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Course Materials

House of Our Own (3920 Spruce)

- Thomas Shannon et al., Urban Problems in Sociological Perspective
- Roger Waldinger, Still the Promised City? African-Americans and New Immigrants in New York
- Saskia Sassen, Cities in a World Economy

Wharton Reographics (Dietrich Bldg, basement):

- Urban Sociology (SOC011) Reader

Van Pelt Reserve

- William Flanagan, Contemporary Urban Sociology

SYLLABUS

9/9 Course Overview and Requirements

9/16 The Origins and Long-Term Mechanisms of
Expansion of (Western) Urban Civilization

Readings: blkpk #1 thru #5 (G.Childe, Origins and Evolution of Urban Communities and Urbanization; M.Weber, The Nature of the City;F. Braudel, Towns and Cities; M. Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (excerpts); E. Monkonen, America

Becomes Urban.

9/23 The Roots of Urban Sociology and Classical Theories of Urbanism

Readings: Shannon et al., Urban Problems in Sociological Perspective, pp.64-75; and blkpk #6 thru #8 (The Urban Tradition in Sociology; L.Wirth, Urbanism as a Way of Life; G.Simmel, The Metropolis and Mental Life).

9/30 Post-World War II Era: Urban Trends and Community Studies

(Critiques and Reformulations of Classical Theories)

Readings: Shannon et al., Urban Problems in Sociological Perspective, pp.17-30, chaps. 2, 5, 6,7,8; J.Law and R.Wolch, Social Reproduction in the City; C. Fischer, Urbanism as a Way of Life; C.Fischer, Toward a Subcultural Theory of Urbanism-blkpk #9 thru

#11.

10/7 Urban Political Economy and Its Critics

Readings: Flanagan, Contemporary Urban Sociology, chap.3 ; S.Steinberg, The Myth of Ethnic Success: The Jewish Horatio Alger Story; Occupational Structure in the U.S., 1870-1995-all in blkpk #12 thru #14.

10/14 Fall term break

10/21 Improving Poor People

Readings: M. Katz, Improving Poor People; M. Katz, Redefining the Welfare State; G. Duncan et al., Poverty and Social Assistance in U.S.A., Canada, and Europe-all in blkpk #15 thru #17.

J. Blau, The Visible Poor-excerpts tbd.

10/28 New Immigrants in Urban America: Success and Enrapment

Readings: Shannon: Urban Problems, pp.126-130; R. Waldinger, Still the Promised City?, chaps. 3 and 4; A.Portes, Immigrant America; M. Granovetter, Immigrant Firms and Entrepreneurs; P. Kivisto, Asian Americans: The Myth of a Model Minority; Asian Immigrants in New York Sweatshops; Shin,

Peripherization of Immigrant Professionals-blkpk # 17 thru #22.

11/4 Urban Experience of African Americans: Success and Entrapment

readings: Shannon, Urban Problems pp. 94-125; R. Waldinger Still the Promised City?, chaps. 5 and 7; Poverty in the U.S.; W.J.Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged; Socioeconomic Transformation of African-Americans; The Greening of the Black Middle Class; Black Wealth-White Wealth-blkpk #23 thru #28.

11/11 Racial Prejudice and Discrimination (Old and New)

Readings: blkpk #29 (Racism-Selected Readings)

FILM in class.

11/18 The World System Theory: Non-western Urbanization Patterns, Dependent Development and Primate Cities

Readings: Flanagan, Urban Problems chap.4; T.Shannon, An Introduction to the World System; Patterns and Consequences of Urbanization in the Third World-both in blkpk #30

and #31.

11/25 World Cities in a World System

Readings: S.Sassen, Cities in a World Economy; P.Knox and J. Taylor, World Cities in a World System; S. Sassen, The New labor Demand in Global Cities; B. Krauss, The Globalization of Crime in New York City-blkpk #32 thru #34.

12/2 Postmodern City and the Urban Future

Readings: N.Postman, Technopoly: Surrender of Culture to Technology; The Heart of the City Beats in the Mall; P.Knox, The Restless Urban Landscape; M. Homes, Bruce Variety--

blkpk #35 thru #38.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- regular attendance and participation in class discussions
- take-home essay-type midterm exam (out 10/7, in 10/21)

-take-home essay-type final exam (out 11/18, in 12/2)
-student's choice: EITHER a mini-fieldwork (participant observation and/or interviewing) on a selected urban issue OR a paper based on additional readings-to be discussed in class (due 12/8, Monday, by 4.30 pm in my mailbox in Sociology office (1st floor McNeil))

