

Anthropology of the City – Ant 305H-H1 – Summer 2011

Anthropology Department - Rollins College

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Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 9:25 pm – Cornell Hall 170

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 a number 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. After one absence your final grade will be reduced 1/8 of the grade for each additional absence. If you miss one of our film viewing classes, you will need to contact me.
- 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, each student should be ready to introduce the readings expressing his/her reactions and interpretations. As you are reading 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 short fieldwork exercises and one final 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.
- 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 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 10 minutes to present. An outline of the presentation (about one page and a half in length) is to be provided by the presenter and it will be graded by the instructor.
- 4.3. Final Paper:** choose an area of Orlando or its surroundings that you know well and a topic related to urban life. Your final paper should report a description of the area chosen and analyze/interpret it in terms of the topic you have chosen. The paper should be 8-10 pages. During the semester you will introduce /present your project to the class. This presentation is to be between 8-10 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 extreme nature.

5. Grading Summary:

		Points	Percent
1. Class participation	75 pts	75	15%
2. Article presentation	100 pts	100	20%
3. Field Exercise	125 pts each	125	25%
4. Final project & Presentation	150 + 25 pts paper & present.	175	35%
5. Attendance	25 points.	25	5%
		500	100%

Points	Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage
500-475	A	100-95%	384-370	C	76-74%
474-450	A-	94-90%	369-350	C-	73-70%
449-430	B+	89-86%	349-335	D+	69-67%
429-415	B	85-83%	334-320	D	66- 64%
414-400	B-	82-80%	319-301	D-	63-60%
399-385	C+	79-77%	300 and below	F	Below 60%

6. 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.

7. 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. ISBN: 978- 1577666349, Retail: \$33.95.
 2. Low, Setha ed. (2005). *Theorizing the City*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick. ISBN: 978- 0813527208, Retail: \$28.95.
- Additional readings available online at Rollins College Olin Library website and by Blackboard.

8. Scheduled of Required Readings:

Week 1	June 28	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Image of the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lynch, Kevin. "The City Image and Its Elements". (On reserve) <p>What does <i>urban</i> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wirth, Louis. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." (G/Z)
	June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 2	July 05	<p>Theorizing the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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)
	July 07	<p>The Divided City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 3	July 12	<p>Migration and Adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film: "The Lost Boys of Sudan." (Class Discussion) - Kemper, R. "Migration and Adaptation." (G/Z) - Brettell, C. "Women Are Migrants Too." (G/Z)
	July 14	<p>The dynamic of Urban Spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapoport, Amos. "Culture and the Urban Order" (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 4	July 19	<p>Tokyo: Living Small in the Big City.</p> <p>(Video from National Geography Channel)</p> <p>Observing and mapping a complex public setting I. (Fieldwork Exercise 1 presentation).</p>
	July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low, S. "Spatializing Culture." (Low) - Duncan, James. "Representing Power" (On reserve) - Cooper, Matthew. "Spatial Discourses and Social Boundaries" (Low)
Week 5	July 26	<p>The Gendered city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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)
	July 28	<p>The modernist and postmodern City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holston, James. "The Modernist City and the Death of the Street" (Low) - Mcdonogh, Gary. "Discourses of the city" (Low) - Andermatt, V. "Chaosmopolis" (On reserve) - Rutheiser, Charles. "Making Place in the Nonplace Urban Realm".

Week 6	August 02 - 04	Globalization and Transnationalism. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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) Final project due.
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