

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-202 **Urban Sociology** 3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Urban Sociology is a lecture and discussion course in which the student will analyze the social relationships of man in his urban environment. The student will examine the way in which spacial and physical dimensions of urban areas have been shaped; describe the various life styles of urbanized man; analyze the growth, development and planning of suburbs and new towns; and examine a number of social problems facing urban America including effective government, zoning and land use, housing, education, urban planning and crime.

Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the process of human settlement and the role of the city in history.
2. Analyze and articulate how cities changed with industrialization and the rise of capitalism into "urban" and "metropolitan" areas.
3. Describe the social variables leading to suburbanization and its meaning for American life.
4. Compare across cultures the major urban centers in the world.
5. Identify and analyze the patterns of urban deterioration, strategies for renewal, and the ultimate abandonment of cities by more affluent residents and industry, because of racial and economic factors, and the rise of urban crime.
6. Describe and document how the cycle of poverty impacts the lives of urban residents, especially the youth.
7. Show knowledge and understanding of the rise of so-called youth gangs" in urban areas, demonstrating familiarity with their own perspectives and analysis.
8. Analyze the relationships between various ethnic populations in the cities.
9. Describe and profile with reliable data the everyday life of people living in urban centers with regard to health, infant mortality, educational opportunities, unemployment, environmental hazards, etc.
10. Review and analyze the economic and political strategies the government and infrastructure agencies offer for revitalization.
11. Identify and describe the grassroots ("people") voices and agendas for humanizing and empowering the lives of urban residents.
12. Analyze the overall impact of urbanization on the ecology of the earth.'

Major Topics

1. Human settlement and the city in history
2. Industrialization and urbanization; theories of urban growth
3. Suburbanization in America
4. Cross-cultural comparisons of major urban centers
5. Patterns of urban deterioration, renewal, and abandonment by residents and industry
6. The cycle of poverty's impact on urban residents
7. So-called "gangs" in the urban landscape and their meaning for youth
8. Ethnic relations in urban America
9. Profiles of everyday life in urban centers with regard to health, education, employment, housing, crime, etc.
10. Economic and political agendas for revitalizing cities.
11. The grassroots voices and agendas for empowering the people in urban centers
12. Impact of urbanization on the ecology of the earth

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be based upon at least two in-class exams, two required formal research papers, one of which is a report and analysis based on some firsthand investigation or experience in the city; informal notes and writings collected in a notebook; and attendance/participation.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 2500 words of formal writing. The formal writing can be a combination of library, participant observational, and experiential research. It should be documented and meet the minimum college standard of proficiency.

Other Course Information

Meets college definition for: Cultural Diversity

This course is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Science elective.