

# LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY ORILLIA

## 2009 COURSE OUTLINE

### **SOCI 3113 FAO: Urban Life and Culture**

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-4pm  
Location: HP 0007

Instructor: Prof. K. Marcellus  
Office Location: HP0012  
Office Hours: Wed 2:30-4:30;  
Thurs 10-11  
Email: kcmarcel@lakeheadu.ca

#### ***Course Overview:***

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a range of theories and issues in the social study of Urban Life and Culture. Spatial inequality, poverty and homelessness, urban growth and sprawl, as well as gentrification, urban renewal, and 'the wired city' will be discussed. Students will complete several different types of assignment toward the goal of critically engaging with the course material and cities on both local and global scales.

#### ***Required Materials:***

Key Text: Kleniewski, N. (ed.) (2005) *Cities and Society*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Additional readings listed below are accessible through the library website's journal database search capabilities with your student ID, or via a web search using your preferred search engine (these are noted in the schedule below). One reading (noted below) is on reserve in the library. Students are responsible for acquiring these readings for their own use.

WebCT information will include a copy of this course outline and online discussion boards. Students must familiarize themselves with WebCT in order to effectively participate in the course. The slides from our meetings will also be posted on WebCT.

#### ***Evaluation Scheme:***

Participation: 15%  
City and Culture Review: 25%  
Creative Response Project: 25%  
Final Paper: 35%

Due by the end of class 08 Oct.  
Due by the end of class 01 Dec.  
Due 10 Dec. by 4pm

***Important Dates:***

DATE	WHAT'S HAPPENING
08 Oct.	City and Culture Review due by the end of class
06 Nov.	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses without academic penalty
01 Dec.	Creative Response Project due by the end of class
10 Dec.	Final Paper due by 4pm

***Course Schedule*** (unless otherwise noted, the author and chapter numbers listed below refer to the Kleniewski edited collection):

10 Sept.: Welcome and Course Overview

No assigned reading

15 & 17 Sept.: Introduction: Contemporary Cities

Molotch – 1; Savage and Warde – 5

22 & 24 Sept.: Perspectives in the Study of Urban Life and Culture

Dear – 4;

Borer, M. (2006) "The Location of Culture: The Urban Culturalist Perspective," *City and Community* 5(2): 173-197.

29 Sept. and 01 Oct.: Global Cities

Sassen – 6; Davis - 18

06 & 08 Oct.: Space and Inequality

Spain – 3; Swanstrom *et al.* – 19

13 Oct.: Homelessness and Poverty

Wolch and Dear - 11

Zald, J. (2004) "Faces of the Homeless: A Photo Essay," *City and Community* 3(1): 29-42.

15 Oct.: Immigration and Ethnic Communities

Gilbert and Gugler – 7; Lin - 8

20Oct.: Urban Sprawl

Williamson, Imbroscio, Alperovitz - 20

22 Oct.: Suburbanization and 'The Fringe'

Sharp, J. and J. Clark (2008) "Between the Country and the Concrete: Rediscovering the Rural-Urban Fringe," *City and Community* 7(1): 61-79.

27 Oct.: Culture and Urban Regeneration

Pratt, A. (2009) "Urban Regeneration: From the Arts 'Feel Good' Factor to the Cultural Economy: A Case Study of Hoxton, London," *Urban Studies* 46(5-6): 1041-1061.

29 Oct.: Urban Transportation

Filion, P. and K. McSpurren (2007) "Smart Growth and Development Reality: The Difficult Co-ordination of Land Use and Transport Objectives," *Urban Studies* 44(3): 501-523.

03 & 05 Nov.: Art and Food

Zukin – 13; Lloyd – 15

10 & 12 Nov.: Social Movements in Urban Areas

Vromen, A. (2003) "Community-based Activism and Change: The Cases of Sydney and Toronto," *City and Community* 2(1): 47-69.

Genosko, G. and K. Marcellus (2005) "Dead Downtown: Writing the Obituary of the Cultural Press in *Border/lines*," *Topia* 14: 23-35. [available by searching the online journal archives at [www.yorku.ca/topia](http://www.yorku.ca/topia)]

17 & 19 Nov.: The Wired City

Crang, M. (2000) "Public Space, Urban Space and Electronic Space: Would the Real City Please Stand Up?" *Urban Studies* 37(2): 301-317.

Castells, M. (2004) "Space of Flows, Space of Places: Materials for a Theory of Urbanism in the Information Age," in Graham, S. (ed.) *The Cybercities Reader*. London and New York: Routledge. Pp. 82-93. [ON RESERVE IN THE LIBRARY FOR 3 HOUR LOAN]

24 & 26 Nov.: Community and Connectedness

Hampton, K. and B. Wellman (2003) "Neighbouring in Netville: How the Internet Supports Community and Social Capital in Wired Suburb," *City and Community* 2(4): 277-311.

Demerath, L. and D. Levinger (2003) "The Social Qualities of Being on Foot: A Theoretical Analysis of Pedestrian Activity, Community, and Culture," *City and Community* 2(3): 217-237.

01 Dec.: Course Wrap-Up

No assigned reading.

***More Information About...***

Participation: In-class – stories of interest, contributing to discussions; Online – items of interest, questions emailed to instructor for discussion in class or online, WebCT engagement with course materials and other course participants

City and Culture Review: Choose a city and write a 6-8 page paper explaining the cultural life of that city. This might include history, geography, demographic characteristics, etc. If you choose a very large city, you may wish to focus on one particular aspect of the cultural life of the city. Be sure in any case to articulate your argument clearly. Your goal is to create a persuasive account of your chosen city's culture. Photos, maps and the like are appreciated and can add depth and interest to your Review. These should be included as appendices.

Creative Response Project: This can take many, many forms. Your goal is to creatively engage with the course material and discussions to demonstrate your understanding concept(s) from the course. Projects should be accompanied by a short (no more than 5 pages) informal explanation of your thought process, the inspiration for your Project as well as a brief overview of the concepts from the course upon which you have drawn.

Final Paper: 12-15 page formal academic paper on any topic relating to Urban Life and Culture you choose. Approval from the instructor is recommended and can help you to focus your topic to a manageable scope. Grading template to be posted on WebCT.

Penalties for Late Assignments: Late submissions will be penalized at 2% per day to a maximum of 10 days including weekends, and may not be returned to students on the same day as assignments submitted on time.

Turn-Around Time: One week for City and Culture Review and the Creative Response Project. See me during the first week of Winter term for your Paper.

Requesting a Re-evaluation of Course Work/Challenging A Grade: You may do this after a 24-hour 'cooling-off' period following the release of a grade. You *must* provide a roughly one-page write-up outlining *specifically* why you would like your grade to be revisited. I reserve the right to lower the grade if, upon re-examination, this is warranted. If we are unable to resolve the dispute, students have the right to formally appeal a grade through set University guidelines, found here: <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=116>

Getting Information about the Course: Check your LakeheadU email account regularly to get information about this course (changes to the schedule, last-minute cancellations, Proposal feedback, etc.). You will also need to use this to access the course readings through the library website and to access the WebCT components of the course.

Communicating with the Instructor: All email to the instructor regarding this course *must* originate from your LU email account and should include the course number (SOCI 3113FAO) in the subject line. I do my best to respond to email within a 24-hour period (usually much faster) but will not respond to email or WebCT issues on weekends. I suggest making use of the 'Does Anyone Know...' discussion board on WebCT to get answers to questions from fellow course participants (and periodically from me); use the 'Anonymous Feedback' board to provide me with comments about the course – I will be able to see the comment but not who wrote it. Please feel free to stop by during my office hours; if you need to make an appointment at another time, email me to set something up.