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Sociology 3840: Cities and Urban Life
Fall 2016

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:30 am – 11:20 pm
SS 113

Course overview

In the past one hundred years, cities have increasingly grown to become a dominant force in the world. How can we understand cities, city spaces, and the people who inhabit them? What are major benefits, problems, and solutions for cities? By the end of this course, you should be able to answer these questions, understanding main theories, spaces, identities, pleasures, and problems of cities. Additionally, the class will turn our collective lens on the city of Ogden through research on the city. Thus, you will gain greater experience with critical thinking and writing skills, public speaking, applying sociological concepts to concrete examples, and doing sociological research.

Required readings

Course readings are available online on the course website.

Course requirements and grade percentages

Reaction papers	50%
Community mapping assignment	30%
Group presentations	10%
Participation	10%

Reaction papers – To help you keep up with and process the class material, as well as develop your skills of analysis and critical thinking, I am asking you to complete **two reaction papers**. These are **typed, double-spaced, five page essays** where you will be asked a series of questions, and you will need to explain as well as compare and contrast the course materials of the preceding weeks. The week before they are due, I will distribute a prompt with complete instructions. The papers are due in class on the Fridays of **Week Six (October 7th) and Week Twelve (November 18th)**. Late papers will be marked down 4 points per day (from 25 to 21, etc.). **(2 papers X 25% each = 50%)**

Community mapping assignment – In order to analyze Ogden, further explore the ideas of this course, and give you experience in conducting research, I am asking you to complete an assessment of how residents understand the city. **This will involve passing a human subjects training course, conducting two interviews with Ogden residents, transcribing those interviews, and analyzing the findings. See PAGE 6 FOR INSTRUCTIONS. (30%)**

Group presentations – In order to discuss and digest the material, you will be asked to present a week's readings to the class. Your task for these presentations will be to **facilitate a discussion**, asking the class questions that cover these areas: 1) the main points of the readings, 2) confusing and/or controversial sections, and 3) asking critical questions regarding how the articles fit with the course and your assessments of them. I am asking groups to **email their discussion questions to me** on the **Sunday** before your presentation **by 5 pm**. Presentations will be graded on the quality of your questions and performance. **(10%)**

Participation – I will also be observing your participation by taking roll at the beginning of each class period and monitoring your preparation and involvement while there. **(10%)**

Disclaimers

- My preferred method of contact is in person, then by email.
- If you miss an assignment, be in touch with me as soon as possible. I am much more sympathetic to those who contact me before missing the assignment.
- Cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism – the use of others' words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source – is also a form of cheating. I will take appropriate disciplinary action against offenders.
- If you are a student with a disability and require classroom accommodations, please meet with me to discuss arrangements (If you have not yet contacted Services for Students with Disabilities, please do so – Student Services Center, Room 181 or call (801) 626-6413).
- This syllabus, including all readings and assignments, is subject to change given the flow of the course and unforeseen circumstances. I may deliver such updates by email, so please regularly check your Weber email address or be sure that it forwards to your regular address.

Reading and lecture schedule

WEEK ONE – Introduction
(August 29 – September 2)

- V. Gordon Childe “The Urban Revolution”

WEEK TWO – Studying cities
(September 7-9)

- Maggie Kusenbach “Street Phenomenology : The Go-Along as Ethnographic Research Tool”
– section “The go-along method” (pp. 463-465)

No class – Monday, September 5th

Part One: Theories of cities

WEEK THREE – The Chicago School
(September 12–16)

- Robert Park “The City”
- Ernest W. Burgess "The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project"

WEEK FOUR – Modernism, Postmodernism, and Globalization
(September 19–23)

- Le Corbusier "A Contemporary City"
- David Harvey “The Time and Space of the Enlightenment Project”
Film: The Pruitt-Igoe Myth

Potential interview subjects list due in class on Wednesday, September 21st

WEEK FIVE – Reimagining cities
(September 26–30)

- Jeff Speck “Part I: Why Walkability?”
- Edward Glaeser “Is There Anything Greener Than Blacktop?”

WEEK SIX – Reaction paper #1 and Community mapping assignment workshop
(October 3–7)

Diversity conference on Friday, October 7th (meet at Shepherd Union)

Reaction paper #1 due on Friday, October 7th

Part Two: The problems and pleasures of cities

WEEK SEVEN – Public spaces
(October 10–14)

- William H. Whyte “Street People” and “The Skilled Pedestrian”

WEEK EIGHT – Urban design
(October 17–19)

- William H. Whyte “The Design of Spaces”
- Raymond Hester “Subconscious Landscapes of the Heart”

No class – Friday, October 21st

WEEK NINE – Urban inequality
(October 24–28)

- Massey and Denton “The Missing Link”
- Edward Glaeser “What’s Good About Slums?”

WEEK TEN – Urban identities
(October 31 – November 4)

- Elijah Anderson “The Iconic Ghetto”
- Richard Lloyd “Neo-Bohemia”
Film: Dark Days

WEEK ELEVEN – Streets and crime
(November 7–11)

- Jane Jacobs “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety”
- Mitch Duneier “How Sixth Avenue Became a Sustaining Habitat”

Part Three: Studying Ogden

WEEK TWELVE – Community mapping assignment workshop
(November 14–18)

Reaction paper #2 due in class Friday, November 18th

WEEK THIRTEEN – Community mapping assignment workshop
(November 21–23)

No class – Friday, November 25th

Community mapping assignment Part One due in class Wednesday, November 23rd

WEEK FOURTEEN – Research on Ogden city

(November 28 – December 2)

- Robert Durán “Over-Inclusive Gang Enforcement and Urban Resistance: A Comparison Between Two Cities”
- Glass “Using History to Explain the Present: The Past as Born and Performed”
- Cassi Meyerhoffer “I Have More in Common with Americans Than I Do with Illegal Aliens’: Culture, Perceived Threat, and Neighborhood Preferences”

WEEK FIFTEEN – Summary and presentation of findings!

(December 5–9)

**Community mapping assignment Part Two due at noon Wednesday,
December 14th**

Community mapping assignment

Overview

In order to reinforce the course material, apply it to a concrete example, and give you experience in doing sociological research, I am asking the class to do **an exercise that captures how people feel about the city of Ogden.**

In the second week of class, we will discuss the “go-along” (Kusenbach) method for doing research on cities. It involves 1) observing people while they travel around the city and 2) recording their reactions to the urban environment. You will be doing “go-alongs.” The assignment involves **interviewing two residents** on their experiences and perceptions of the city, and then analyzing the findings of these interviews by linking them to course ideas and readings. You should turn in the audio of the interviews, transcripts in both paper and electronic forms, as well as two completed checklists, maps, and informed consent forms for each interview.

Due dates:

- **Wednesday, September 21st** – Please bring a **list of two potential research subjects** and their demographic characteristics (race, gender, age, and religious preference (if any)) to class.
- **Wednesday, November 23rd** – **Part One is due in class.** It is worth 15% of your total grade. Late assignments will be deducted 2 points for each day late (from 15 to 13, etc.).
- **Wednesday, December 14th** – **Part Two is due at noon.** It is worth 15% of your total grade, and late assignments will be deducted 2 points, and then 2 points for each additional day late. Instructions to come later in the semester.

Part One: Interviews

Before the interviews:

1. Human subjects training – Before you do research on human subjects, you **must** pass an online CITI training course (instructions: www.weber.edu/IRB/HumanSubjects_Training) and turn in the certificate to me. Be aware that **you** as the interviewer are entering into this research voluntarily. If you wish to not participate, please speak with me. Additionally, be aware that the interviews you collect will be used in a larger study of Ogden.

2. Recruiting diversity – For this research, I am interested in capturing a broad array of its residents, especially Latinos – who are at least 30% of the population. Thus, I am asking you and the class as a whole to **find a diverse assortment of people** by race, class, gender, age, and religion, and defend each of your two interviewees as diverse from each other by at least two of those categories. Also, before you do your interviews, I am going to assess the interview subjects of the entire class to be sure some groups aren’t over-represented (like, say, your twenty-something-year-old friends). If this is the case, I may ask you to find someone else to interview.

Doing the interviews:

1. *Informed consent* – Before beginning an interview, your subjects **must** give “informed consent,” signing the required form stating so. If they are under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also co-sign the form. Their participation is completely voluntary. End the interview if they wish to end it, for any reason, at any time.

2. *The Go-Along* – The interviews involve **speaking with your subjects about Ogden** while they travel around the city, specifically going to each of its **six main areas** (see the map). Allow at least two hours to do each interview. Because of the distances involved, I suggest this happen by car while driving around the city, although it could be done by bus, walking, hot air balloon, etc. While interviewing, **record the interviews** (turn in an audio file with your assignment), and **carefully record your routes**. I have digital recorders available for you to check out.

3. *Questions* – Ask these questions to your subjects about **each area of the city** during the interview:

- *What do you think about this area? What do you like/dislike?*
- *How much time do you normally spend here? What kinds of things do you normally do around here?*

Additionally, ask your subjects these two questions:

- *What do you most like about the city overall?*
- *What do you least like about the city overall?*

4. *Probes and follow-ups* – If your interviewees are not talking, ask “**probe questions**” (like “could you talk more about that?” or “how do you feel about that?”) in order to get them to speak more about a subject (On the other hand, if they are talking too much, you may need interrupt them or change the subject). Also, feel free to ask them further questions or clarifications. You can also ask them additional questions after the interview is over. Just keep these separate on the transcript, recording the date and time that you did this.

5. *Objectivity* – During the interview, you should **stay as neutral as possible**. While you should ask all of the questions above, **do not** offer strong opinions, argue, or otherwise unnecessarily steer the conversation. This neutrality goes for the ride as well. While you need to direct your subject to a certain extent, especially to cover all six areas and stay mostly within city limits, you should also be flexible, allowing them to take their own routes, detours, and stops as they see fit. Whenever possible, have your subject do the driving.

6. *Safety* – This work involves going into public and interacting with others. This is always potentially hazardous! Follow basic procedures of safety, such as: choose interviews only with people you trust; let others know where you are, what you are doing, and with whom you are doing it; bring a phone; and don’t do anything that may put yourself or others in danger.

Transcribing the interviews:

Transcription is an extremely important activity for capturing and analyzing written speech as “data,” and then analyzing it for patterns that illustrate, build, and/or expand broader concepts and theories.

The transcript should be a **word-for-word record of the audio** in text form, creating a script of what was said. This means that **1)** each person’s words should be written down, and **2)** those words need to be attributed to the person who said them. I want these in **both paper form and electronically**, which you can email to me.

- 1.) While transcribing, when each new person speaks you should start a new line of text, with a line in between it (see example below).
- 2.) To note utterances, use brackets (such as [pauses], [laughs], [shouting] etc.) or simply add them to the text (“Ooooh”). Please use dashes (-) to note pauses or non-grammatical shifts in speech. Try to capture everything, but if something is truly indistinguishable, write in [indistinguishable].
- 3.) Transcription is about capturing the “significance” of what was said as much as the exact wording. For example, there is a huge difference between someone saying, “I thought I would die [laughs]” and “I thought I would die [cries].” At the same time, you do not need to capture “non-significant” utterances like “ums,” “errs,” or pauses that have no meaning to them.
- 4.) This is an extremely labor intensive activity. Expect to do **at least** three hours work transcribing each hour of audio. To help you, there are transcription pedals available to check out, you can download a trial version of Express Scribe (<http://www.nch.com.au/scribe/index.html>) to use with the pedal to slow down the audio, as well as have a hands-free way to play, pause, and auto-rewind the recording for a few seconds. Otranscribe (<http://otranscribe.com/>) is another free online service to you can pause, rewind, and fast forward audio files as you type.

Example:

Me: You like all the areas in Ogden?

Jorge: Yeah.

Me: So, why don’t you come to this area often? Cause you said you don’t come here often. Why?

Jorge: Probably because I don’t have no business to do in this area. I don’t – I just have a few friends. I use to come visit them before but not lately, so –

Me: Okay.

Additional information:

- I will grade Part One on the successful completion of each task outlined above (completed checklist, map, and informed consent forms, tape/CD/audio file of interviews, electronic and paper versions of the transcripts), as well as the quality of these items and your transcripts.
- I cannot stress enough how tedious and time consuming transcription is. You will **NOT** be able to complete this assignment at the last minute!
- Also, as I stated above, I'm looking for representation of Ogden Latinos. So, the great spirit of academia may shine on you more favorably if you include that group in your interviews.

Go Along checklist, map, and informed consent

Fill out the following for each interviewee, and turn it in with your interview transcripts. *Be sure to directly ask ALL of the items about your interviewee. Don't assume that you know the answer, even if you know the person well. You may be surprised!*

- 1.) Informed consent form signed and dated? _____
- 2.) The dates and time of the interview. _____
- 4.) Charted the route on the map? _____
- 5.) Asked the required questions about *each* of the six areas of the city? _____
- 6.) Asked what they most like about the city overall, and what they least like? _____

7.) Contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

8.) What is your subjects':

Race _____

Gender _____

Age _____

Religious preference (if any) _____

Occupation _____

Highest level of education _____

In what country were you born? _____

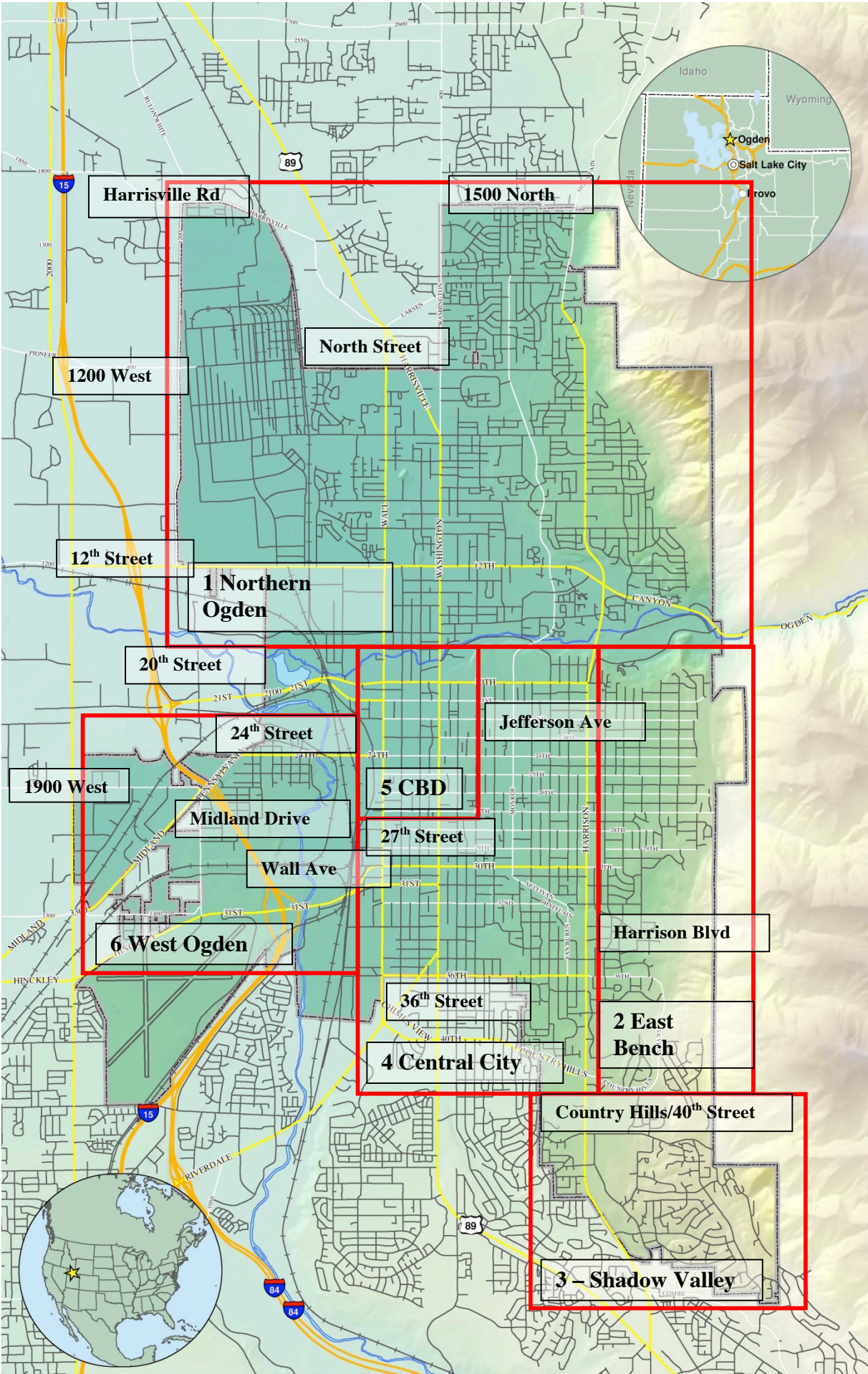
Legal status?

 US Citizen _____

 Visa/Green card _____

 Undocumented _____

How long have they lived in Ogden? _____



INFORMED CONSENT

You are being asked to be included in a study of the residents of Ogden, Utah. We are asking your participation as an interviewee. This will take about an hour or so of your time, for which you will receive no compensation.

By participating in this research, here are some things you should know:

- Your participation is completely voluntary. You are under no obligation to become involved. You may stop the interview at any time and for any reason.
- During the interview, we may ask sensitive questions that may make you uncomfortable. You may refuse to answer any question for any reason at any time.
- Your identity will remain confidential. This means that you will only be identified with a fake name (pseudonym) on any written research documents, including transcripts and any published accounts. The recording of this interview, if you agree to it, will be secured in a locked office on a password-protected computer. Your contact information, should we have any further questions, will be stored separately from the research material, in a locked office on a password-protected computer. A copy of this form will be secured in a locked office in a locked cabinet.
- If you have any questions regarding this research, please contact Dr. Pepper Glass at (801) 626-6914 or pepperglass@weber.edu.

I was explained this information; I understand it; and I consent to be included in this study.

Parent or guardian (if applicable):

Name

Name

Signature

Signature

Date

Date

CONSENTIMIENTO INFORMADO

Se le está pidiendo ser parte de un estudio sobre los residentes de Ogden, Utah. Estamos pidiendo su participación como entrevistado. Esto tomará alrededor de una hora o más de su tiempo, durante el cual usted no recibirá ninguna compensación monetaria.

Está es una lista de algunas cosas que usted debe saber sobre su participación en esta investigación:

- Su participación es totalmente voluntaria. Usted no está bajo ninguna obligación de participar en esta investigación. Usted puede parar la entrevista en cualquier momento y por cualquier razón.
- Durante la entrevista, es posible que le hagamos preguntas que puedan ser un poco sensitivas y que lo/la puedan hacer sentir incómodo. Usted puede negarse a contestar cualquier pregunta por cualquier razón en cualquier momento.
- Su identidad será confidencial. Esto significa que sera identificado solamente con un nombre falso (seudónimo) en cualquier documento escrito sobre la investigación, incluyendo transcripciones y cualquier cuenta publicada. La grabación de esta entrevista será asegurada en una oficina bajo llave en una computadora protegida por contraseña. Su información será utilizada solamente en la ocasion que tendremos cualquier otra pregrunta ó necesitamos otra información. Su información personal será guardada por separado del material usado en la investigación, en una oficina bajo llave en una computadora protegida por contraseña. Copia de esta forma será asegurada en un gabinete, en una oficina bajo llave.
- Si usted tiene cualquier pregunta con respecto a esté estudio, puede contactar a el professor Dr. Pepper Glass en (801) 626-6914 ó pepperglass@weber.edu.

Me han explicado esta información, lo entiendo y estoy de acuerdo con ser incluido en este estudio.

Padre o guardian (si es aplicable):

Nombre

Nombre

Firma

Firma

Fecha

Fecha