

# URBAN SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 3300 Section 900; 950  
Fall 2015

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Office Hours: On-line, as needed. Please use the email address above!

## Required Readings

1. *Amazing Grace* (Kozol) by Jonathan Kozol. ISBN: 9780770435660
2. *When Work Disappears* (WJW) by William Julius Wilson. ISBN:9780679724179
3. Selected readings found on the web at the addresses listed on Blackboard.

## Course Overview

This course will explore major issues in understanding urban life: classical urban sociological theory; urban growth; urban-suburban conflict; issues of community; urban problems such as health care, transportation, the effect of urbanization on children, migration and ethnicity in urban settings, economic issues faced by urban planners, and urban policy (such as zoning, housing, etc.).

## Course Objectives

Having successfully completed the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify some of the major historical changes that caused a growth in urban communities.
- 2) Explain the contemporary social problems that effect urban developments.
- 3) Recognize the fundamental role that race/ethnicity, class, and gender play in forming urban communities.

## Course Format

This is an online course intended to provide you with a unique and practical learning experience. The course material will be administered online. You will be introduced to new concepts and material online in Blackboard. You will have the ability to check your understanding and knowledge of the material through mastery quizzes administered online. It is a course expectation that you will complete the assigned online readings, quizzes, exams, and assignments in the time allocated on the course outline located at the end of this document (pg. 6).

***This course will be divided into two sections. The first half of the semester will cover the Wilson book, Gans, Simmel and Putnam articles. The second half will cover the Kozol book, Tittle & Stafford, Lemann, Fishman, and Zukin articles. Each article has a quiz associated with it. I have separated the books into halves, so each book has two quizzes associated with it as well. You must take the quizzes prior to***

*taking the exam. In the end, this will benefit you. Please look closely at the attached schedules and due dates. You will be responsible for keeping these commitments. You may complete the course as quickly as you like, as long as you abide by the due dates.*

## Exams and Assignments

**Exams:** There will be a total of two exams: exams will be worth 100 points each. Exams will cover material from the assigned readings. The exams will be administered totally online and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The dates and material covered by each exam is set forth in the course outline located at the end of this document (pg. 6).

To encourage students to master the material before testing, all exams will be timed. Students will be given 75 minutes to complete each exam. Please note that you will only be permitted to “move forward” during an exam. You may not skip a question and return to it later, or answer it and later try to change your answer after you have saved your response. Please be advised that the order of the exam questions will vary for each student.

**Quizzes:** You must complete the assigned readings in order to successfully complete the class. At the end of each reading, you must successfully complete a 10-question multiple choice quiz by answering at least 7 questions correctly. You may repeat each quiz **three** times to achieve the desired score; however, you will be required to wait at least one hour before repeating the quiz. All quizzes will be timed. You will be allowed 15 minutes to complete each quiz.

*Students who fail to correctly answer a minimum of 7 questions or who do not complete the quizzes during the assigned time period will receive a zero. Please note that no make-up quizzes will be given.*

**Reflection Paper:** **William Julius Wilson** identifies many factors that created the emergence of a new urban poor in the 1990s. While you are reading this text begin to think of how things have changed recently. What contemporary events have occurred (politically, economically, socially, environmentally, etc.) that are currently influencing our urban poor. During the semester, students will be asked to reflect on these changes that have occurred after Wilson’s work was published. The reflection paper will be worth 50 points. Please note that students will be penalized one letter grade for poorly written work (please proofread). Specific instructions for each paper will be posted on Blackboard shortly.

**Surveys:** You must complete two short surveys. They cover basic sociological issues related to the reading and are designed to help boost your grade. By attempting the survey within the given time period you will get points. No extensions will be given.

## Attendance

As an online class, students are responsible for completing all quizzes, exams, and assignments in a timely fashion. Assignments must be completed by the noted date. Students who are unable to complete an assignment in a given time period are encouraged to contact the professor as soon as possible. The professor is likely to be more accommodating prior to a missed assignment versus afterwards.

## Grade Calculation

Final grades will be determined through the use of a point system. The maximum value of each exam and assignment along with the range of points associated with each letter grade are listed in the tables below. Throughout the term, students may keep up with their point totals by reviewing their grades on Blackboard.

Assignment	Point Value
Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	200
Reading Quizzes (11 @ 10 points each)	110
Reflection Paper	50
Survey Completion (2 @ 10 points each)	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>

Letter Grade	Point Range
A	342 - 380 points
B	304 - 341 points
C	266 - 303 points
D	228 - 265 points
F	227 points or below

## Additional Course Policies and Procedures

**Blackboard:** Copies of the syllabus and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. All assignments must be posted via Blackboard to receive credit.

**Make-up policy:** NO make-up exams will be provided.

**Extra credit:** There will be NO extra credit. Please do not ask.

**Late papers or assignments:** All papers and assignments must be submitted via Blackboard before the posted deadline to be graded. *Late papers/assignments will not be accepted. Any paper or assignment sent via email or received in person will not be graded.* Students may either submit papers in Microsoft Word or PDF as attachments or they may cut and paste the content of their papers/assignments into the submission window in Blackboard. Always cut and paste! *Papers that are submitted in a different format or that cannot be opened will not be graded.*

**Classroom conduct:** Please make every effort to respect others in class discussions. The discussions are not graded and there to help you understand the material better. Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them.

## University Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

The University of North Texas is very clear on this point. Students must do their own work. Cheating on exams, quizzes, plagiarism, or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Detailed explanations of the UNT's standards of academic integrity for students may be found in the *UNT Policy Manual* at <http://policy.unt.edu/policydesc/student-standards-academic-integrity-18-1-16>.

If it is determined that a student has cheated on an exam or has committed plagiarism, he or she will automatically fail that exam or assignment and a zero will be entered for the grade. The student will also be reported to UNT's Office of Academic Integrity.

## Students Requiring Special Accommodation

If you have a condition that requires accommodation in this course, please notify the instructor during the first week of class. Any necessary or appropriate accommodations will be made provided that timely notice is received, and that the arrangement is consistent with recommendations from Disability Services, when applicable. Students who require this type of assistance should contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at (940) 565-4323, or at TTY (940) 369-8652 to make appropriate arrangements. Information on the services provided by the ODA as well as application procedures is available at <http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html>. Information on UNT's policies related to disability accommodations is available at <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/18-1-14>.

Please note that disability accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations will be made only after a disability is officially verified.

## Succeed at UNT

"Succeed at UNT" was created to provide students with consistent student success messages, and user-friendly, accessible links to student support services. The following six focused messages:

- Show Up
- Find Support
- Take Control
- Be Prepared
- Get Involved
- Be Persistent

For further information please access [www.succeed.unt.edu](http://www.succeed.unt.edu)

## Problems, Questions, Concerns

Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor if you are having problems with the course or if you have other concerns. ***The best way to reach the instructor is by e-mail ([helen.potts@unt.edu](mailto:helen.potts@unt.edu)).***

## COURSE OUTLINE

### *Suggested Course Schedule (to help keep you on track):*

Week	Dates	Covers	Due
1	8.24-8.30	Course Introduction	Get Books-Begin Reading
2	8.31-9.6	WJW Book Part I: (pgs 3-146)	
3	9.7-9.13	WJW Book Part I: (pgs 3-146)	Quiz – WJW Part I
4	9.14-9.20	WJW Book Part II WJW: (pgs 147-238)	
5	9.21-9.27	WJW Book Part II WJW: (pgs 147-238) <i>Survey 1</i>	Quiz –WJW Part II
6	9.28-10.4	Gans Article	Quiz - Gans
7	10.5-10.11	Putnam Article	Quiz – Putnam
8	10.12-10.18	Simmel Article	Quiz – Simmel
	10.18	<b>Exam 1 – online</b> (WJW book; Gans, Putnam & Simmel articles)	
9	10.19-10.25	Kozol Book; Ch. 1-3	Quiz–Kozol Ch.1-3
10	10.26-11.1	Kozol Book; Ch. 4-6 <i>Survey 2</i>	Quiz–Kozol Ch.4-6
11	11.2-11.8	Fishman Article	Quiz – Fishman
12	11.9-11.15	Lemann Article	Quiz – Lemann
13	11.16-11.22	Zukin Article Reflection Paper DUE: Nov. 23	Quiz – Zukin <b>Reflection Paper</b> DUE: Nov. 23
14	11.23-11.29	Tittle & Stafford Article	Quiz – Tittle & Stafford
15	11.30-12.3	Catch-up and Review	
12/4 – 12/10: <b>Final Exam (Kozol book; Tittle &amp; Stafford, Lemann, Zukin, &amp; Fishman articles)</b> – Available Online			

**NOTE:** Every Saturday night from 11:00pm until 2:00am CDT Sunday morning, Blackboard is offline. All quiz answers or submissions made during this time will NOT be recorded.

**Blackboard/Online Student Help Line:** Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Phone: (940) 565-2324

**Official Online Schedule and Due Dates (Must follow these deadlines):**

Week	Activity	Start Date	Day	Start Time	Due Date	Day	Due Time
1 - 8	WJW Book Part I: (pgs 3-146) WJW Book Part II WJW: (pgs 147-238) Gans Article Putnam Article Simmel Article <i>Online Survey #1</i>	8.24	Mon	1:00 am	<b>10.18</b>	Sun	11:00 pm
	<b>Exam 1</b>	8.24	Mon	1:00 am	<b>10.18</b>	Sun	11:00 pm
	<b>Reflection Paper</b>	9.27	Sun	1:00 am	<b>11.22</b>	Sun	11:00 pm
8 - 15	Kozol Book; Ch. 1-3 Kozol Book; Ch. 4-6 Fishman Article Lemann Article Zukin Article Tittle & Stafford Article <i>Online Survey #2</i>	10.19	Mon	1:00 am	<b>12.3</b>	Thurs	11:00 pm
16	<b>12/4 – 12/10: Final Exam (Kozol book; Tittle &amp; Stafford, Lemann, Zukin, and Fishman articles) – Available Online</b>						