

Gender & the City (Fall 2017)

Sociology 190 Capstone Seminar

Instructor: Carter Koppelman (carter.koppelman@berkeley.edu)

Time & Location: Monday 10-12, 106 Wheeler

Office Hours: Monday 12-2, 483 Barrows. Sign-up: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/kykqs>

Description: Although urban sociology has long addressed questions of how social relations shape the production and uses of cities and urban spaces, this field has focused primarily on relations and inequalities of class and race, while gender has remained at its margins. Yet, gender is built into the cities we inhabit. Gendered ideas and assumptions permeate the design of homes and workplaces, the physical layout of neighborhoods, and the modes of transportation we use to move through cities. Gendered power relations shape who can use urban spaces without fear of retribution; who controls the building, development, and destruction of cities and neighborhoods; and who benefits from the opportunities and pleasures of urban life. In this course, we will situate gender not as merely an additional dimension of urban inequality, but rather as a constitutive aspect of social relations that vitally shape cities and urban life. Over the course of the semester, we will draw on classical and contemporary readings and themes in urban sociology and critically reexamine them in dialogue with gendered approaches to sociology, geography, city planning, architecture, and urban history. In the process, we will build a set of conceptual tools to analyze urban processes in various global regions through class discussions and student research papers. Key topics we will address include: everyday experiences of urban life; urban policy, politics and political economy; housing and the home; urban social movements; informal urbanism; and global cities.

Required texts: All course readings will be available on bCourses (bcourses.berkeley.edu).

Evaluation:

I. Participation (40 percent)

Your participation grade will be determined by general participation in the seminar (30 percent), and two reading presentations over the course of the semester (5 percent each). Each student is required to present once as a proponent of a reading, and once as a critic. As a proponent, you should work to extract a central thesis from the text. What is the author's central argument? What evidence does the author provide to substantiate her argument? You should provide textual evidence to support your interpretation, but please do not simply read a series of block quotes. This should be *your* reading of the text. Proponent presentations should be up to 10 minutes.

As a critic, you should understand the author's central thesis is and systematically work to refute it. Your critique should approach the reading both *internally* (disjuncture between the authors' argument and the evidence supporting it; insufficient evidence; logical flaws; misuse of concepts) and *externally* (proposal of more convincing explanations of the evidence; using competing arguments from other texts; highlighting limitations of the argument in the context of existing scholarship). Critical presentations should not exceed 5 minutes.

II. Research Paper (60 percent)

In addition to discussing the readings on this syllabus, each student will be expected to produce a 12-15 page research paper on a topic of their choosing. As an integral part of the seminar, we will systematically build these research projects through short assignments over the semester.

- a) **Research proposal and preliminary bibliography** (5%). Due Week 3. This proposal will establish a research question, explain its importance, and justify its relevance to the course. The proposal text should be no longer than **one double-spaced page**, with a preliminary bibliography of at least 5 potentially useful academic sources on a second page.
- b) **Literature review** (10%). Due Week 5.
- c) **Thesis statement** (5%). Due Week 7.
- d) **Detailed outline** (10%). Due Week 10.
- e) **Paper presentation** (5%). Our last session will be dedicated to short student presentations.
- f) **Final Paper** (25%).

Grading: The work you hand in to me for grading will be evaluated carefully and in the most accurate and unbiased way possible. For all written work, remember to **have a clear argument** and structure that demonstrate your understanding and application of the material at hand. Always **proofread** for spelling, grammar, and style, and **follow proper citation procedures** when they apply.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is an offense that I take extremely seriously. The grade for essays that show evidence of plagiarism will be forfeited and calculated as a **zero**. I will pursue **disciplinary action** in cases of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you are unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct, please consult the Student Code of Conduct: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. See me in office hours if you need guidance regarding academic honesty and citation practices.

Late Policy: **Deadlines are inflexible.** Your grade will fall by **10% per day late**. Assignments will not be accepted - and you will receive a **zero** - past three days late. If you have an emergency or illness that interferes with a deadline, notify me as soon as possible and provide proper written documentation (in the case of a medical emergency, provide a doctor's note).

DSP Accommodations: If you need special arrangements, please email me or see me privately after class or during office hours. If you are part of the Disabled Students Program, we will need to meet in the first two weeks of class to discuss what accommodations you need. For information about the Disabled Students Program, see <http://dsp.berkeley.edu>, or visit the DSP office: 260 César Chávez Student Center.

Course Overview

[Note: Readings designated for student presentation and critique are marked with an asterisk *]

Week 1 (Aug. 28th): Urbanism as a (Masculine?) Way of Life

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *American Journal of Sociology* 44: 1-24.

Wilson, Elizabeth. 1992. "Into the Labyrinth" Ch.1 in *The Sphinx in the City: Urban Life, Control of Disorder, and Women*

Scott, Joan W. 1986. "Gender: A useful category of historical analysis." *The American Historical Review* 91.5: 1053-1075.

No Class September 4th: Labor Day

Week 2 (Sept. 11th): The Experience(s) of Urban Modernity

*Simmel, Georg. 1903. "Metropolis and Mental Life," in *Georg Simmel on Individuality and Social Forms*. University of Chicago Press

*Wilson, Elizabeth. 1992. "Cesspool City: London," Pp. 26-46 in *The Sphinx in the City: Urban Life, Control of Disorder, and Women*

Parsons, Deborah. 2000. "Mythologies of Modernity," Pp. 17-42 in *Streetwalking the Metropolis: Women, the City, and Modernity*

Week 3 (Sept. 18th): Gender, Sexuality, and Urban Enclaves: Revisiting the Chicago School

*Park, Robert. 1915. "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the City Environment." *American Journal of Sociology* 20,5: 577-612.

*Chauncey, George. 1994. *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*. Basic Books, 1994. [Chapters 5 & 9]

Recommended Readings:

Rubin, Gayle. 2002. "Studying sexual subcultures: Excavating the ethnography of gay communities in urban North America." *Out in theory: The emergence of lesbian and gay anthropology* (2002): 17-68.

Spain, Daphne. 2002. "What happened to gender relations on the way from Chicago to Los Angeles?" *City & Community* 1.2: 155-169.

Week 4 (Sept. 25th): Cities and Social Reproduction: Marxist Perspectives

*Castells, Manuel. 1978. "Collective Consumption and Urban Contradictions in Advanced Capitalism" in Susser (ed.). *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*: 107-129.

Castells, Manuel. 1983. "The Industrial City and the Working Class: The Glasgow Rent Strike of 1915." In *The City and the Grassroots: A Cross-Cultural Theory of Urban Social Movements*. UC Press

*Watson, Sophie, and Helen Austerberry. 1986. *Housing and Homelessness: A Feminist Perspective*. Routledge. [Chapters 1,2 & 5]

Recommended Readings:

Castells, Manuel. 1983. "The Industrial City and the Working Class: The Glasgow Rent Strike of 1915." In *The City and the Grassroots: A Cross-Cultural Theory of Urban Social Movements*. UC Press

Friedrich Engels. 1885. "The Great Towns," in *The Conditions of the Working Class in England*

Markusen, Ann R. 1980. "City spatial structure, women's household work, and national urban policy." *Signs* 5.3: S23-S44.

Week 5 (Oct. 2nd): State, Market, and Urban Space: Political Economy Approaches

*Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. 1987. "The Social Construction of Cities," Pp. 1-16 in *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley, UC Press.

Zavisca, Jane. 2008. "Property without markets: housing policy and politics in post-Soviet Russia, 1992–2007." *Comparative European Politics* 6.3: 365-386.

*Keisha-Khan, Y. Perry. 2004. "The Roots of Black Resistance: Race, Gender and the Struggle for Urban Land Rights in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil." *Social Identities* 10.6: 811-831.

Week 6 (Oct. 9th): Everyday Production of the Urban Space

*Lefebvre, Henri. 1996 [1967]. Pp. 65-85, 100-110 in *Writings on Cities*, translated and edited by Eleonore Kofman and Elizabeth Lebas. Malden: Blackwell.

*Simonsen, Kirsten, and Dina Vaiou. 1996. "Women's Lives and the Making of the City: Experiences from 'North' and 'South' of Europe." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 20.3: 446-465.

Recommended Readings:

Caldeira, Teresa. 1990. "Women, daily life and politics," Pp.47-78 in Elizabeth Jelin, ed. *Women and Social Change in Latin America*. London: Zed Books.

Week 7 (Oct. 16th): Trouble in the Suburbs: Hidden Costs of American Anti-Urbanism

*Fishman, Robert. 1987. "Urbanity versus Suburbanity: France and the United States," Pp.73-102 in *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*. NY: Basic Books.

*Friedan, Betty. 2001 [1963]. "The Problem that Has No Name," Pp.57-79 in *The Feminine Mystique*. W.W. Norton.

Wilson, Elizabeth. 1992. "Cities of the American Dream," Pp. 65-83 in *The Sphinx in the City: Urban Life, Control of Disorder, and Women*

Recommended Readings:

Hayden, Dolores. 1980. "What would a non-sexist city be like? Speculations on housing, urban design, and human work." *Signs* 5.3: S170-S187.

Week 8 (Oct. 23rd): Race, Gender and the Politics of Housing

*Bickford, Adam, and Douglas S. Massey. "Segregation in the second ghetto: Racial and ethnic segregation in American public housing, 1977." *Social Forces* (1991): 1011-1036.

*Williams, Rhonda Y. 2004. *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality*. NY: Oxford University Press. [Intro., Chapters 1, 3,4 & Epilogue]

Recommended Readings:

Revisit: Watson, Sophie, and Helen Austerberry. 1986. *Housing and Homelessness: A Feminist Perspective*. Routledge. [Chapter 1]

Week 9 (Oct. 30th): Urban Informality

*Mike Davis. 2003. "Planet of Slums." *New Left Review*.

Moser, Caroline. 1987. "Women, human settlements, and housing: a conceptual framework for analysis and policy-making." In Moser, Caroline, and Linda Peake. *Women, Human Settlements and Housing*. Longon: Tavistock: 12-32.

*Roy, Ananya. 2003. *City requiem, Calcutta: Gender and the Politics of Poverty*. University of Minnesota Press, 2003. [Chapters 1-3]

Recommended Readings:

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McIlvaine. 2016. *Cities, Slums, and Gender in the Global South: Toward a Feminized Urban Future*. New York: Routledge.

Week 10 (Nov. 6th): Rethinking Public Spaces

*Jane Jacobs. 1961. "The uses of sidewalks: safety", pp.29-54 in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House

Iris Marion Young. 1990. "City Life and Difference," in *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton University Press.

*Fenster, Tovi. 2005. "The right to the gendered city: Different formations of belonging in everyday life." *Journal of Gender Studies* 14.3: 217-231.

Recommended Readings:

Doan, Petra. 2007. "Queers in the American City: Transgendered perceptions of urban space." *Gender, Place & Culture* 14.1: 57-74.

Day, Kristen. 2001. "Constructing masculinity and women's fear in public space in Irvine, California." *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* 8.2: 109-127.

Week 11 (Nov. 13th): Gender and Urban Mobility

*Sheller, Mimi, and John Urry. 2006. "The New Mobilities Paradigm." *Environment and Planning A* 38.2: 207-226.

*Paola, Jiron. 2007. "Unraveling Invisible Inequalities in the City through Urban Daily Mobility: The Case of Santiago de Chile." *Swiss Journal of Sociology* 33.1.

Andrews, Abigail, and Nazanin Shahrokni. 2014. "Patriarchal accommodations: Women's mobility and policies of gender difference from urban Iran to migrant Mexico." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 43.2: 148-175.

Recommended Readings:

Law, Robin. 2002. "Gender and daily mobility in a New Zealand city, 1920–1960." *Social & Cultural Geography* 3.4: 425-445.

Week 12 (Nov. 20th): Gendering the Global City

*Saskia Sassen. 2005. "The global city: Introducing a concept." *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 11.2: 27-43.

Sassen, Saskia. 2000. "Women's burden: counter-geographies of globalization and the feminization of survival." *Journal of international affairs*: 503-524.

*Kimberly Kay Hoang. 2014. "Flirting with Capital: Negotiating Perceptions of Pan-Asian Ascendancy and Western Decline in Global Sex Work." *Social Problems* 61.4: 507-529.

Recommended Readings:

Massey, Doreen. 1994. "A Global Sense of Place," in *Space, Place and Gender*.
John Wiley & Sons.

Week 13 (Nov. 27th): Student Presentations.