

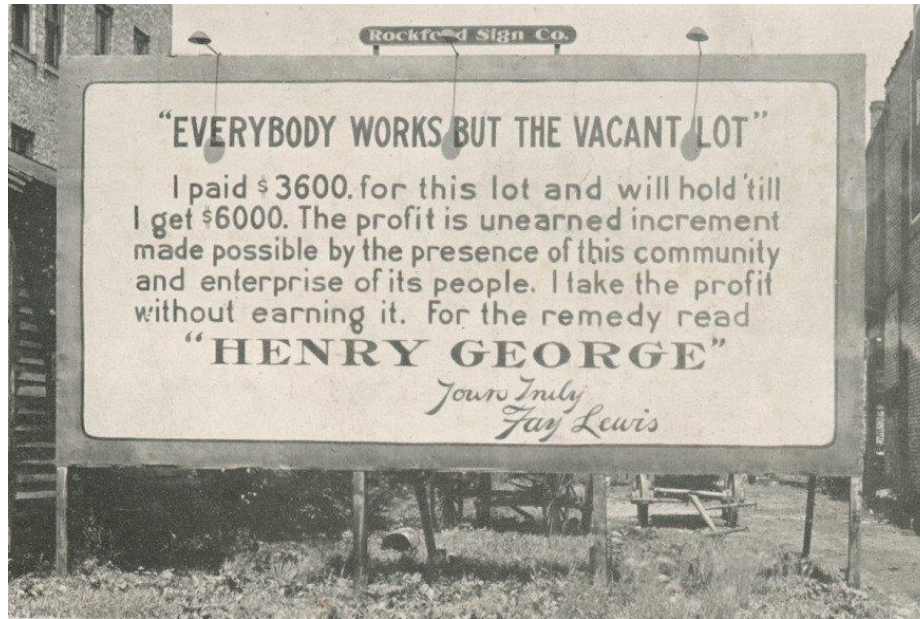
Instructor: Brenden Beck, PhD (brenden.beck@ufl.edu)

Course meetings: Tuesdays, Periods 3-5, 9:35am to 12:05pm, Ustler Hall 108

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:00pm – 4:00pm or by appointment

Office location: 3356 Turlington Hall

SYD 7933: Urban Sociology Graduate Seminar, University of Florida



Course Description

How does one's location affect one's life? How do conflicts over politics and the economy shape our cities? We'll address these questions in the urban sociology seminar by analyzing segregation, suburbanization, gentrification, and other spatial topics. We will touch on urban planning, transportation, and architecture. A central theoretical fight in urban sociology is between the political economists and the urban ecologists. So, we'll be reading widely from both camps. Spatial analysis and mapping are increasingly popular methods across the social sciences, and we'll read work incorporating these techniques.

Course Materials

You will buy three books and I will provide the other course materials on the class Google Drive page: tinyurl.com/BeckUrban. Each book is available for under \$15 used online. Order the Blackwell Reader and the Sampson with fast delivery as we'll use them soon. Hard copies are preferable, but electronic copies are acceptable if you can ensure the page numbers are identical to the hard copy. The three required books are:

Bridge, Gary and Sophie Watson, eds. 2010. *The Blackwell City Reader*. John Wiley & Sons, 2nd edition. ("Blackwell")

Desmond, Matthew. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Broadway Books.

Sampson, Robert. 2011. *The Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect*. University of Chicago Press.

Grading

30% – Discussion contributions

Much of the learning in this class will occur during our Socratic-method discussions. I have chosen readings to hopefully spark dialogue and reveal dialectics. So, active participation is necessary. Before coming to class, annotate all the readings. Come in with each reading's main idea clearly identified and come in with at least one question you have for each reading. The question could be something you didn't understand, something you want to discuss further, or a critique you have. I will often call on students to share their main ideas and questions. So, you might want to write them down. To earn an "A" in this area you will need to be an active participant and be ready when called upon.

10% - "Key questions" presentation

In addition to bringing each reading's main idea and a question, you will present more extensively on one reading during the semester. During your "key question answerer" week, you will start our class meeting by answering the "key questions" for that week's starred (★) reading. A copy of the "key questions" is on our class Google Drive page. This presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes.

60% of total grade – Final paper and presentation

You will write a research paper on a topic you choose (in consultation with me). This will most likely be a literature review where you summarize previous scholarship on a research question. If you would like to pursue a different format, let's discuss it. I do not expect you will do any original data collection for this paper. The paper should be between 8 and 25 pages, double spaced using ASA citation formatting. On the last day of class, each student will present their paper in a 10-minute presentation with slides. Throughout the semester, we will discuss practical research skills like what makes for a strong research question, how to plan a database search, how to write clearly and concisely, and how to design a compelling presentation.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any kind will result in you failing the course and being referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more, review [UF's Honor Code](#) under "Scope and Violations" and review [best practices for citation](#) at the library's website.

Students with Disabilities

If you will be requesting classroom accommodations, register with [the Disability Resource Center](#) early in the semester. Let me know, and we will work together to provide a supportive learning environment.

Schedule of Readings

August 20th – Introduction

August 27th – Late Modernity and the City, 1850 to 1970

Bridge, Gary and Sophie Watson. "Introducing Materialities" in *Blackwell*.

Engels, Friedrich. "The Great Towns" in *Blackwell*.

Jacobs, Jane. "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" in *Blackwell*.

Burgess, Ernest. "The Growth of the City" in *Blackwell*.

Baldwin, James. "Fifth Avenue, Uptown." ★

Merrill & Leatherby, "Here's How America Uses Its Land" in *Bloomberg*, accessible here:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-us-land-use/>

September 3rd – Neighborhood Effects

Sampson, Robert. "Chapter 2: Neighborhood Effects: The Evolution of an Idea" in *The Great American City*. ★

Sharkey, Patrick and Jacob W. Faber. "Where, When, Why, and for Whom do Residential Contexts Matter? Moving Away from the Dichotomous Understanding of Neighborhood Effects" in *the Annual Review of Sociology*.

Leonhardt, David. "In Climbing Income Ladder, Location Matters" in *The New York Times*.

September 10th – The Political Economy of the City

Harvey, David. "The Urban Process Under Capitalism" in *Blackwell*. ★

Castells, Manuel. "An Introduction to the Information Age" in *Blackwell*.

Logan, John & Harvey Molotch. "Urban Fortunes" in *Blackwell* and "Fiscal Health" in *Urban Fortunes* (PDF).

Brenner, Neil & Nik Theodore. "Cities and the Geographies of 'Actually Existing Neoliberalism'" in *Blackwell*.

Optional: Vogel & Swanson. "The Growth Machine vs. the Anti-Growth Coalition"

Submit your final paper research question to me by email before class today.

September 17th – Suburbanization and Feminist Urbanism

Jackson, Kenneth. "Introduction" from *Crabgrass Frontier*.

Watson, Sophie. "City A/Genders" from *Blackwell*.

Dreier, Peter, John Mollenkopf, & Todd Swanstrom, "The Facts of Economic Segregation and Sprawl", pp. 29-58; "Federal Home Ownership Policies: A Suburban Bias," pp. 126-133; and "Suburban Politics" pp. 230-235 from *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century*. ★

September 24th – Racial Segregation and Ghettoization

Massey, Douglass & Nancy Denton. "The Continuing Causes of Segregation" in *Blackwell*. ★

Wilson, William Julius. "The Truly Disadvantaged" in *Blackwell*.

Hannah-Jones, Nikole. "Choosing a School for my Daughter in a Segregated City" from *The New York Times*.

John R. Logan. 2013. "The Persistence of Segregation in the 21st Century Metropolis" *City & Community* 12(2): 160-168.

Explore the map of racial-ethnic segregation here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/08/us/census-race-map.html>

October 1st – Housing (Day 1)

Goldstein, Adam. 2018. "The Social Ecology of Housing Speculation" *American Sociological Review* 83(6): 1108-1143. ★

Glass, Ira and Nancy Updike. 2013. "House Rules." *This American Life*, November 22. Audio accessible here: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/512/house-rules>

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. 2018. "How Real Estate Segregated America," *Dissent*.

Olney, Warren. 2019. "The Housing Shortage, the Presidential Campaign, and the NIMBYs" *To the Point*. Audio accessible here: <https://www.kcrw.com/news/shows/to-the-point/the-housing-shortage-the-presidential-campaign-and-the-nimbys>.

- This is a discussion between a radio host and three housing experts: Joel Kotkin, Emily Badger, and Jenny Shuetz. Listen through 19:46 when Joel Kotkin leaves the show.

Caplan, Andrew. 2018. "City Sides with Public to Halt GNV Rise," *Gainesville Sun*.

Optional:

Joint Center for Housing Studies. 2019. *The State of the Nation's Housing 2019*.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2014. "The Case for Reparations," *Atlantic Magazine*, June.

Capps, Kriston. 2019. "The Downsizing of Des Moines." *City Lab*.

October 8th – Housing (Day 2)

Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Read the Prologue, Chapters: 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, and the Epilogue. ★

October 15th – No class

You might use this week to make progress on your paper and presentation.

October 22nd – Crime, Law, and the City

Sampson, Robert. 2012. "Chapter 6: Broken Windows and the Meaning of Disorder" *The Great American City*.

Wacquant, Loic. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh." *Punishment & Society* 3(1): 95-133. ★

Beck, Brenden & Adam Goldstein. 2018. "Governing through Police? Housing Market Reliance, Welfare Retrenchment, and Police Budgeting in an Era of Declining Crime." *Social Forces* 96(3): 1183-1210.

Optional:

Kelling & Wilson. 1984. Broken Windows, *Atlantic Magazine*.

Beckett & Herbert. 2008. "Dealing with Disorder"

October 29th – Urban Ethnography

Bourgois, Phillipe. "Violating Apartheid in the United States" in *In Search of Respect*.

Patillo, Mary. "Growing Up in Groveland" in *Black Picket Fences*. ★

Duneier, Mitchell. "How Sixth Ave. Became a Sustaining Habitat" in *Sidewalk*.

Optional: Kornblum, William. "Working the Deuce."

November 5th – Gentrification

Ellen & O'Regan. 2012. "Gentrification: Perspectives from Economists and Planners" from *Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*.

Smith, Neil. "After Tompkins Square Park: Degentrification and the Revanchist City" in *Blackwell*.★

Kasinitz, Philip. 1988. "The Gentrification of 'Boerum Hill': Neighborhood Change and Conflicts Over Definitions." *Qualitative Sociology* 11(3): 163-182.

Badger, Emily, Quoctrung Bui, & Robert Gebeloff. 2019. "The Neighborhood Is Mostly Black, The Home Buyers Are Mostly White." *New York Times*, April 27th.

Optional: Zuk, Miriam et al. "Gentrification, Displacement and the Role of Public Investment: A Literature Review."

November 12th – Transportation

Thrift, Nigel. "Driving in the City" in *Blackwell*.

Jacoby, Jeff. 2017. "When I Ride the T, I Miss My Auto-nomy," *The Boston Globe*, June 30th.

Gladstone, Brooke. 2018. "Walking-to-Work Stories: Heartwarming or Hurtful?" and "The Self-Driving Car Sales Pitch" from the episode "Whose Streets," *On the Media*, November 23. Audio accessible here: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/on-the-media-2018-11-23>

Peng, Zhong-Rent & Yi Zhu. "Urban Transport in Chinese Cities" in *Blackwell*.

Goetz, André. 1973. "The Social Ideology of the Motor Car." *Le Sauvage* September-October.★

November 19th – Immigration and Quantitative Spatial Methodology

Sampson, Robert. "Chapter 10: Spatial Logic" in *The Great American City*.

Marcuse, Peter. 1997. "The Enclave, the Citadel, and the Ghetto: What has Changed in the Post-Fordist U.S. City." *Urban Affairs Review*. 33(2): 228-264.

Optional: Portes, Alejandro & Robert D. Manning, "The Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Empirical Examples."

November 26th – No class

December 3rd – Student Presentations

December 12th – Papers Due

Films

Frontline. 2018. "Left Behind America" *PBS*

The Cruise

Los Angeles Plays Itself

Vox Explained. "The Racial Wealth Gap"

The Social Life of Small Urban Places

This syllabus might change slightly as the semester progresses.