

GST 308

## **Urban Sociology**

Canadian Bible College

Fall 1998

Dr. Margi Hollingshead

### **Course Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the complexities and realities of life in the city for various people groups. By the end of the semester, the student should be able to:

- 1) describe the history, origin, and development of world cities
- 2) articulate sociologic theories of the urban experience
- 3) explain the geographic ecology and structural imperatives of the city
- 4) identify issues of social class, ethnicity, gender, housing, and crime in the city
- 5) apply Christian thought and action-plans to urban problems

### **Course Outline**

Sept. 10 – Intro – Exploring the City [ch. 1]

Sept. 15 – Exploring Regina

Sept. 17 – Origins and Development of World Cities [ch. 2]

Sept. 22 – Development of North American Cities [ch. 3]

Sept. 24 – Classic Theories of Urban Sociology [ch. 4]

Sept. 29 – Social Psychology [ch. 5]

Oct. 1 – Making Sense of Space – Geography and Ecology [ch. 6]

Oct. 13 – Structural Imperatives [ch. 7]

Oct. 15 – Social Class [ch. 8]

Oct. 20 – Social Diversions

Oct. 20 [evening] – tour Casino Regina

Oct. 22 – Urban Diversity – Race, Ethnicity, Gender [ch.9]

Oct. 27 – no class

Oct. 29 – Housing and Crime [ch. 10]

Nov. 3 – Student Presentations [land use, business and industry]

Nov. 10 – Global Urbanization – Latin America, Africa and the Middle East [ch. 11, 12]

Nov. 12 – Student Presentations [government, public works]

Nov. 17 – Global Urbanization – Asia [ch. 13]

Nov. 19 – Student Presentations [education, media]

Nov. 24 – Urban Planning [ch. 14]

Dec. 1 – Student Presentations [parks and recreation, social services]

## **Course Requirements**

**50% - *Interaction Papers*** – you are to read the assigned text in its entirety, staying current with the course outline. For each of 10 of the chapters (your choice), submit a 2 page essay that interacts in two ways: select one of the chapter's special feature boxes {city scape, critical thinking, etc} and demonstrate how it illustrates the content of the chapter; then discuss the relevance of the chapter for your Christian life and ministry. Interactions should be specific and show knowledge of having read and understood the material. Each essay is due on the day the chapter is assigned and is worth 5%.

**30% - *Urban Research Project*** – the class as a whole will conduct ethnographic research of Regina by dividing into 8 teams: land use; business and industry; government (city council, police and courts); public works (transportation, streets, traffic, utilities, waste disposal, etc.); education (libraries, all levels of formal education); media (television, radio, newspapers, billboards, etc.); parks and recreation; social services (to the poor, elderly, handicapped, etc.). Preliminary reports, briefly noting the status of your research and what remains to be done, are due in class on Oct. 15. Research should be written up in a 10-12 page report and will be presented in class as noted in the course outline. Guidelines for research and presentations will be distributed in class.

**10% - *Casino Interaction*** – On Oct. 20, the class will tour Casino Regina. You are to submit a 2-3 page interaction report by Oct. 27 in response to questions that will be distributed prior to the field trip.

**10% - *Class Participation*** – Your participation in class discussion is critical to the success of this course for you and others. Come prepared in body, mind, spirit, and reading to enter in.

## **Course Guidelines –**

- A. All written material is to be original copy, typed, double-spaced with standard margins and font size. Grammar and mechanics should reflect college level work; substandard work will lower your mark.
- B. All assignments must be completed by the last class day (Nov. 24) to pass the course. A completed assignment must be complete.
- C. Extensions are not given. Late work cost 5% per day (including weekends) up to one week, at which time half credit is recorded. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- D. The professor reserves the right to alter the course schedule as deemed necessary, with adequate notice to class members.
- E. School guidelines, as given in the catalogue and student handbook, will be honoured.

## **Course Text**

Macionis, John J. and Vincent N. Parillo. 1998. *Cities and Urban Life*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.