

**San José State University, Spring 2018  
Anthropology 125, Urban Anthropology**

**Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	John Marlovits
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 463
<b>Telephone:</b>	408-924-5542
<b>Email:</b>	John.marlovits@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday/Thursday 1:15-2:15
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday/Thursday 4:30- 5:45
<b>Classroom:</b>	Clark 204
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Anth 11 or instructor's consent

**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to discussions in urban anthropology and related disciplines concerned with urban spaces, urban publics, and forms. We will address urbanism as a material, symbolic, and experiential space and a palimpsest of overlapping and intersecting histories of people, materials, goods, aspirations. Cities are composed of affects, charges, fear, desire, and hope; they are composed of the coordination, exclusions, and permutations of publics and shared narratives; they are held together through the politics of urban design, built form, the technocratic manipulations of the movements of urban subjects, and ordinary forms of subversion and misuse; they are places and processes organized through local, everyday practice as well as far-flung cultural and economic processes. Cities are complex assemblages of both human and non-human actors. They are also heteroglossic or pluralistic and often cacophonous places that yield and manage particular organizations of social diversity, ways of breaking up or ordering people and activities. Cities are dense nodes of both sedimented, controlled space, as well as convulsive, deterritorializing, and dynamic sites of chance, opportunity, diversity, and the unexpected – and often against the wishes of those in power. Students will come to understand how anthropologists see the city, the methods they use, the data they cultivate, the topics they address, the hopes and possibilities they see contained there, and the ways that condensations of culture and power are visible in both infrastructural, representational, and social practices.

The course will introduce students to key approaches in urban anthropology and urban studies –

from the Chicago School's ecological model of cities, to the political-economic analysis of cities, to representational or symbolic approaches that treat the city as "text," to analyses of material form, infrastructure, design planning, and vernacular urban practice. The course will examine a number of themes that have attracted anthropological interest in the contemporary period. For instance, how globalization and neoliberal capitalism has reshaped urban spaces; it will address gentrification, the commodification of housing, and the rise of housing crises in various cities in the US; it will look at the ways that urban spaces and publics are organized as spaces of inclusion and exclusion, often across lines of class, race, gender, and sexuality; it will address anthropological attention to the materiality of cities, its infrastructures; and finally, the way that urban identities both make and are made through spatial practice. Along the way, students will also become familiar with the basic theoretical/methodological toolkit that anthropologists use to conduct fieldwork and to analyze field data in urban anthropology.

### **ANTH 125 Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

1. Think critically, using comparative frameworks, to analyze urban processes
2. Distinguish key characteristics of urban life and culture
3. Identify and define major course themes and topics
4. Recognize and analyze the forces that foster urban fragmentation and cohesion
5. Understand the complexities of social life both locally and globally in their communities as they reflect on different points of view

### **Required Texts**

Fran Tonkiss, *Space, the City, and Social Theory: Social Relations and Urban Forms*. London: Polity, 2005.

Peter Moskowitz, *How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood*. New York: Nation Books, 2017.

Justin McGuirk, *Radical Cities: Across Latin America in Search of a New Architecture*. London: Verso.

Additional readings will be available from the instructor or through the MLK Library website.

### **Recommended Texts**

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978

## **IV. Course Requirements and Assignments**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

The requirements for this course include:

- Take Home Midterm Exam
- Final Exam
- Final Essay Assignment
- Two Media Response Assignments

The exam dates and assignment due dates may be found on the course schedule, below. All dates are subject to change with fair notice.

#### Midterm Exams and Final Exams: 300 points total

The exams are designed to test and encourage basic knowledge acquisition, including fundamental ideas, key terms, basic historical events, and important developments in the field (Meets SLO 1-5)

#### Topical Writing Assignments: 200 points total

Essay assignment #1 will address the methodologies of anthropological, sexological, and scientific approaches to human sexuality, as well as the cultural biases that are often implicit in popular ideas of sexuality. Essay assignment #2 will address discrimination and the politics of gender and sexuality diversity in the US and abroad. (Meets SLO 2-5)

#### Media Response Assignments: 50 points total

This class includes media segments. You will be responsible for two short writing assignments in response to media segments of your choice from those shown in class. (Meets SLO 2-4)

### V. Grading Policy

This course is graded on a 600 point scale. To determine your final percentage, I will divide your earned points on exams, assessments, and assignments (and extra credit) by the possible total 650 points. Final letter grades for this class will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

University Policy: A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 SJSU Studies (R, S, & V) shall be required of all students as a graduation requirement. To see full text, review [University Policy S11-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S11-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S11-3.pdf>.

#### Late Work

Late assignments disrupt the class. **No late papers will be accepted. All late papers will receive an F (a zero) grade.** Requests for exceptions must be in advance and will not be considered unless they are accompanied by a doctor's note or other verifiable evidence of an emergency.

### All Writing Assignments MUST Be Turned In

I do not accept electronic papers or papers via email. Emailed papers will not be opened, read, graded, nor will I respond to them via email.

### Plagiarism and Cheating

Work that is found to be plagiarized or the result of cheating will receive a zero, and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Plagiarism and cheating include:

- Copying answers from someone else's exam
- Referring to notes or class materials during a closed-book exam
- Collaborating on assignments or assessments specified as independent work
- Using text written by other people without proper attribution
- Copying and pasting text from Wikipedia or other website without quoting and attributing it
- Having someone else write your assignments or take your exams

### VI. Classroom Protocol

Laptop computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. are not permitted during the lecture or film portions of this class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is strictly prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of electronic devices in classroom settings.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

### Expectations of Students

Everyone enrolled in this course deserves an equal opportunity to learn. The way for this to happen – for all students to get equal instructor attention, for example – is for all students to fulfill their responsibilities in the class. These responsibilities are: to attend class, to prepare for class, to participate during class, to listen to others respectfully and allow others the space and time to participate, and to complete his/her own work.

Students who disrupt class or prevent others from learning will be asked to leave. Disruptive use of mobile phones or other electronic devices will result in a report to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Determination of Grades

Grades will be determined be determined on the basis of points. See descriptions above for point breakdown of individual assignments.

There will be no extra credit.

**LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO. A DOCTOR'S NOTE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR LATE PAPERS TO BE CONSIDERED, AND STUDENTS REQUESTING EXTENSIONS WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE PROFESSOR IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE AND PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EXTENSION.**

**PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC "F" GRADE FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

### Anthropology 125: Urban Anthropology, Spring 2018 Course Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change. Changes to reading schedule will be discussed in class. Any changes to assignment deadlines or exam dates will be confirmed by email.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/25	<b>Introduction and Key Topics in Cultural Studies of Urbanism</b> Fran Tonkiss, <i>Space, the City, and Social Theory</i> , Intro and Chapter 1 Recommended: Italo Calvino, <i>Invisible Cities</i>
2	1/30 & 2/1	Tonkiss <i>Space, the City, and Social Theory</i> chapters 2-5 Recommended: Italo Calvino, <i>Invisible Cities</i>
3	2/6 & 2/8	Tonkiss, <i>Space, the City, and Social Theory</i> chapters 6 – Conclusion Tonkiss, <i>Cities By Design</i> , chapters 4 & 6
4	2/ 13 & 2/16	<b>Neoliberal Urbanism and the "Global City"</b> Manuel Castells, "An Introduction to the Information Age"

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>Saskia Sassen, "The Global City"            Andreas Huyssen, "Introduction: World Cultures, World Cities"</p> <p>Recommended: Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore, "Cities and the Geographies of 'Actually-Existing Neoliberalism'"            David Harvey, "The Urban Process Under Capitalism"</p>
5	2/20 & 2/22	<p><b>Gentrification: New Orleans and Detroit</b>            Moskowitz, <i>How to Kill a City</i>, pp. 1-122</p>
6	2/27 & 3/1	<p><b>Gentrification: San Francisco and New York</b>            Moskowitz, pp. 123-218</p>
7	3/5 & 3/7	<p><b>Neoliberalism and the Commodification of Housing</b>            David Madden and Peter Marcuse, <i>In Defense of Housing</i>, chapter 1 and Conclusion</p> <p>Recommended: George Lipsitz, excerpts from <i>The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics</i></p> <p>Viewing: Ta-Nehisi Coates on "the case for reparations"</p> <p><b>3/5 Take Home Exam Due</b></p>
8	3/12 & 3/14	<p><b>Remaking Place, Remaking Urban Subjects: Reading Urban Discourse and Identities</b>            James Lyons, excerpts in <i>Selling Seattle: Representing Contemporary Urban Culture</i>            Kristen Ross, "La Belle Americain," in <i>Fast Cars, Clean Bodies: Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture</i>            Mark Grief, "What Was the Hipster?" In <i>Against Everything</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>Mon Oncle</i>, dir. Jacques Tati</p>
9	3/19 & 3/21	<p><b>The City as Text: Key T(r)opics in the Ethnography of Cities</b>            Victor Buchli, "Institutions and Community" in <i>An Anthropology of Architecture</i>            Setha Low, Introduction to <i>Theorizing the City</i></p> <p><b>3/21 Media Review due</b></p>
10 & 11	<p><b>3/25 &amp; 10/27 Spring Break</b>            4/3 &amp; 4/5</p>	<p><b>Memory and Nostalgia in Berlin</b>            Daphne Berdahl, "(N)Ostalgie' for the present," <i>Ethnos</i> 2010            Karen Till, "Hauntings, Memory, Place," in <i>The New Berlin</i></p> <p>Viewing: <i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i></p>
12	4/10 & 4/12	<p><b>Publics I: the Right to the City in Berlin</b>            Virage Molnar, "Street Art and the Changing Public Sphere," <i>Public Culture</i>            Dougal Sheridan, "The Space of Subculture in the City: Getting Specific"</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>about Berlin's Indeterminate Territories," in <i>Field: A Free Journal For Architecture</i>  OR  Justin McGuirk, <i>Radical Cities</i> (Introduction)</p> <p>Recommended: Alexander Vasudevan, "Reassembling the City: Makeshift Urbanism and the Politics of Squatting in Berlin" in <i>The Autonomous City: A History of Urban Squatting</i></p> <p><b>4/12 Media Review Due</b></p>
13	4/17 & 4/19	<p><b>Publics II: Representation and Practices of Exclusion</b>  Judith Walkowitz, "City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late Victorian England"  Arjun Appadurai, "Spectral Housing and Urban Cleansing: Notes on Millennial Mumbai" in <i>Public Culture</i>  OR  Justin McGuirk, <i>Radical Cities</i> (Chapter 1 &amp; 2)</p> <p>Recommended: Judith Halberstam, "Queer Temporality and Postmodern Geographies"</p>
14	4/24 & 4/26	<p><b>Infrastructure</b>  Brian Larkin, "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure," <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> (everyone must read this)  Christina Schwenkel, "Post-Socialist Affect: Ruination and Reconstruction of the Nation in Urban Vietnam," in <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>  Keller Easterling, "Dispositions," in <i>Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space</i>  OR:  Justin McGuirk, <i>Radical Cities</i> (Chapters 3 &amp; 4)</p> <p>Recommended: Rudolf Mrazek, "Let us Become Radio Mechanics," in <i>Engineers of Happy Land: Technology and Nationalism in a Colony</i>  Special Issue of Cultural Anthropology on Infrastructure, available here: <a href="https://culanth.org/">https://culanth.org/</a></p> <p>Review: Tonkiss, chapter six in <i>Cities By Design</i></p>
15	5/1 & 5/3	<p><b>"Smart" Cities; or the Politics of Digital Spatial Technologies</b>  Nigel Thrift, "Driving in the City" (Everyone must read)  Adrian Drummond-Cole, "On the Dotted Line: Mobile Social Media and Trajectification"  OR:  Justin McGuirk, <i>Radical Cities</i> (Chapters 5 &amp; 6)</p> <p>Recommended: Orit Halpern, et al. "Test Bed Urbanism" in <i>Public Culture</i></p>
16	5/8 & 5/10	<p><b>Informality; or, Failed Cities?</b></p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>AbdouMaliq Simone, "Introduction" in <i>For the City Yet to Come</i>  Ash Amin and Nigel Thrift, "Frames of Poverty" in <i>Seeing Like a City</i>  OR:  Justin McGuirk, <i>Radical Cities</i> (Chapters 7 &amp; 8)</p> <p>Recommended: Brian Larkin, "Degraded Images, Distorted Sounds:  Nigerian Video and the Infrastructure of Piracy" in <i>Public Culture</i></p>
Final Exam	5/17	<p><b>Thursday May 17, 2:45-5</b>  <b>Final Paper Due</b></p>