Anthropology 2125: Urban Anthropology
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Mitchell Fuentes
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
  Place: Fretwell 419
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  Office: Barnard 250
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

CLASS DESCRIPTION
Urban anthropology is the study of people and their cultural institutions in the cities. In the 21st century anthropologists can no longer be said to study “primitive,” “isolated” cultural groups. In response to the increasing urbanization of the world, we have expanded our gaze to include urban areas that are inherently tied to non-urban areas of the world. We will begin by addressing some of the central issues of import to urban anthropologists as well as some of the methods they use to conduct their studies. We will then examine the origin, development, evolution, and diversity of cities with a focus on urbanism (i.e., how large, dense, heterogeneous settlements shape behavior).

Required Readings:
3. “With No Direction Home: Homeless Youth on the Road and in the Streets” by Marni Finkelstein

Assignments and Grading:
In this course I will often lecture, but also expect vigorous participation on your part. This means that you must not only have read the assigned readings, but have reflected on them and come to class prepared to ask thoughtful questions and raise points for discussion. Your assignments are as follows:

Exam 1 = 25%
Exam 2 = 30%
Participation and Attendance = 10%
Final Exam 3 = 35% (Scheduled tentatively for Tuesday, May 11 at 2:00 p.m.)

Grade scale is as follows: A = 90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59.
Tentative Schedule

I. Introduction to the course: Anthropology, Urban Anthropology, and Culture:

1. Week 1 (January 12 and 14):
Start reading “With No Direction Home” (You need to have finished this by Week 6)

II. The History of The First Cities, North American Colonial Cities, and North American Postcolonial Cities

2. Week 2 (January 19 and 21):
Reading: Find on blackboard: Lawrence M. Schell’s “Human Health and the City” and Gideon Sjoberg’s “The Preindustrial City”

III. Urbanism, Urbanization, and the Anthropology of Cities: The Background of Urban Anthropology

3. Week 3 (January 26 and 28):
Find on blackboard: Stanley Milgram’s “The Urban Experience: A Psychological Analysis”

4. Week 4 (February 2 and 4):
Readings: From Gmelch and Zenner: Louis Wirth’s “Urbanism as a Way of Life”

IV. How Do We Do Urban Anthropology and WHY?: Urban Fieldwork:

5. Week 5 (February 9 and 11):
MIDTERM I on Tuesday
Readings from Gmelch and Zenner: “Anthropological Fieldwork in Cities” and “Student Fieldworkers in Village and City”

6. Week 6 (February 16 and 18):
Readings from Gmelch and Zenner: “Networks, Neighborhoods, and Markets: Fieldwork in Tokyo” and “Nomads in the City: Studying Irish Travelers”
Have finished “With No Direction Home”
V. Cities and Suburbs – Rural and Urban

7. Week 7 (February 23 and 25)
Reading from Gmelch and Zenner: “Beyond Urban and Rural: Communities in the 21st Century”
Reading from Annual Editions (AE):
   Ch. 31 “Patio Man and the Sprawl People”
   Ch. 32 “Affluent, but Needy (First Suburbs)”

VI. Urban Problems: Crime and Deviance

8. Week 8 (March 2 and No class on March 4)
Readings from Annual Editions: Ch. 28 “Broken Windows” by Wilson and Kelling

9. Week 9 (March 16 and 18)
Readings from Annual Editions: Ch. 29 “How an Idea Drew People Back to Urban Life” by Wilson

VII. Urban Problems: Poverty and Homelessness

10. Week 10 (March 23 and 25):
Readings from Gmelch and Zenner:
   “The Culture of Poverty”
   “The View from the Front Desk: Addressing Homelessness and the Homeless in Dallas”
   “Gangs, Poverty, and the Future”
Review “With No Direction Home”

XIII. Urban Problems: Tensions Relating to Ethnic and Gender Diversity

11. Week 11 (March 30 and April 1)
Midterm II on Tuesday
Reading from Annual editions:
   Chp. 5 “Bridge Blockade after Katrina Remains Divisive Issue”
   Ch. 43 Femicide in Ciudad Juarez: What Can Planners Do?”

Readings from Gmelch and Zenner: “Urban Danger: Life in a Neighborhood of Strangers”

IX. Migration and Transmigration:

12. Week 12 (April 6 and 8)
Globalization Project due no later than next Monday
Readings from Gmelch and Zenner:
   “A West Indian Life in Britain” and “The Extended Community: Migration and Transformation in Tzintzuntzan, Mexico”
X. World Urbanization and Globalization

13. Week 13 (April 13 and 15)
Optional Globalization Projects must be turned in absolutely no later than today in class!
Find on blackboard: “Globalization, Women’s Labor, and Men’s Pleasure: Sex Tourism in Sosua, the Dominican Republic”

Reading from Annual Editions: Chp. 8 “Microsoft’s Call-Center Business in India Gets an American Accent”

14. Week 14 (April 20 and 22)
Readings from Annual Editions:  
Chp. 7 “Measuring Globalization”  
Chp. 42 “Demolishing Delhi: A World Class City in the Making”

XI. The Future of Urban Life

15. Week 15 (April 27 and 29)
Reading from Annual Editions:  
Ch. 33 “Principles of New Urbanism”  
Chp. 34 “Rocking-Chair Revival: Nostalgic Front Porch Makes a Comeback in a New Century”  
Chp. 36 “Regional Coalition-Building and the Inner Suburbs”

16. Week 16 (May 4)
Wrap up and review for the final exam

Tentative Schedule for the final exam is Tuesday, May 11 at 2:00 p.m. It is your responsibility to check on the registrar’s webpage to confirm this date and time. Final exam times/days are subject to change even as early as the morning of the exam.

IMPORTANT CLASS POLICIES

1. All students should read and abide by both The UNCC Code of Academic Integrity and The UNCC Code of Student Responsibility – see below.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (see below for definitions). Violations may include various forms of plagiarism, cheating, copying from another student’s exam, and others (see
below). Should academic dishonesty or disruption of the class be proved for any individual, I shall use the full range of penalties available to me.

2. Come to class prepared to actively listen and raise questions. Make sure you have thoroughly and thoughtfully read the assigned readings on time.

I will take roll in this class and there is a very clear correlation between attendance and grades. Also, attendance is necessary in so far as much of lecture expands on the texts and so cannot be obtained simply by reading the assigned chapters alone.

3. Exam Policy: You are expected to take the exams (turn in assignments, etc.) during the class periods for which they are assigned. It is your responsibility to either get to the exam/turn in assignment or to have official documentation, if you are absent. Documentation means something official such as a doctor’s note (not an email or note from you). Oversleeping, trouble parking, a crisis with a boyfriend or girlfriend, early departure for spring break, family weddings, etc. do not count as excused absences from an exam or failure to turn an assignment in on time. If you are not present for the exam (or to turn in an assignment) and do not provide official documentation, you will receive a zero. In case of illness or death in the family, you must contact me before the exam/assignment due date. You may call or email me. If I am not there, please leave a message. My purpose here is not to accuse you of deceit, but rather, to have a rule that can apply fairly to all.

4. Arrive to class on time! When students trickle in over a 10-minute period, it makes it impossible for other students to learn and for me to teach. You are responsible for anything you miss if you are absent or late to class. I do NOT repeat announcements and often give the important announcements at the very beginning of class. I often have students complain along the lines of, “But I didn’t know that the exam date was changed” or “I didn’t know we were going to have a quiz next class.” These are students who arrived late or were absent and missed the announcement.

5. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings and lecture material. Even if I do not discuss a given part of the text, you are likely to see it on tests or quizzes. At the same time, you are responsible for class lectures that are not in your text. I do not lecture in such a way as to regurgitate the text. Much of this is left for you to do. Lectures will be based on the text, but will expand on it and introduce new ideas and concepts as well.

6. Actively watch films. In this class we will see several films and clips of films. Rather than thinking of this as time off, you need to actively watch films so that you can integrate the ideas given in the films with the material presented to you in lectures and assigned readings. This will be expected of you on exams.

7. If English is your second language, you are registered with Disabled Student Services, or in any way need special assistance, please let me know.
8. Come see me! If you have questions on lectures or readings, please come to my office hours or ask questions in lecture. Students often are hesitant to ask questions. Don’t assume everyone else knows the answer but you! I can promise that if you have a question, so too do others. I am truly happy to meet with you and answer any questions. You are not bothering me.

9. Bad weather: The University’s Inclement Weather Line is 704-687-2877. If the weather is threatening, you can call that number and get a recording that will tell you if the university is open.

*All students should read and abide by both THE UNCC CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY and THE UNCC CODE OF STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY; they can be found on the university web page at: http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-104.html (student responsibility) and http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html (student academic integrity)

I want you to be familiar with the entire Code of Student Academic Integrity. But here are some very key points. These descriptions are taken from the UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity, Section III A & D (slightly modified). AVOID CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

- **CHEATING** is intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.
  - Typical Examples: Copying from another student's paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during a quiz, test or examination; using books, notes or other devices (e.g., calculators) when these are not authorized; procuring without authorization tests or examinations before the scheduled exercise (including discussion of the substance of examinations and tests when it is expected these will not be discussed); copying reports, laboratory work, computer programs or files and the like from other students; collaborating on laboratory or computer work without authorization and without indication of the nature and extent of the collaboration; sending a substitute to take an examination.

- **PLAGIARISM**. Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source).
  - Typical Examples: Submitting as one's own work of a "ghost writer" or commercial writing service; directly quoting from a source without citation; paraphrasing or summarizing another's work without acknowledging the source; using facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source. Plagiarism may occur orally and in writing. It may involve computer programs and files, research designs, distinctive figures of speech, ideas and images, or generally any "information" which belongs to another. Copying directly from web pages, without acknowledgement, is plagiarism.