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**SOCIOLOGY 4125
URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

**Summer 2010
Online**

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Course Goals

This course covers two broad topics in Urban Sociology. We will begin the class with Saskia Sassen's book that discusses globalization and the rise of global cities. We will then shift gears and discuss poverty and subcultures in central cities by reading Philippe Bourgois' book on the drug subculture in Spanish Harlem. This course offers a deep dive into these topics, and it is meant to compliment the more general 1000 and 2000-level urban studies courses across the college. This course will encourage critical thinking through short essays, and it will encourage collaboration through the discussion forum. By the end of the course, students should understand how globalization impacts cities, and they should better understand challenges and coping mechanisms of a sub-segment of the urban poor.

Texts

Bourgois, Philippe. 2003. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Second Edition.

Saskia Sassen. 2006. *Cities in a World Economy*, Third Edition. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Notes

I have posted notes for each lesson that help with definitions of key terms and offer necessary background to help as you read through the books. The notes also provide reading questions that should help you prepare for the short answer assignments.

Grading

Short answers assignments (2 @ 20%)	40 percent
Essays (2 @ 20 %)	40 percent
Discussion Forum	20 percent

I utilize a variety of assignments to encourage discussion, understanding and critical thought.

Short Answer Assignments

The **short answer assignments** include multiple choice and true/false questions that many instructors might include in midterm or final exams. I don't require a traditional midterm or final because I don't think it is necessary for you to memorize these details. However, to ensure that you comprehend the reading, I will ask you to complete these assignments. **You may use your book and class notes as**

you complete the assignment. You may not consult with other students. Do not distribute these assignments to others outside of the class.

Short-answer assignments are administered through Moodle. After you have submitted your assignment you will receive your grade and the correct answers to the questions. Please be sure to read through the answers to help you better understand the reading. ***Please submit your answers by the due date. The link to the assignments will disappear after their due dates.*** You may view the assignment more than once, but you may only submit your answers once. Please do not discuss the answers on the discussion forum as others might not have completed the assignment. Direct questions to me at smoller@uncc.edu.

Essay Assignments

The essay assignments are designed for students to apply and critique the readings. These essays are used in place of traditional exams to test your understanding of the literature. I encourage you to discuss the essay assignments on the discussion forum. Your essays will be much stronger and will receive higher grades if you help each other think through your ideas. You may include ideas from the discussion forum in your essays, but you must write them in your own words. You may not discuss the essay assignments with others outside of the discussion forum. Your essays should be grounded in the readings and class notes.

Please write your essay in Microsoft Word (four to five pages) and submit the Word file in Moodle's by the due date. (Or save your essay as a Rich Text Format (.rtf) file if you don't have Word). Please type your name at the top of the assignment, above the first paragraph. Late assignments will be penalized. Essays will be graded and returned within a week. It is best if you submit your essay in Moodle rather than e-mailing the essay in order to maintain a record of your work on the course site.

Discussion Forum

I expect you to complete the required readings before participating in the discussion forum topics for the week. This will permit all students to participate fully in the discussion forum. It will also ensure informed conversations. I will post the discussion forum topics each week to encourage a critique of the literature and application to current events. Of course, students are also welcome to initiate their own discussions.

I expect full participation in the discussion forum. I encourage you to check the discussion forum **every** day (you don't have to comment every day, but I do expect you to comment regularly). Participation in the discussion forum is worth 20 percent of your final grade. Please do not let this concern you. It is not my goal to fail students, but I do expect you to challenge yourself and others in the forum. Your discussion grade will reflect the extent that you participate in the forum—so participate regularly.

The discussion forum is designed for you to discuss issues amongst yourselves. If you have specific questions for me, then feel free to e-mail me (smoller@uncc.edu). I will monitor the discussion forum and respond when appropriate. However, I will give other students an opportunity to comment on your questions and issues before I comment. I would like the discussion forum to be a discussion among class members and not simply multiple conversations between me and individual students.

Late Assignments

Getting behind in a short summer course can be detrimental to a student's grade. For that reason, I have a strict policy on due dates. Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points each day they are late. Due dates are posted in each lesson. If an assignment will be late due to a death in your family or an illness, you must contact me BEFORE the assignment is due to make alternative arrangements.

Communication

Feel free to contact me at smoller@uncc.edu if you have questions. I do ask that you post questions regarding the reading, essay assignments, or class notes to the discussion forum. This will give students an opportunity to discuss challenging aspects of the reading. If you do not feel that the discussion forum provides useful guidance regarding your question, then e-mail me.

Honor Code

As a student of UNC-Charlotte, you are bound by the University's Honor Code:

Scholarship: *A Niner shall strive for academic excellence in and out of the classroom while maintaining academic honesty and ethical values.*

Integrity: *A Niner shall act to uphold and improve one's self, the community, and the high standards of the institution.*

Respect: *A Niner shall welcome all aspects of individuality and self-worth while embracing the learning opportunities that diversity provides.*

Accountability: *A Niner shall hold others responsible for their actions while accepting responsibility for one's own.*

Dignity: *A Niner shall appreciate the intrinsic value of the institution and work to preserve the 49er environment.*

Honor: *A Niner shall appreciate students, faculty, administration, and staff as contributing members of the University community.*

Compassion: *A Niner shall demonstrate genuine consideration and concern for the needs, feelings, ideas, and well-being of others.*

Character: *A Niner shall exemplify all qualities and traits that promote fellowship and camaraderie among the student body, faculty, staff, and administration.*

Nobility: *A Niner shall exhibit the virtues and values listed above which befit all members of our Niner Nation.*

E-mail

All communication from your instructor will go to your UNCC e-mail address.

If you use a filter on your e-mail account, you are responsible for ensuring that it does not prevent you from receiving messages from me or the course listserv. It is your responsibility to maintain copies of your sent e-mails, as there is no way to guarantee that any e-mail message will be delivered. Please check your e-mail software to see how it manages sent and saved messages. Some software

automatically deletes messages one month after they have been sent; others only save messages if they are filed in folders; others save messages received but not those sent. To have a record of an e-mail message you sent, you may need to send yourself a copy of your e-mail at the same time you send it to your instructor, or you may need to print a copy of the e-mail message and any attachments to keep in your paper files. No matter how your system works, make sure you know how to save a copy of all e-mail messages and that you save the copy for the entire semester.

Submitting Assignments

It is extremely important for you to save copies of your assignments. If I don't receive your work, you must have a duplicate copy. Please do not e-mail assignments to me. If you are unable to access assignments via Moodle or if you are unable to upload assignments, please contact me.

Other Questions

Please include "SOC1 4125" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Grading Scale

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F Below 60

Lesson 1	Globalization and Global Cities
May 24-30	Saskia Sassen Chapters 1-5
	Short Answer Assignment Due May 30

May 31-June 6	Saskia Sassen Chapters 6-8
	Short Answer Assignment Due June 6

June 11	Essay 1 Due June 11
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Lesson 2	Poverty and Culture
June 12-20	Philippe Bourgois Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-5

June 21-25	Philippe Bourgois Chapters 6-9, Epilogue and Epilogue 2003
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June 28	Final Essay Due June 28
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