carlsson, and Nancy J. Peters, City Lights Books, San Francisco, 1998.

VII. Plaques, Monuments, and Public Memory

- Chris Wilson, "Place Over Time: Restoration and Revivalism in Santa Fe"
- Brian Ladd, "Double Restoration: Rebuilding Berlin after 1945" pp. 117-134 in in Lawrence Vale and Thomas Campanella (eds.) *The Resilient City*. Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Dolores Hayden, Part I (pp. 3-78) in *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History*. MIT Press, 1995.
- David Lowenthal, "The Heritage Crusade and Its Contradictions"
- Loewen, "Ten Questions..."
- <http://www.uvm.edu/~jloewen/content.php?file=liesacrossamerica-tenquestions.html>

VIII. The Design of Cities

- Dolores Hayden, "What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design, and Human Work" from *Women and the American City*, ed. Catherine Stimpson, et al. University of Chicago Press, 1981
- Originally published as a supplement to *Signs*, vol. 5, 1980 (U of Chicago Press).
- Le Corbusier, "A Contemporary City" from *The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning* (1929) MIT Press 1979 .
- Ray Oldenburg, "The Problem of Place in America" pp. 3-19 in *The Great Good Place* New York: Marlowe & Co.
- "The New Urbanism" *Congress for the New Urbanism*. Website. <http://209.31.179.62/charter>

IX. Shopping, Consumption, Creativity

- Molotch, "Place in Product" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* Vol. 26, no. 4: 665-88
- Mattias Junemo, "'Let's Build a Palm Island!': Playfulness in Complex Times" pp. 181-191 in Mimi Sheller and John Urry, *Tourism Mobilities: Places to Play, Places in Play*. London: Routledge, 2004 .
- Arlene, Davila, "Empowered Culture" Chap. 3 in *Barrio Dreams*. University of California Press, 2004.
- Herbert Muschamp, "The Secret History" *New York Times*, Jan. 8, 2006 [Download from Lexis-Nexis]

X. Creativity and Development

- Richard Florida, *The Rise of the Creative Class* Basic Books (selected chapters)
- For an interview with Florida, see:
<http://www.salon.com/books/int/2002/06/06/florida/index1.html>
- Elizabeth Currid, "The Economics of a Dance Floor" pp. 87-113 in *The Warhol Economy: How Fashion Art & Music Drive New York City*. Princeton University Press, 2007.

XI. The City in Nature

- Gregg Easterbrook, "Axle of Evil" *The New Republic*, Jan. 20, 2003. Pp. 27-35.
- Mike Davis, "The Case for Letting Malibu Burn" pp. 93-147 in *Ecology of Fear* Vintage Books.
- Paul Robbins, Annemarie Polderman and Trevor Birkenholtz "Lawns and Toxins: An Ecology of the City" *Cities*. Vol. 18, no. 6, pp 369-380
- Mike Davis, "Slum Ecology" Ch. 6, Pp. 121-150 in *Planet of Slums*, Verso, 2006.

XII. The Global System

- David Held, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton, "People on the Move"(Chap 6) pp. 283-326 in *Global Transformations*. Stanford University Press, 1999
- George Packer, "The Megacity: Decoding the Chaos of Lagos" *The New Yorker*, Nov 13, 2006: 62-75.
- Mike Davis, "Illusions of Self-Help" Ch 4 (pp. 70-94) in *Planet of Slums*, Verso, 2006.
- Joseph Stiglitz, "Freedom to Choose" pp. 53-88 in *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: Norton, 2002

XII. Urban Security

- Steven Shapin, "Sick City: Maps and mortality in the time of cholera" (book review) in *The New Yorker*, Nov. 6, 2006: 110-115. [download from Lexis-Nexis]
- Charles Perrow, "Shrink the Targets" pp. 1-13 in *The Next Catastrophe: Reducing Our Vulnerabilities to Natural, Industrial, and Terrorist Disasters*. Princeton University Press, 2007.
- Kevin Rozario, "Making Progress: Disaster Narratives and the Art of Optimism in Modern America" pp. 27-54 in Lawrence Vale and Thomas Campanella (eds.) *The Resilient City*. Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Susan Sontag, writing in *The New Yorker*, September 24, 2001