

UP260: Social Inequality and Planning
CRN31055

Fall 2015

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:50am

Rm 226 Wohlers Hall

Course Content

How are social inequalities produced and contested in urban environments? We explore this question by analyzing metropolitan cities as sites for reworking inequalities of race, class, and gender. Specifically, we compare and contrast conflicts over different ways of valuing settled or urbanized spaces across a range of scales from the local to the global. It is presented in three parts. First, we examine current sociological explanations for shifts in historical patterns of race, class and gender inequalities. Second, we introduce key concepts of spaces and places to explain how cities can amplify social inequalities through practices of spatial segregation. Lastly, we study how new, urban social movements such as those organizing under the banner of the Right to The City (RTTC) use radical or insurgent planning practices to challenge projects that privatize public urban resources such as housing, schools, parks and streets and thereby transform place based inequalities.

Instructor

Ken Salo

314TBH

kensalo@illinois.edu

Office Hours T & Th 8-9:15am

Goals and Objectives

On completion students should be understand

- How cities as places and spaces can rework inequalities of race, class and gender to produce place based inequalities
- How new urban social movements use insurgent practices to challenge place based inequalities.

Required Texts

- Scott Sernau 2011 *Social Inequality in a Global Age* Pine Forge Press
- Xianming Chen, Anthony Orum & Krista Paulsen 2013 *Introduction to Cities: How Place and Space Shape Human Experience* Wiley-Blackwell

Recommended Texts

- Clarissa Ryle Hayward and Todd Swanstrom (eds.) *Justice and the American Metropolis* University of Minnesota Press
- Robert D Bullard (ed.) 2007 *The Black Metropolis in the Twenty First Century; Race, Power and Politics of Place* Rowan and Littlefield

Grading/Evaluation

- Two in class presentations- 10points
- Four 500 word journal entries of your participation in outside class related events – 40 points

- Four 500 word review essays of assigned theory questions – 40 points
- Final 2500 word academic essay – 50 points

Final letter grades based on the following distribution: 100-95 points = A, 95-90 = A-, 90-85 = B+, 85-80 = B, 80-75 = B- . . . 60 – 0 points = F

Course Activities:

Class Presentations

During the semester you and a partner will select, prepare and present in class on two lecture topics, one from each prescribed text.

Review Questions

Throughout the semester you will write and post four 500 word reviews of assigned questions, each designed to help with your final essay. Guidelines on how to critically read texts are on our compass course site.

Journals

Throughout the semester you will write and post four 500 word journal entries of outside class events related to our course theme.

Final Essay

You will write a 2500 word academic essay on **how a new, urban social movement of your choice uses insurgent planning practices to challenge place based inequalities in a specific metropolitan city**. This essay should be posted to our compass site by 5pm on reading day and the grading rubric includes

- a precise problem statement (10),
- relation to course content (30),
- logical and concise supporting arguments (30),
- clear conclusion and recommendations (20)
- bibliography/references (10)

Course Expectations

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and if you miss class, it is your responsibility to catch up.

Late Assignments

Unexcused late assignments will be penalized at 20% per day so please consult ahead of time and usually an official note is needed to avoid penalties.

Academic Integrity

A student guide to academic integrity can be found at <http://www.provost.illinois.edu/academicintegrity/students.html>

Practices such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting someone else's work from any source as your own) are a serious offense of university policy. Any student who violates this policy will receive a failing grade for this course.

Online Materials at <https://compass.uiuc.edu/>

Lecture Schedule

Week 1 *Introductions and Expectations*

Aug 25 & 27

Watch

The video on social inequalities at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYxspCbwZVs>

Reflect and Do

Use the video as a guideline to prepare a 5 min presentation on how race, class and gender inequalities have shaped your life chances

PART 1 Theoretical Foundations: Historical, Sociological and Spatial Roots

Week 2 *What are social inequalities?*

Sept 1

Historical roots

Read

Ch.1 of Sernau to explore how social inequality is rooted not in individual talent but in commanding a privileged position in a network of socio-economic exchanges that, over time, became bounded by gender, race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship as proxies of class relations.

Reflect and Do

With a partner(s) prepare a 10min in class presentation on how race, class or gender shaped the life chances of inhabitants of agricultural, industrial and post-industrial cities.

Sept 3

Sociological theories of conflict v solidarity

Read

Ch. 2 of Sernau to identify how critical theorists drew on the work of sociologists Marx, Weber and Durkheim to emphasize the relation between inequalities and social conflicts

Watch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_c2p0Y7mgU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGargZd9KkQ>

Reflect and Do

Prepare and post a 500 word response as assignment 1 how Marx, Weber and Durkheim differently explain the causes and consequences of social inequalities.

Week 3 *What are social inequalities? (Cont'd)*

Sept 8

Global spatial divides

Read

Ch. 3 of Sernau to understand the main causes of the double divide, between and within nations.

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBSOwZRKzcE>

Reflect and Do

Prepare and post a 500 word response as assignment 2 on how theories of modernization, dependency, neoliberalism and world systems differently explain the double divide.

Sept 10

Urban spatial divides

Read

Ch. 10 of Sernau to understand how urban, suburban and rural poverty differs in USA and elsewhere

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMATMgNFX9U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYZhVX6rr08>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eejmYz0O3YE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L2xCwD5RNI>

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10 min in class presentation on the differences between inner city and suburban poverty.

Week 4 *Intersectionality: Wealth, Whiteness and Internal Colonialism*

Sept 15

Class and Race:

Read

The review essay on **intersectionality** on our compass site

Ch.'s 4 &5 of Sernau to understand the relation between *Wealth, Whiteness (White Privilege) and Internal Colonialism*

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTj9AcwkaKM#t=349>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW764dXEI_8

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/8/6/a_dream_foreclosed_as_obama_touts

Reflect and Do

Prepare and post a 500 word response as assignment 3 on the relation between wealth, whiteness/privilege and internal colonialism

Sept 17

Intersectionality: Gender and Class

Read

Ch. 6 of Sernau to understand patriarchy as both privilege and vulnerability

Watch

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecofeminism>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k4th_uN0fA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bCZVkm375Y>

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on the social causes and consequences of gender based violence

Week 5 *Challenging the System*

Sept 22

Early social movements

Read

Ch. 12 of Sernau to understand the history of the labor movement, women's movement, civil rights movement and environmental justice movements in the USA

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on the (insurgent) practices of early social movements

Sept 24

New, urban social movements

Read

<http://righttothecity.org/about/mission-history/>

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on the mission and insurgent practices of new, urban social movements such as those organized under banner of the Right to the City

PART TWO Cities as spaces and places that shape inequalities

Week 6 *Post WW 2 social theories of urban space*

Sept 29 & Oct 1

Read

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Introduction to Cities to understand how current neo-Marxists and cultural theorists including Castells, Harvey, Logan, Molotch and Zukin study the city

Reflect and Do

Prepare and post a 500 word response as assignment 4 on the difference between how Castells, Harvey and Zukin think about the city

Week 7 *The changing metropolis*

Oct 6&8

Read

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Introduction to Cities to understand the origins of the suburbs, the decline of older industrial cities and the rise of postindustrial regions

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on the origins of the suburbs, the decline of older industrial cities and the rise of postindustrial regions

Week 8 *The early metropolis and social inequalities*

Oct 13 &15

Read

Chapter 8 of Introduction to Cities to understand the early metropolis as a place of social inequality

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on early metropolis as a place of social inequality

Week 9 *Inequality and diversity in the post WW 2 metropolis*

Oct 20 & 22

Read

Chapter 9 of Introduction to Cities to understand how gentrification processes remake social diversity of the metropolis

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on how gentrification processes remake social diversity of the metropolis

Week 10 *Urbanization and urban places in the developing world*

Oct 27 & 29

Read

Chapter 10 of Introduction to Cities to understand megacities as places

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on megacities as places

Week 11 *Cities in the global economy*

Nov 3 & 5

Read

Chapter 11 of Introduction to Cities to understand cities as nodes within a fully networked global economy

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation on cities as nodes within a fully networked global economy

Week 12 *Remaking and future cities*

Nov 10 & 12

Read

Chapter 13 of Introduction to Cities to distinguish remaking cities from above at critical moments and daily, place-remaking from below

Reflect and Do

With a partner discuss and prepare a 10min in class presentation to distinguish remaking cities from above at critical moments and daily, place-remaking from below

Week 13 *In class discussion of final essays*

Nov 17 & 19

Sign up for in a 10min in class presentation of your draft essay

Week 14 Fall Break

Week 15 *In class discussion of final essays*

Dec 1&3

Sign up for in a 10min in class presentation of your draft essay

Week 16 *In class discussion of final essays*

Dec 8

Sign up for in a 10min in class presentation of your draft essay

Dec 10 Final essay due