

# Anthropology of the City – Ant 305 – Fall 2008

Anthropology Department - Rollins College

Sections: ANT 305E 01 / ANT 305H 01

Location: CSS 100

ANT 305E Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:15 pm

ANT 305H Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-6:30 pm

Instructor: Ana Servigna

Email: aservign@syr.edu

Cities are generally defined as large and densely populated urban areas. They vary in size, climate, shape, landscape and history. From the old Jericho, Byblos or Damascus, to the modern Tokyo, New York or Brasilia there are number a of similarities and contrasts between cities around the world. Most of them emerged as a nucleus for trade and then became centers of power, wealth, production, ideas, and culture. Nowadays, most cities are far from the ideal polis and have become complex and constantly changing centers of human practices. This course will offer an anthropological approach to the study of cities and the process of urbanization. By looking at the city as a complex space where multiple and heterogeneous cultures overlap, we will explore a variety of environments to find the differences and patterns of contemporary urban life.

## Structure of the course:

This course integrates a wide variety of readings, lectures, group discussions, presentations, research projects and creative activities. The evaluation will be mainly focused on the students engagement with the course materials and class participation showing critical thinking, reflexive knowledge and creativity.

## Course Assignments:

1. Class Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Your grade will in part be based upon your presence and active participation. However, I will allow two unexcused class absences without penalty. After two absences your final grade will be reduced 1/8 of the grade for each additional absence.
2. Class participation : Students are expected to come to class with the assigned readings completed in advance, and to be prepared to discuss the main arguments and how they relate to the instructor lectures and students presentations.
3. Class Presentation: Every class, two students will be assigned to lead 30 minutes of the class (15 minutes each), using the material assigned for that particular day. Each student will be responsible for a minimum of 2 presentations per semester. An outline of the presentation (about two pages in length) is to be provided by the presenter and it will be graded by the instructor. The presentations count up to 20% of the final grade. It is important not only to describe what you read but to express your own reactions and interpretations of the reading. As you are reading or preparing to present the material ask yourself these questions: What is the author's viewpoint and purpose? What are the author's main points? What kind of evidence does the author use to prove his or her points? Is the evidence convincing? Why or why not? How does this reading relate to other readings on the same topic? Is this reading useful for you?

4. Writing assignments: There will be two assignments based on fieldwork exercises and one research paper.

Field Exercises:

- 4.1. For the first exercise you need to choose one site and observe and map urban behaviors. Each person must write up his/her observations as a 4-5 page paper. Please bring your report to class when it is due. These will be used as a discussion topic for the class. Due October 07, 2008.
4. 2. For the second exercise, students are required to bring a recent news article related to a city. The article must be found in the local newspapers and tell us something about the people or places around us. Each student will do a research about the topic and present his/her article including critical discussions around issues of urban culture. Each student will have 15 minutes to present. An outline of the presentation (about two pages in length) is to be provided by the presenter and it will be graded by the instructor. Due October 28-30, 2008.
- 4.3. Project presentation and Final Paper: Choose a city that you know well and a topic related to urban life. Your final paper should report a description of the city chosen and analyze/interpret the city in terms of the topic you have chosen. The paper should be 10-12 pages. In the final weeks of the class, you will present your project to the class. This presentation is to be between 10-15 minutes long. You are free to use whatever presentational techniques you find most suitable for your project.

Papers and exams are due the day stipulated, the instructor does not accept late papers or make-up exams unless something of a very terrible nature.

5. Examinations: A final evaluation will be conducted on the last class. The exam consist of short essay questions.

6. Grading Summary:

		Points	Percent
1. Class participation	25 @ 3 pts each	75	15%
2. Readings presentation	2 @ 50 pts each	100	20%
3. Field Exercises	2 @ 50 pts each	100	20%
4. Final project & Presentation	100 + 50 pts paper & present.	150	30%
5. Final Evaluation	1 @ 75 pts	75	15%
		500	100%

Points	Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage
500-489	A	100-98%	394-375	C	78-75%
488-475	A-	97-95%	374-355	C-	74-71%
474-455	B+	94-91%	354-335	D+	70-67%
454-435	B	90-87%	334-315	D	66- 63%
434-415	B-	86-83%	314-300	D-	62 – 60%
414-395	C+	82-79%	300 and below	F	

Honor Code:

Remember that as part of your matriculation you pledged to uphold the Rollins College Honor Code therefore, no plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, academic dishonesty, violation of testing conditions, lying, failure to report an honor code violation are allowed. All work turned in for this class should be done by you. While you may receive help from acquaintances with words or short phrases, copying texts from other sources and claiming them as your own is considering cheating.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to the paper, quiz, test, lab report, etc., the handwritten signed statement

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

If you have any doubt about the Honor Code please consult the link:

<http://www.rollins.edu/academichonorcode>

Academic courtesy:

All students are expected to follow simple rules of academic courtesy to your fellow students and instructors. Please come to class on time to avoid disrupting the class. Once class begins, you must refrain from personal conversations. You must put away all non-course reading materials (e.g. newspapers). Refrain from using computers for any non-course related activities. Turn off and put away all cell phones and electronic gadgets. If you have extraordinary circumstances that require you to keep any of them on please talk to me.

Learning Disability:

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (box 2613) -Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 32789 or call 407-646-2354 for an appointment.

Note: For additional information check the Academic Regulations at [www.rollins.edu](http://www.rollins.edu).

Books/Reading Materials:

- Books:
  1. Gmelch, G. and Zenner, Walter eds. (2002). Urban life. Readings in the Anthropology of the City. Fourth Edition. State University of New York at Albany. Waveland Press, Inc. Prospect Heights, Illinois.
  2. Low, Setha ed. (2005). Theorizing the City. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick.
- Additional readings available online at Rollins College Olin Library website.

Scheduled of Required Readings:

Week 1	August 26	<b>Introduction</b>
	August 28	<b>The Image of the City.</b> - Lynch, Kevin. "The City Image and Its Elements". (On reserve)
Week 2	Sept 02-04	<b>What does <i>urban</i> mean?</b> - Wirth, Louis. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." (G/Z) - Milgram, Stanley. "The Urban Experience." (G/Z) - Rotenberg, Robert. "The Metropolis and Everyday Life." (G/Z) - Smith, Michael. "The Earliest Cities" (G/Z) - Sjoberg, Gideon. "The Preindustrial City" (G/Z)
Week 3	Sept 09 -11	<b>Theorizing the city.</b> - Low, Setha. "Theorizing the city" (Low) - Leeds, Anthony 1968 "The Anthropology of Cities: Some Methodological Issues" (On reserve). - Foster, G. and Kemper, R. "Anthropological Fieldwork in Cities" (G/Z) - Bestor, Theodore. "Networks, Neighborhoods, and Markets" (G/Z). - Gmelch, Sharon. "An Urban Field Experinece" (G/Z).
Week 4	Sept 16 -18	<b>The Divided City.</b> - Lewis, O. "The Culture of Poverty" (G/Z) - Goode, Judith. "How Urban Ethnography Counters Myths about the Poor" (G/Z) - Susser, I. "Creating Family Forms." (Low) - Nelson, Nici. "Surviving in the City" (G/Z) - Caldeira, T. "Fortified Enclaves." (Low).
Week 5	Sept 23 -25	<b>Migration and Adaptation.</b> - Film: "The Lost Boys of Sudan." (Class Discussion) - Kemper, R. "Migration and Adaptation." (G/Z) - Gmelch, G. "A West Indian life in Britain." (G/Z) - Brettell, C. "Women Are Migrants Too." (G/Z)
Week 6	Sept 30/ Oct 02	<b>The dynamic of Urban Spaces.</b> - Rapoport, Amos. "Culture and the Urban Order" (On reserve). - Tamayo, S. and Cruz-Guzmán, X. Political Appropriation of Public Space (On reserve) - Zukin, Sharon. "Whose Culture? Whose City?" (On reserve) - Chion, M. and Ludena, W. "Lima's Historic Centre: Old Places Shaping New social Arrangements" (On reserve)

Week 7	Oct 07	<b>Observing and mapping a complex public setting I.</b> - Fieldwork Exercise (1) presentation.
	Oct 09	<b>The Contested City.</b> - Low, S. "Spatializing Culture." (Low) - Rotenber, R. "Landscape and Power in Vienna" (Low) - Duncan, James. "Representing Power" (On reserve) - Cooper, Matthew. "Spatial Discourses and Social Boundaries" (Low)
Week 8	Oct 14 - 16	<b>The Gendered city.</b> - Weisman, L. "The Spatial Caste System: Design for Social Inequality" (On reserve) - McDowell, L. "Community, City and Locality" (On reserve) - Pain, Rachel. "Gender, Race and Fear in the City" (On reserve) - Amir-Ebrahimi, M. "Conquering enclosed public spaces" (On reserve)
Week 9	Oct 21	<b>Tokyo: Living Small in the Big City.</b> (Video from National Geography Channel)
	Oct 23	<b>N O C L A S S – Fall Break</b>
Week 10	Oct 28 - 30	<b>The city faces.</b> - Fieldwork Exercise (2) presentation - Reading the city on the news.
Week 11	Nov 04-06	<b>The modernist and postmodern City.</b> - Holston, James. "The Modernist City and the Death of the Street" (Low) - McDonogh, Gary. "Discourses of the city" (Low) - Andermatt, V. "Chaosmopolis" (On reserve) - Caldeira, Teresa. "Fortified Enclaves" (On reserve) - Rutheiser, Charles. "Making Place in the Nonplace Urban Realm".
Week 12	Nov 11 - 13	<b>Globalization and Transnationalism.</b> - Foner, Nancy. "Transnationalism, Old and New" (G/Z) - Brennan, Denise. "Globalization, Women's Labor, and Men's Pleasure" (G/Z). - Condry, Ian. "Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture" (G/Z) - Bestor, Theodore. "Wholesale Sushi: Culture and Commodity in Tokyo's Tsukiji Market" (Low)
Week 13	Nov 18	<b>Final Project presentation.</b>
	Nov 20	
Week 14	Nov 25	<b>Cities of Panic.</b> Bourgois, Philippe. "Office Work and the Crack Alternative" (G/Z). Merry, Sally. "Urban Danger" (G/Z)
	Nov 27	<b>N O C L A S S – Thanksgiving Day</b>
Week 15	Dec 02	<b>What did we learn?</b> Film: Brazil Revealed from Discovery Channel.
	Dec 04	Final Paper Due.
Week 16	Dec 09	Final exam.