Human beings use social constructions, such as race and class, to organize themselves and transform their physical space. This has profound consequences for people’s well-being and for broader social structure. This course will look at how the social constructions of race and class have transformed urban areas. We will look at the historical development of these patterns, the theoretical underpinnings of them and the consequences this has for both the individual and society. As sociologists we want to understand how societies organize, why certain patterns and processes have developed, why social problems form and how they might be addressed. In order to begin to answer these questions, as well as many others, we need to first discover where social boundaries are drawn and the consequences these boundaries have for social interaction and social structure. We will also explore policies, as well as community organizations, that have endeavored to change these patterns.

This course will take the perspective that students of sociology need to use Marx’s perspective of critique. This means that in order to tell a new story we must un-tell the old story, breaking down established paradigms. This perspective is taken in order to foster critical thinking so that students understand that social theories are not ideas to accept without question but rather proposals to be considered, debated and improved upon. All discussants will be required to show the utmost respect for other students during our discussions. This means listening to each other and working first and foremost to understand one another’s perspective. In order for our discussions to be successful students need to feel comfortable to express their thoughts. I want each of you to be able to speak you mind without concern. I will work to make you feel this way and expect other students to do so as well.

Assignments

You will be evaluated in this course on the basis of your reading and engagement with course materials, apparent in your active class participation, involvement in your volunteer position, response papers, pop quizzes and a final written assignment. Please contact me by email with any questions about the assignments. All your written assignments should be typed in 12 point font, preferably Times New Roman, emailed to me as an attachment in Microsoft Word (at kerryjoy@umich.edu).

** PLEASE HAVE SOC 435 RESPONSE PAPER as your subject line.

1) All students are expected to complete the required readings (before the class period for which they are assigned) and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Preparation and participation is essential to your learning, the progress of your classmates, and the success of the course, and will account for a significant portion of your grade.

2) Beginning Sunday, May 13th you will be required to turn in a one-page response paper each week. That is, you will turn in a total of five response papers. Details:
   - You may exceed the one page requirement as desired but please make sure you provide at least a page of thoughtful work.
   - Response papers will be due by 9pm the Sunday before class (with the exception of the week of June 11th when they are due on Thursday-see schedule), and should be emailed to me at kerryjoy@umich.edu as an attached Microsoft Word. Late assignments will not be accepted.
   - I will collate the responses and send to the entire class by Monday morning. You should look over your classmates’ response papers before we meet.
   - These response papers will be the basis for the literature review sections of your final paper.
3) Pop Quizzes
   - Short, multiple choice, pop quizzes will be given over the material we’ve read, movies we’ve seen and discussions we’ve had in class.

4) Volunteer Position
   - In order to facilitate your understanding of the real world consequences of urban inequality, and programs currently in place attempting to find solutions to these problems, you will be expected to volunteer at a non-profit organization one day a week. Wednesday classes will be dedicated to this endeavor, giving you at least two hours a week which you can use to volunteer at your chosen organization.
   - The second day of classes you will be contacting an organization in class and arranging a schedule with them.
   - You will be handed out forms in class that your volunteer supervisor will need to sign. They will be contacted at the end of the process to ensure your required hours were fulfilled.

5) The final requirement is a writing assignment (about 10-15 pages), **due in class on June 18th**. This work should reflect your own interests in an urban inequality topic, as well as being submittable to a conference that you will choose the second day of classes. We will submit your papers in class to these conferences on 6/18
   - Most conferences are held at cities of interest to tourists around the globe. They often offer funding for student presenters which you can tap into if your paper is accepted, as well as applying for funding opportunities provided by the department and the university.
   - You will be meeting with a group of your peers in class to discuss and work on your paper. In these groups you will be creating an outline for your paper which you will turn into a draft to pass back to the group to have them comment on. Based on these revisions you will complete a final paper and submit it to a conference of your choosing.

**Policies**

**Reading Load:** According to the sociology department’s Undergraduate Program Team in a spring or summer half-term, reading should be double what students would be assigned during a full 15-week fall or winter semester. In a full semester students are expected to spend 2-3 hours a week outside of class (reading, writing, and studying) for every course credit. This translates into 4-6 hours a week per credit hour in the half term. Most Sociology classes in the summer term are 3 credits, so 12-18 hours of reading, writing, and exam preparation outside of class is not inappropriate. In a half term, students should be prepared to read 100-200 pages per week in 100 level courses, and between 150-300 pages per week in 300 and 400 level courses.

**Assignment Policies:** In several all of the classes I have taught or assisted with, students have been found to have cut and pasted their paper off of the internet or passed off someone else’s work as their own. This is an academic crime. If you choose to do this you will be given an “F” for the course and reported to the Dean. For those this has happened to in the past, they have conferred a note on their academic record that gets reported with their records and in some cases expulsion from the university has been pursued.

**Examples of what the school and this class considers academic misconduct can be found at:**
https://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap4/conduct/

**Evaluation**

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Class participation = 20%
- Response papers/Pop Quizzes = 20%
- Volunteering = 20%
- Final written assignment = 40%

Please Note: **Late assignments will not be accepted** and incompletes for the course will not be given. Please plan to turn in your final written assignment in class on Monday, June 18th when we will be submitting them to your chosen conferences.
Readings & Schedule

Friday, May 4th:
- Lecture & Discussion: The Makings of American Cities
- Movie- Uncovering the Real Gangs of New York

Monday, May 7th----****MEET IN FISHBOWL COMPUTER LAB- ROOM A
  Computer Lab
  □ Choose Volunteer Organization
  □ Choose Conference

Wednesday, May 9th
- BEGIN VOLUNTEERING

Friday, May 11th:
- Lecture & Discussion: Theoretical Foundations –Chicago School & Human Ecology

Sunday, May 13th @ 9pm: RESPONSE PAPER DUE on 5/14-5/18 readings

Monday, May 14th
- Lecture & Discussion: Race as a Social Construction
- Movie- Race the Power of an Illusion: the house we live in

Wednesday, May 16th
- VOLUNTEER

Friday, 18th:
- Lecture & Discussion: The Culture of Poverty
  □ Volunteer Sheet Due in class
  □ Choose Paper Topic in class
Monday, May 21st
- Guest Speaker Ester Newton, Professor of Anthropology and Kempner Distinguished Professor
- Please bring 2 questions for our speaker that you will turn in to me for credit at the end of class

Wednesday, May 23rd
- VOLUNTEER

Friday, 25th:
- Lecture & Discussion: Racial & Economic Segregation
- Create outline of paper in class

Sunday, May 27th @ 9pm: RESPONSE PAPER DUE on 5/21-5/25 readings

Monday, May 28th: NO CLASS MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday, May 30th
- VOLUNTEER

Friday, June 1st:
- Lecture & Discussion: Educational Consequences
- Movie- Waiting for Superman

Sunday, June 3rd @ 9pm: RESPONSE PAPER DUE on 6/1 readings

Monday, June 4th:
- Lecture & Discussion: Criminal Consequences
- Movie- Gang Wars
Wednesday, June 6th:
• VOLUNTEER

Friday, June 8th:
• Class meets with research librarian – more details in class

Monday, June 11th - NO CLASS
□ First draft due to partner via email

Wednesday, June 13th
• VOLUNTEER

Thursday, June 14th @ 9pm: RESPONSE PAPER DUE on 6/15 readings

Friday, June 15th:
Lecture & Discussion: Health & Environmental Consequences
□ Responses due back to partner in class
• Movie- PBS Frontline coverage of Cancer Alley

Monday, June 18th: ————MEET IN FISHBOWL COMPUTER LAB- ROOM A
• Submit paper to conference