

UBNS 8000: Seminar in Urban Studies

Fall 2021 Syllabus
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Time: W 5:30 - 8:10 (CPACS 220)

Instructor: Daniel Scheller, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: (Zoom) Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 or Appointment via:
<https://calendly.com/dscheller/fall-2021-meeting-calendar>

Course Description

UBNS 8000 is the seminar/overview of urban studies course in the MSUS program. Its purpose is to introduce students to the major issues, theories, themes, and controversies in urban studies. The course provides a broad overview of urban studies to prepare students to take further urban studies courses. Topics covered are approached from a multidisciplinary perspective to equip students with the knowledge to understand, analyze, and solve current urban issues. Each week introduces new material, with topics including urban planning, race/ethnicity, neighborhood development, elections and administration, sociological theories, housing, crime, etc. This semester, we will also be doing a service learning project with SPARK CDI in North Omaha, focusing on the built environment by researching and providing recommendations regarding place-based development.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the main theories in urban studies.
- Analyze the historical and current major issues for cities and urban areas.
- Evaluate theories and their application to urban issues in both written and oral format.
- Critically understand and assess political and policy solutions facing cities.

Required Texts

Macionis, John J., and Vincent N. Parrillo. *Cities and Urban Life*, 7th ed. Pearson.

The main textbook is used to provide students with a general overview of urban studies. Please buy/rent the 7th edition. There is no guarantee that older editions will contain the same information. ***Other readings from journals, newspapers, and magazines will be located on Canvas to supplement the main textbook or active links will be provided in the syllabus.***

Course Requirements

1. Service Learning Written Report (100 pts.): As part of the service learning project, you will work in a group to write a short research report to the sponsoring organization (SPARK CDI). The report should be 3-4 pages, written as a type of white paper. A rubric will be given.
2. Service Learning Presentation (50 pts.): As part of the service learning project, you'll report your research findings/suggestions to the sponsoring organization in a group presentation. Rubric

will be provided.

3. Midterm Reflection (50 pts.): I will have you submit a reflection after completion of the service learning project where you discuss your experience and connect it with information from course materials. A rubric will be provided.

4. Final (100 pts.): The Final will cover all material from the semester. I'll provide you with four prompts, of which you should respond to two in well-written essays. Essays will likely be 3-4 double-spaced pages each. A rubric will be provided.

Grade Components

Written Report	100
Presentation	50
Reflection	50
Final	100
Total	300

Grading Scale

A+	97% - 100%
A	≥93% < 97%
A-	≥90% < 93%
B+	≥87% < 90%
B	≥83% < 87%
B-	≥80% < 83%
C+	≥77% < 80%
C	≥73% < 77%
C-	≥70% < 73%
D+	≥67% < 70%
D	≥63% < 67%
D-	≥60% < 63%
F	<60%

Round up from 0.5% will be observed.

Course Expectations & Policies

Courtesy

Comments and language in class should be professional and courteous. Cell phones are annoying and distracting. Please put them away or have them on vibrate for emergencies.

Diversity & Inclusiveness

There must be a clear respect for diversity maintained in the class. This includes respect for people related to gender, sexual orientation, religious identity, disability, age, socio-economic status, ethnicity, race, culture and other differences (including political orientation). All of us have some-

thing to offer, and together, we can cultivate a classroom environment where individuals of varying opinions, experiences, and backgrounds are able to learn in a supportive and inclusive setting.

Assignment Submissions

Upload materials to Canvas.

Late Work Policy & Make-Up Exams and Assignments

Since you have ample notice of the due dates of the assignments, and their requirements, no extensions will be given for assignments, unless there is approved medical, legal (jury duty), or university documentation. Materials turned in after the indicated due date and time will automatically receive a 10% deduction. Late work will receive an additional 15% deduction for each additional 24 hours that pass in which the assignment is not turned in. I make no guarantees that late work submitted to my office mailbox or email inbox or assignments slid under my door are actually delivered to me. It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive your materials.

COVID-19 Exceptions

An exception to the late policy may be made for students who experience a sudden or extended medically-related illness or injury which interrupts their ability to participate and submit work in the academic setting. Students who experience a sudden or extended medically-related illness or injury should contact the Accessibility Services Center (ASC) to begin the process for Medical Supervision. Medical documentation should be provided to the ASC by the student and should include the initial date of the absence, as well as an expected date of return. Medical Supervision can be applied retroactively with supportive documentation. Once documentation is received and approved by the ASC, a Notification of Medical Supervision will be sent to instructor(s) of record. To maintain confidentiality, students are not required to provide medical documentation directly to instructors. For more information, contact the Accessibility Services Center (Location: H&K 104, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu)

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be offered in this course.

Incompletes

Incompletes will only be given in the most extreme and extenuating circumstances.

Student Privacy

Per regulations outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I will not discuss your grades, class performance, or any issues dealing with your personal circumstances as they relate to this course with another party that cannot legally access your your collegiate records or legally obtain such information. I will not field phone calls from your parents concerning your performance or circumstances related to this course. Your performance may be discussed with other members of the faculty as it pertains to your progress in the program, consideration for awards/funding, and as it is relevant to other university and department-related considerations.

Student Disability Services

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Accessibility Services Center (ASC) and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, con-

tact ASC (Location: H&K 104, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu)

Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to adhere to all the rules, regulations, and standards set forth by the University of Nebraska at Omaha with regard to academic dishonesty (<http://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/academic-integrity.php>). This statement covers plagiarism (intentional or unintentional), cheating on examinations, using or stealing others' work, and so forth. The penalty for academic dishonesty could be a failing course grade and/or disciplinary actions.

Service Learning Academy Photography Statement

By engaging in this course, you give the Service Learning Academy permission to capture photos and videos of you while engaging in course activities linked to the service learning course project. All media recordings may be used for social media or print promotional materials by the Service Learning Academy. Course project products will be shared with community partners. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Service Learning Academy Graduate Assistant working with your course.

Syllabus Change Policy

The contents of this course syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Course Schedule

Aug. 25: Introduction to Course & Urban History

- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 1. pp. 1-21.
- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 3. pp. 53-74.

Sept. 1: Spaces, Places, & Planning

- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 8. pp. 199-226.
- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 14. pp. 382-411.

Sept. 8: Public Spaces - Community Gardens, Parks, & Art

- Gehl, Jan. (2010). *Cities for People*. Ch. 1, 3, 7 (Available via e-book from Criss Library)

Sept. 15: North Omaha Tour w/SPARK

- Will meet at 24th & Lake property.

Sept. 22: Patterns of Urban Growth & Sprawl

- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 6. pp. 147-172.
- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 4. pp. 85-116.
- Semuels, Alana. 2016. "El Paso is Learning That Not Everyone Hates Sprawl."
The Atlantic. Available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/01/el-paso-urban-walkable-americans/431661/>

Sept. 29: Service Learning Research - No In-Class Meeting

Oct. 6: Service Learning Research - In-Class Meeting Papers to SPARK by Oct. 11

Oct. 13: Service Learning Research/Prep - No In-Class Meeting Send presentations to Dr. Scheller by Oct. 15.

Oct. 20: Service Learning: Presentations

- Location: TBD.

Oct. 27: Race, Ethnicity, & Gender

- Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 11. pp. 288-319.
- Massey, Douglas S., and Nancy A. Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. pp. 83-114. (Canvas).

Nov. 3: Poverty & Housing

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 10. pp. 256-286.

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 12. pp. 320-337.

-Midterm reflection due by Nov. 5 at 11:59 PM.

Nov. 10: Crime & Policing

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 12. pp. 337-347.

-Kelling, George L., and James Q. Wilson. 1982. "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety." *The Atlantic Monthly*. http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1982/03/broken-windows/304465/?single_page=true

-Brunson, Rod K., and Ronald Weitzer. 2009. "Police Relations with Black and White Youths in Different Urban Neighborhoods." *Urban Affairs Review*. 44 (6): 858-885. (Canvas).

Nov. 17: Urban Theory

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 5. pp. 117-146.

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 7. pp. 174-197.

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 1: Comparative Urban & Semester Summary

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 9. pp. 244-253.

-Macionis & Parrillo. Ch. 13. pp. 348-349; 354-360; 363-369; 374-380.

Dec. 8: Final Exams Due by 11:59 PM.