

**San José State University, Spring 2020
Anthropology 125, Urban Anthropology**

Contact Information

Instructor:	John Marlovits
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Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday 1:45-2:45
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	Clark 204
Prerequisites:	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 condensations of culture and power made material in infrastructural, representational, and social practices.

This course will introduce students to debates in anthropology and kindred disciplines about the forms of power and exclusion embedded in urban space through a variety of ethnographic and historical examples. It will look at the problems, crises, and characteristics of contemporary urbanism that set the development of today's cities apart from the past, the growing informality and bifurcation of public spheres into spaces of wealth and poverty, the politics of urban planning and design, and the possibilities, strategies, modes of investigation, and practice that urbanists employ to address contemporary challenges.

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

Jordan Sand. *Tokyo Vernacular: Common Spaces, Local Histories, Found Objects*. Berkeley: UC Press

Anne-Maria Makhulu. *Making Freedom: Apartheid, Squatter Politics, and the Struggle for Home*. Durham: Duke UP

Additional readings will be available on Canvas or through the MLK Library website.

Recommended Texts

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

IV. Course Requirements and Assignments

The requirements for this course include:

- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam
- Term Paper
- Two Media Response Assignments
- Class Participation and Pop Quizzes

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 Exam and Final Exam: 200 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: 100 points total

Students are required to write a Term Paper about a topic of their choosing that engages with course topics and concepts. (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)

Class Participation and Quizzes: 50 points total

Students will be graded on their participation and engagement in class discussion.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

V. Grading Policy

This course is graded on a 400 point scale. To determine your final percentage, I will divide your earned points on exams, assessments, and assignments by the possible total 400 points. Final letter grades for this class will be assigned according to the following scale:

A plus= 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A minus = 92-90%
B plus = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B minus = 82-80%
C plus = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C minus = 72-70%
D plus = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D minus = 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 on Canvas

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.

Students must complete ALL assignments in order to pass the class.

Students MUST attend their designated final exam. 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/>

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly

share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center \(AEC\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections (Optional)

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center (Optional)

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



SJSU Counseling Services (Optional)

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Anthropology 125: Urban Anthropology, Spring 2020

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	1/23	Course Introduction: Livability, Democratic Design, Inclusion: Urban Ideals and Urban Failures
2	1/28 1/30	Urban Imaginaries: Global North and South Tuesday: Saskia Sassen, "The Global City: Introducing a Concept" Gaston Gordillo, "The Metropolis: Infrastructure of the Anthropocene"

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Thursday: Andreas Huyssen, "World Cultures, World Cities" Fran Tonkiss, "The Contradictions of Informality"
3	2/4 2/6	Postwar Tokyo: Political Economy, Urban Publics, and Everyday Place-making Tuesday: Jordan Sand, Introduction and Chapter 1 in <i>Tokyo Vernacular</i> (TV) Thursday: Chapter 2 TV
4	2/11 2/13	Everyday Spatial Practices Tuesday: Jordan Sand, TV Chapter 3 Thursday: Viewing <i>Urbanized</i> (Gary Hustwit)
5	2/18 2/20	Civic Design: Participatory Design and Situated Solutions Tuesday: Charles Montgomery, excerpts in <i>Happy Cities</i> Thursday: Brendon Clark, "Generating Publics Through Design Activity," in <i>Design Anthropology</i> Justin McGuirk, excerpts from <i>Radical Cities: Across Latin American in Search of a New Architecture</i>
6	2/25 2/27	Planning Inequality: Redlining and Gentrification in the US Tuesday: George Lipsitz, "The Possessive Investment in Whiteness" <i>American Quarterly</i> 47(3): 369-387 Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations" in <i>The Atlantic</i> : https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/ Thursday: Samuel Stein, excerpts in <i>Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State</i>
7	3/3 3/5	Gentrification Viewing: <i>Sunshine State</i> (John Sayles) Read: Swati Chattopadhyay, Chapter 1 in <i>Unlearning the City</i> Arjun Appadurai, "Spectral Housing and Urban Cleansing: Notes on Millennial Mumbai" Media response Due Thursday
8	3/10 3/12	Midterm Tuesday: Review Thursday: Midterm
9	3/17 3/19	The Right to the City Mike Davis, "Fortress Los Angeles" Anne-Maria Makhulu, <i>Making Freedom: Apartheid, Squatter Politics, and the Struggle for Home</i> , Introduction, Chapter 1 & 2 Recommended: David Harvey, "The Right to the City," <i>New Left Review</i> 53 (2008): 23-40

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	3/24 3/26	Cape Town Makhulu, <i>Making Freedom</i> , Chapter 3, 4, & Conclusion
11	3/31 4/2	Spring Break
12	4/7 4/9	Heterotopias and Ruins: Edges of Berlin Alexander Vasudevan, "Autonomous Urbanisms and the Right to the City: The Spatial Politics of Squatting in Berlin, 1968-2012" in <i>The City is Ours</i> Bettina Stoetzer, "Ruderal Ecologies: Rethinking Nature, Migration, and the Urban Landscape in Berlin," <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 33(2): 295-323 Viewing: <i>Herr Lehmann/Berlin Blues</i> (Sven Regener)
13	4/14 4/16	Contesting Exclusion: Animated Spaces in Calcutta Tuesday: Swati Chattopadhyay, "Armature and Experience" and "Writing on Walls" in <i>Unlearning the City</i> Thursday: Ash Amin, "Animated Space," <i>Public Culture</i> 27(2) (2015) Viewing: <i>Mon Oncle</i> (Jacques Tati)
14	4/21 4/23	Infrastructure Tuesday: Brian Larkin, "Immaterial Urbanism and the Cinematic Event," in <i>Signal and Noise: Media, Infrastructure, and Urban Culture in Nigeria</i> and Brian Larkin, "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure," <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> Thursday: Keller Easterling, "Dispositions," in <i>Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space</i> Recommended: See also special Issue of Cultural Anthropology on Infrastructure, available here: https://culanth.org/ Media Response 2 Due Thursday
15	4/28 4/30	"Smart" Cities; or the Politics of Digital Spatial Technologies Nigel Thrift, "Driving in the City" Adrian Drummond-Cole, "On the Dotted Line: Mobile Social Media and Trajectification" Shannon Mattern, excerpts in <i>Deep Mapping the Media City</i> Term Paper Due
16	5/5 5/7	Living in damaged cities AbdouMalik Simone, excerpts in <i>Improvised Lives</i> Review
Final Exam	5/18	Monday May 18, 9:45-12

