

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
ANTH 125, Urban Anthropology, Spring 2013

Instructor:	Dr. Guadalupe Salazar
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Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday 8:00 am – 9:30am
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
Classroom:	WSQ 004
Prerequisites:	ANTH 11 or consent from the instructor

Faculty Web Page

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page accessible through the Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page.

Course Description

Urban anthropology is the study of human beings and their cultural institutions in cities. The focus of this course will be on urbanization and how large, dense, heterogenous settlements shape behavior. We will look at the strategies people – both as individuals and in groups – use to cope with the demands posed by urban environments. Themes covered include fieldwork in cities, urban culture, urban structures and institutions, migration and adaptation, globalization and transnationalism. A thread running throughout this course is the concept of community and how it is manifest in urban settings. The approach will be comparative, drawing on research completed in all parts of the world.

Goals of the Anthropology Department

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution;
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity;
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline;

4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history;
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society;
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature;
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues;
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline;
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences;
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Think critically, especially using comparative frameworks, analyze processes and identify assumptions;
2. Distinguish contributors associated with modernity that influence health status;
3. Identify and define major themes and key concepts;
4. Recognize and analyze the forces that foster social cohesion and fragmentation in health related social movements;
5. Understand the complexities of social life both locally and globally in their communities as they reflect different points of view.

Required Texts / Readings

Textbooks

- 1) Gmelch, Kemper and Zenner (2009) *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*
- 2) Stephens (1999) *Black Corona: Race and the Politics of Place in an Urban Community*. **Available as an ebook from the King Library.**
- 3) Bourgois and Schonberg (2009) *Righteous Dopefiend*. **Available as an ebook from the King Library.**

The books are available at Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com. Black Corona and Righteous Dopefiend are available at the King Library in ebook format. PDFs, marked with an asterisk (*) on the syllabus, are available online on my Faculty Web page.

Course Website

Course materials will be available on my Faculty Web Page.

Classroom Protocol / Student Responsibilities

- Please do not use your cell phones or MP3 players for any purpose during class. However, if you are expecting an important call you should notify me so we can make arrangements. Please do not use your computers to take notes during in-class films.
- I have a zero-tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism; if you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the course! Incidences of cheating or plagiarism will be turned into the academic integrity office. Students are responsible to understanding and adhering to the academic integrity policy.
- If you are absent from class, please ask your fellow students for copies of their notes. If you have further questions, please come to my office hours.

Student Responsibilities

- Download and refer to course materials (syllabus and assignment guides) for detailed guidance.
- If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately by either e-mailing or telephoning me, leaving a message for me in the Anthropology Department office, or by coming by during my office hours.
- *Only* students with a documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or hand in a late assignment. Late assignments *will not* be accepted otherwise.
- Students are responsible for understanding policies about adding, dropping, and incompletes.
- Students are responsible for being aware of assignment due dates, midterm date, and the final exam schedule.
- If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, see me in my office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Course Assignments and Grading

Midterm – The midterm will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of topics, concepts and arguments covered in the readings and class discussions. More details will be provided closer to the date of the midterm.

Homework Assignments – Students will complete two short homework assignments focusing on the idea of community.

Homework Assignment 1: Meaning of Community

Homework Assignment 2: Community and Identity

Each assignment has a handout with instructions specific to it. Please refer to the syllabus for due dates. *No late submissions accepted.*

Ethnography in the City: Students will work in a group - the size of the group will be determined by class enrollment – on a poster presentation focusing on urban phenomena. A detailed handout will be distributed in class.

Final: The final is cumulative and will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of topics, concepts and arguments covered in the readings and class discussions. More details will be provided closer to the date of the final.

Grading Distribution

Midterm	50 points	A- to A+ = 186- 200 points
Homework Assignments (2@ 25)	50 points	B- to B+ = 166-185 points
Ethnography in the City	50 points	C- to C+ = 146- 165points
Final	50 points	D- to D+ = 126-145 points
Total	200 points	F = below 125

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

ANTH 125 / Urban Anthropology, Spring 2013

Course Schedule

Students will be informed about changes to the schedule ahead of time. Students are responsible for noting those changes.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan. 24	Course Introduction
2	Jan. 29	Urban Fieldwork Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 1, Anthropological Fieldwork in Cities Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 2, Networks, Neighborhoods and Markets: Fieldwork in Tokyo
	Jan. 31	Read: Gregory, Ch. 1 & 2
3	Feb. 5	Anthropologists in Cities Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 3, Nomads in the City: Studying Irish Travellers Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 4, Moscow Encounters: Ethnography in a Global Urban Village
	Feb. 7	Read: Gregory, Ch. 3 & 4
4	Feb. 12	Urban Culture Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 7, Urbanism as a Way of Life Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 8, Urban Danger: Life in a Neighborhood of Strangers Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 9, The Edge and the Center: Gated Communities and the Discourse of Urban Fear
	Feb. 14	Video: Silent Witness: The Kitty Genovese Murder (XD1086; 43 min) Read: Gregory, Ch. 5 Homework Assignment 1: Meaning of Community
5	Feb. 19	Urban Communities Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 10, Rethinking Camps: Palestinian Refugees in Damascus Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 11, In Motion: Transportation and Knowledge in São Paulo Video: Bus 174
	Feb. 21	Read: Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation Read: Gregory, Ch. 6 Video: <i>Bus 174</i>
6	Feb. 26	Myths about the Urban Poor Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 12, The Culture of Poverty Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 13, How Urban Ethnography Counters Myths about the Poor Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 14, Office Work and the Crack Alternative Among Puerto Rican Drug Dealers in East Harlem
	Feb. 28	Read: Gregory, Ch. 7
7	Mar. 5	Urban Structures and Institutions Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 15, The View from the Desk: Addressing

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Mar. 7	Homelessness and the Homeless in Dallas Read: G, K, & Z, Ch.16, Gangs, Poverty and the Future Read: Gregory, Ch. 8
8	Mar. 12	Urban Structures and Institutions Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 17, Civic Ecology, Urban Elders, and New York City's Community Garden Movement Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 18, Neighbors and Kin in Chinese Cities Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 19, Caste, Politics, and Criminality in Urban India
	Mar. 14	Read: Gregory, Ch. 9 Homework Assignment 2: Community and Identity
9	Mar. 19	<i>Midterm</i>
	Mar. 21	Video: <i>Roger and Me</i>
10	Mar. 26 & Mar. 28	SPRING BREAK
11	Apr. 2	Migration and Adaptation Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 20, The Extended Community: Migration and Transformation in Tzintzuntzan, Mexico Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 21, A West Indian Life in Britain
	Apr. 4	Read: Bourgois and Schonberg, Introduction & Ch. 1
12	Apr. 9	Migration and Adaptation Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 22, First Nations Migration: The Case of Western Canada Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 23, Japanese Brazilian Ethnic Return Migration Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 24, Cityward Migration in Comparative Perspective
	Apr. 11	Video: <i>Los Olvidados</i> Read: Bourgois and Schonberg, Ch. 2 & 3
13	Apr. 16	Globalization and Transnationalism Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 25, Transnationalism, Old and New: New York Immigrants Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 26, From Cuenca, Ecuador to New York, USA: Families and Transnational Lives
	Apr. 18	Read: Bourgois and Schonberg, Ch. 4 & 5
14	Apr. 23	Globalization and Transnationalism Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 27, Global Transactions: Sudanese Refugees Sending Money Home Read: G, K, & Z, Ch. 28, Hyderabad: Continuities and Transformations Read: G, K, & Z, Ch 29, Beyond Urban and Rural Communities in the 21 st Century
	Apr. 25	Read: Bourgois and Schonberg, Ch. 6 & 7
15	Apr. 30	Urban Politics, Governance and Economics Read: Place and Production in the Global Economy Read: Cities and Uneven Economic Development

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	May 2	Read: Bourgois and Schonberg, Ch. 8, 9, Conclusion Video: Dark Days
16	May 7	The Future of the City Read: The Reconstruction of Social Meaning in the Space of Flows Presentations
	May 9	Presentations Wrap-up
Final Exam	Thurs. May 16	9:45 pm – 12:00 pm WSQ 004