

## SO 303 Urban Sociology

### John Jumara

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of Park University, an entrepreneurial institution of learning, is to provide access to academic excellence, which will prepare learners to think critically, communicate effectively and engage in lifelong learning while serving a global community.

**Vision Statement:** Park University will be a renowned international leader in providing innovative educational opportunities for learners within the global society.

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<b>Course</b>	SO 303 Urban Sociology
<b>Semester</b>	Portfolio
<b>Faculty</b>	John Jumara
<b>Degrees/Certificates</b>	Ph.D., Sociology and Economics
<b>Title</b>	Associate Professor of Management
<b>Daytime Phone</b>	(816) 559-5606
<b>Office Location</b>	Commerce Tower, Suite 800
<b>E-Mail</b>	John.Jumara@park.edu
<b>Class Days</b>	TBA
<b>Class Time</b>	TBA
<b>Credit Hours</b>	3

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#### **Textbook:**

The Urban World, 7th ed., McGraw Hill

Textbooks can be purchased through the [MBS bookstore](#)

Textbooks can be purchased through the [Parkville Bookstore](#)

#### **Additional Resources:**

Cities, Change and Conflict, A Political Economy of Urban Life, 3rd ed., Thomson Wadsworth  
Contemporary Social Issues, Urban Enclaves, Identity and Place in the World, 2nd ed.,  
Worth

Cityscapes, Cultural Readings in the Material and Symbolic City, Palgrave Macmillian  
Solutions to Social Problems, Lessons from Other Societies, 4th ed., Allyn and Bacon  
Demography, The Science of Population, Allyn and Bacon

[McAfee Memorial Library](#) - Online information, links, electronic databases and the Online catalog. Contact the library for further assistance [via email](#) or at 800-270-4347.

[Career Counseling](#) - The Career Development Center (CDC) provides services for all stages of career development. The mission of the CDC is to provide the career planning tools to ensure a lifetime of career success.

[Park Helpdesk](#) - If you have forgotten your OPEN ID or Password, or need assistance with your PirateMail account, please email [helpdesk@park.edu](mailto:helpdesk@park.edu) or call 800-927-3024

[Resources for Current Students](#) - A great place to look for all kinds of information  
<http://www.park.edu/Current/>.

#### **Course Description:**

A study of the development of the city and of the social characteristics of urbanization, ecology, social processes, group relations, and selected urban problems. 3:0:3

## **Learning Outcomes:**

### **Core Learning Outcomes**

1. Analyze the nature, historical origins, and changing patterns of urbanization both in American metropolitan areas and around the world, especially comparing differences among cities in the “New World” (North American), “Old World” (European), and developing nations; and understand how local cultures, geography, and demography shape urban, suburban, and exurban development.
2. Analyze the nature, historical origins, and changing patterns of urbanization both in American metropolitan areas and around the world, especially comparing differences among cities in the “New World” (North American), “Old World” (European), and developing nations; and understand how local cultures, geography, and demography shape urban, suburban, and exurban development.
3. Critique how urbanization influences values, interpersonal, and inter-group relationships.
4. Use the neighborhood and civic organizations as units of analysis to better explain urban dynamics.
5. Evaluate the positive effects of urbanization, including potential access to increased cultural capital and economies of scale, and apply sociological findings to guides policies for their further development.
6. Evaluate the negative effects of urbanization, including prejudice and discrimination, housing, education, social services, homelessness, and crime, and apply related research to strategies and policies that may help to lessen their effects.
7. Understand and assess the effects of technology and the changing labor market on 21st-century cities.
8. Illustrate how urban sociology might be used to anticipate and plan for changes and development in different types of city.

### **Core Assessment:**

(New for July, 2006)

#### GENERAL NOTES

The Core Assessment assignment for this class will be a major essay that integrates, analyzes, applies, and critiques several sociological concepts and research findings from this course individually, together, and with additional sources from your own literature review and archival study.

You must incorporate the findings from at least five outside sources of original academic research in this essay. You may also include additional sources for examples or background information, but only reputable, peer-reviewed academic sources will count toward the reference requirements of your essays. This means that magazines, newspapers, professional periodicals, or internet sources are only appropriate for examples and illustrations in this project — if you have any questions as to whether a specific source is acceptable for your essay, you should ask your instructor rather than guess. Also, focus on articles or books presenting original research or theories, not on those reviewing others' works or editorializing about opposing approaches. Reference works, textbooks, and literature reviews are all excellent places to begin your search, but you must find and read

the original in order to develop your own reaction. Ask your instructor for source approval if in doubt.

You should also consider incorporating relevant and reputable statistical and other social scientific data collected by researchers, governments, and other agencies and organizations. A wealth of such archived data is publicly accessible through the Internet, and their use can help you better understand your issue and develop a stronger analysis and critique. Again, if in doubt, ask your instructor for approval of your data source.

If you do not properly cite those external sources that contributed to your work, then you are guilty of plagiarism. This will not be tolerated and may result in immediate and serious academic penalties. If you have any questions as to when and how to use citations and references in your essays, please contact your instructor. Your final essay will also be formatted according to the relevant portions of the American Psychological Association Style Guide. The main text of your essay will consist of no more than 3,500 words (or about fifteen pages). While it is possible to construct a successful essay in fewer words, this assignment is comprehensive and detailed enough that most students will find it a challenge to successfully address all of its points in the allotted space. Begin work on your essay early and leave plenty of time for revision to assure the best possible grade.

#### SO303 CORE ASSESSMENT

Pick one urban problem or issue discussed in this course that is commonly faced in many urban areas, for example: prejudice and discrimination, housing, education, public transportation, other social and public services, unemployment, homelessness, crime, urban sprawl, or another of your choosing (be sure to get your instructor's approval for your chosen focus). Describe how that problem or issue manifests in two different urban areas of your choosing (domestic or international). Compare their similarities and contrast their differences. Explain what ecological, demographic, institutional, social, cultural, and other factors influence the issue. Use original scholarly research and other reliable data sources to explain and illustrate the phenomenon and its trends over time. One good place to start is the US Federal statistics gateway site: [www.fedstats.gov](http://www.fedstats.gov); the UN, [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), and the World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org), are two additional good sources for international data; the largest clearinghouse for publicly available academic and organizational data is the ICPSR at the University of Michigan, [www.icpsr.umich.edu](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu); and the University of Chicago's NORC is one of the largest academic opinion research centers in the country, [norc.uchicago.edu](http://norc.uchicago.edu). Consider multiple sources of data, when possible, and compare and contrast the actual data with public perception of the issue. Pay particular attention to the trends in the data and use sociological concepts and findings from the course and your additional literature review to analyze your issue. Over time, what aspects of this issue in these urban areas has changed or remained the same? Why?

Discuss and evaluate the personal and social consequences of this issue for various populations within each urban area. Examine and evaluate more than one plan or strategy for addressing your problem. If available, evaluate the relative success of these plans, compare and contrast them, and argue whether a particular approach might be more successful in one urban area than another. Justify and support your conclusions. Explain how specific social scientific theories and research helps you to make these decisions. How might different constituencies within each urban area have interests that work with or against one another? Why?

Now that you have a clearer and more defensible understanding of the evidence and the mechanisms at work, make a decision: is this truly a problem or not? If so, for whom, and

why? In either case, what have you learned from your efforts regarding best policies and practices related to the issue? What would be the social and individual consequences if your policy suggestions were implemented? Finally, what trend do you think we are likely to see in this issue over the next two decades in both of your locations? Defend and justify your conclusions. What public policies and individual decisions would help guide this future trend in the most generally useful and beneficial direction? Defend and justify your conclusions.

[Link to Class Rubric](#)