

University of Illinois
Department of Geography
Prof. D. Wilson
W. 11:00

Spring 2016
Davenport 313

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CITY

Course Description: The objective of this course is to critically examine best strategies, plans, and practices for creating a productive, just, and equitable U.S. city for all of its residents. The focus is on building and sustaining this complex, multi-textured landscape as a viable residential, commercial, industrial, and general economic arena. Lectures and discussions will provide you with the broad background of theories, concepts, and principles that will be essential for imagining and implementing these ideals, strategies and plans. Emphasis will be placed on making and sustaining best city economies, viable neighborhoods, robust public spaces, healthy citizen identities, and ideal government programs. Each of these component parts of the city are explored as entities whose purpose and function are in need of explaining, critiquing, and human managing.

<u>Course Requirements:</u>	Mid- term	25 percent
	Final Exam	25 percent
	Group Discussion	25 percent
	Final Paper	25 percent

Group Discussion: For every Wednesday class, after the lecture portion of the class, we will discuss the two required articles for that module. Everyone will be expected to have read the articles and to contribute to the discussion. All of the articles will be directly relevant to that day's lecture. We will collectively examine the theory, empirical data, findings, and implications of each article.

Mid-term and Final Exams: Both the mid-term and final exam will be all essay tests. To assist the study process, I will hand out candidate questions for both exams approximately two weeks prior to the testing dates. Each handout will consist of 5 questions for you to interrogate and prepare to answer in class. In both cases, two of the five questions will be selected to constitute the exam. Questions will be drawn from the lectures, required readings (in asterisks in the syllabus), class discussions, and the article reviews. In the essays, students will be expected to exhibit a strong understanding of the issues being assessed, the nature of debates that frame these issues, and the content of programs and policies relevant to managing the issues.

Final Paper: The final paper will involve you critically examining a contemporary urban problem that threatens city sustainability and offering a solution to it. As we will discuss in class, there is a wide range of such problems that plague the city (e.g., inequitable gentrification, growing class-race economic divides, deepening class-race segregation, proliferating housing foreclosures and housing abandonments). In a well-written 15 page essay, you will concisely summarize the nature of the problem, discuss the actors and institutions involved, and propose a solution that will emerge out of a theoretical perspective that you will embrace (and discuss). Details of the paper will come from a handout in the second week of the class.

Learning Goals: Students in this course will acquire an important and fundamental intellectual package. At its center will be an enhanced knowledge about city theory, deepened understandings about urban policy, and upgraded comprehensions of urban programs to enable a critical assessment and propose ideal alternatives to making an ideal urban environment.

To ensure an ideal learning environment and experience, students will be expected to attend lectures. At the same time, the expectation is that students will not be late to class (this can be very disruptive) and cell phones will be turned off.

Readings: Geography 350 Reader (found at Illini Union Bookstore) that consists of:

- ** While, A. and AEG Jonas, 2004. The Environment and the Entrepreneurial City: Searching For the Urban Sustainability Fix in Manchester and Leeds, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 12, 204-221.
- ** Ward, K., 2008. "Capital and Class." In T.Hall et. al. (eds.) the Sage Companion to the City (Newbury Park: Sage) 109-122.
- ** Wilson, D., 2007. Cities and Race: America's New Black Ghetto (London: Routledge) Chapter 4: Glocal Ghetto Changes."
- ** Cope, M. and F. Latcham, 2009. "Narratives of Decline: Race, Poverty, and Youth in the Context of Postindustrial Urban Angst," Professional Geographer, 2, 150-174
- ** Wilson D. and H. Margulis, 1994. "Housing Abandonment and Neighborhood Change: the Cleveland Experience, Housing Studies, 10, 4, 21-34.
- ** Wilson, D., Beck, Dean, and Adrian Bailey, 2009. "Neoliberal-Parasitic Economies and Space Building: Chicago's Southwest Side," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 35, 4, 691-712.
- ** Mitchell, D., 2003. The Right to the City (New York: Guilford) 1-13.
- ** Herbert, S., 2008. "Crime and Policing." In T. Hall et. al. (eds.) the Sage Companion to the City (Newbury Park: Sage) 334-351.
- ** Wood, Patricia B., and Rod K. Brunson, 2010. "Geographies of Resilient Social Networks: The Role of African American Barbershops," Urban Geography, 31, 228-243.
- ** Draus, P.J., Roddy, J.K., and M. Greenwald, 2010. "A Hell of a Life: Addiction and Marginality in Post-Industrial Detroit," Social and Cultural Geography, 11, 663-681.
- ** Ward, K., 2006. "Policies in Motion, Urban Management and State Restructuring: the Trans-Local Expansion of Business Improvement Districts," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 30.1, 54-75.
- ** Matthews, V., 2008. "Artcetera: Narrativizing Gentrification in Yorkville, Toronto," Urban Studies, 45, 2849-2876.

TOPICS

Week I. Introduction and What is Sustainability?

- Nature of the class
- Defining sustainability
- Operationalizing sustainability

** While, A. and AEG Jonas, 2004. The Environment and the Entrepreneurial City: Searching For the Urban Sustainability Fix in Manchester and Leeds, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 12, 204-221.

Short, J.R., 2006. Urban Theory (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan). "The Immigrant City," p. 79-91.

Brenner, N. et. al., 2003. State/Space: A Reader (Oxford: Blackwell).

Week II. Three Dominant Paradigms to Understand the City and Sustainability

- Neo-Classicism
- Institutionalism (Urban Managerialism)
- Marxism

** Ward, K., 2008. "Capital and Class." In T. Hall et. al. (eds.) Sage Companion to the City (Newbury Park: Sage) 109-122.

Weeks III and IV. Sustaining the City Economy

- City economies at work
- Fair, equitable, and productive city economies
- Threats to viable city economies
- Sustaining best city economies

** Wilson, D., 2007. Cities and Race: America's New Black Ghetto (London: Routledge) Chapter 4: "Glocal Ghetto Changes."

** Cope, M. and F. Latcham, 2009. "Narratives of Decline: Race, Poverty, and Youth in the Context of Postindustrial Urban Angst," Professional Geographer, 2, 150-174.

Wilson, W. J., 1996. When Work Disappears (Chicago: University of Chicago).

Harvey, D. 2005. Spaces of Hope (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins).

Short, J.R., 1999., "Urban Imagineers: Boosterism and the Representation of Cities." In A. Jonas and D. Wilson (eds.) The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later (Albany: SUNY), 37-54.

Weeks V, VI and VII. Sustaining Viable Neighborhoods

- Viable Neighborhoods at work
- Fair, equitable, and productive neighborhoods
- Threats to viable neighborhoods
- Sustaining best city neighborhoods

** Wilson D. and H. Margulis, 1994. "Housing Abandonment and Neighborhood Change: the Cleveland Experience," Housing Studies, 10, 4, 21-34.

** Wilson, D., Beck, Dean, and Adrian Bailey, 2009. "Neoliberal-Parasitic Economies and Space Building: Chicago's Southwest Side," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 35, 4, 691-712.

Davis, M., 1992. "Fortress Los Angeles: the Militarization of Urban Space." In M. Sorkin (ed.) Variations on a Theme Park: the New American City and the End of Public Space (New York: Noonday).

Bennett, Larry, 2006. "Transforming Public Housing." In J.P. Koval et. al., The New Chicago (Philadelphia: Temple University) 269-276.

Weeks VIII and IX: Sustaining Public Space

- Public space at work
- Fair, equitable, and productive public spaces
- Threats to viable public spaces
- Sustaining planned public spaces

- ** Mitchell, D., 2003. The Right to the City (New York: Guilford) 1-13.
- ** Herbert, S., 2008. "Crime and Policing." In T. Hall et. al. (eds.) the Sage Companion to The City (Newbury Park: Sage) 334-351.
- Staheli, L., 1997. "Citizenship, Community, and Struggles for Public Space," Professional Geographer, 49, 28-38.
- Mele, Christopher, 1999. Selling the Lower East Side (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota).
- Sucher, C.S., 2006. "The Physical Transformation of Metropolitan Chicago." In J.P. Koval et. al., The New Chicago (Philadelphia: Temple University) 56-76.

Week X: Midterm (on the Wednesday before Spring Break)

Weeks XI and XII: Sustaining the Healthy Citizen Identity

- Current identities at work
 - The constituting of troubled, aberrant identities
 - Sustaining healthy, ideal identities
- ** Wood, Patricia B., and Rod K. Brunson, 2010. "Geographies of Resilient Social Networks: The Role of African American Barbershops," Urban Geography, 31, 228-243.
- ** Draus, P.J., Roddy, J.K., and M. Greenwald, 2010. "A Hell of a Life: Addiction and Marginality in Post-Industrial Detroit," Social and Cultural Geography, 11, 663-681.
- Mitchell, K., 2003. "Educating the National Citizen in Neoliberal Times: From the Multicultural Self to the Strategic Cosmopolitan," Transactions, Institute of British Geographers, 28, 387-403.
- Keith, M., 1995. "Shouts of the Street: Identity and the Space of Authenticity," Social Identities, 2, 297-315.

Weeks XIII and XIV: Recent Government Programs/Policies to Promote Urban Sustainability

- Interpreting Government goals
 - Rationale for government response
 - Nature of government programs – Master Plan, Zoning, CDBG, Urban Homesteading, BIDS
 - Programmatic ideals for the future
- ** Ward, K., 2006. "Policies in Motion, Urban Management and State Restructuring: the Trans-Local Expansion of Business Improvement Districts," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 30.1, 54-75.
- ** Matthews, V., 2008. "Artcetera: Narrativizing Gentrification in Yorkville, Toronto," Urban Studies, 45, 2849-2876.
- McCann, E. and K Ward, 2011. Mobile Urbanism: Cities and Policymaking in the Global Age (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota).
- Daniels, T.L., 1991. "The Purchase of Development Rights: Preserving Agricultural Land and Open Space," Journal of the American Planning Association, 57, 4, 421-432.
- Daniels, T.L. and A.C. Nelson, 1986. "Is Oregon's Farmland Preservation Working?" Journal of the American Planning Association, 52, 1, 22-32.