Soc 3090: Sociology of Neighborhoods

Spring, 2017

(3 credits)

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Introduction to the Course

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the empirical works, theories and methods employed in the study of American Neighborhoods. Our approach will take mostly a Sociological view to this problem, but will include a discussion of the current state of the art across the multiple disciplines which study the effects and importance of neighborhoods in the United States. As this is a survey course, we will attempt to synthesize the ecological effect of neighborhoods as it
relates to Urban environments, with a particular focus on environmental impact, racial segregation, migration, definitions (Geographers and other researcher's attempt to describe the effects of “place” and “space” on neighborhoods), the social network approach to neighborhoods and, finally, the applications of ecological thinking in crime, health and education. Throughout this course we will spend time learning about the various data-types used to understand neighborhoods from US Census data to ethnographic records of neighborhoods. We will spend several weeks becoming familiar with US Census data, Tableau software for mapping neighborhoods and R for performing mapping and statistical analysis of neighborhood data. We will also engage in an ethnographic study of your own neighborhood, where you will be asked to employ the tools in Tableau and R to further understand your local area.

You will gain general knowledge about the ecological effects of neighborhoods on social processes such as health or education while equipping the student with basic skills in spatial reasoning through software and ethnographic methods.

**Educational Purpose**

This course serves as a topics course in Sociology and meets the quantitative requirement for a B.S. in Sociology. It can also be used as an elective undergraduate course.

**Prerequisites**

Experience with an intro to statistics course such as Basic Social Statistics (Soc 3811) will be helpful but not required.
Course Materials

Required Materials

Textbooks


**Digital Coursepack**

The Digital Coursepack aggregates all course materials: textbook, library resources, weblinks,
even pay-per-use items. This is the result of a collaboration between CCE and Wilson Reserves to leverage library resources, abide by copyright clearance requirements, and leverage creative commons resources.

**Library Resources**

Search discipline-specific resources, access your library account, or chat with a librarian directly from this Moodle block.

**Webcam / Microphone - Headset**

Prepare to collaborate online in video by ensuring you have a functional webcam designed for video calls and a headset-microphone to assure good audio quality.

**Recommended Materials (optional)**

To order course materials that are available through the University of Minnesota Bookstores, go to the Search page at the University of Minnesota Bookstores Web site, and use the option to "Search for Books by Department, Course, or Author."

Or you may call 612-625-6000 or 1-800-442-8636 and ask for ODL book service.

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**Technical Requirements**

**Browsers**

To ensure that all features of this course site work properly, use the recommended browsers and configure them properly (to allow pop-ups, for example).

- For best results, Moodle recommends using the Mozilla Firefox browser.
- This course also incorporates Google applications which work best using the Google Chrome browser. It is helpful to install more than one browser on your computer.

**Course Technologies**

This course uses the following technologies:
Flipgrid

Google+ Hangout

Google Hangout on Air

Google Drive (docs, slides, forms, drawings, etc)

Google+ Community

### Additional Software

**Tableau**

All registered students will be provided a free license for duration of the course through Tableau Software. Details of how to obtain these licenses will be provided over moodle.

**R**

We will be using the R statistical programming language. R can be downloaded at http://www.r-project.org/

**RStudio IDE** (Integrated Development Environment) is a software application which facilitates interaction with the R statistical programming language. It is often preferred to the GUI (Graphic User Interface) made available through CRAN. You can download it at http://www.rstudio.com/.

**GitHub**

A github account will be required of all students. One can register for a github account at https://github.com/. You can find information about how github works with Rstudio at http://z.umn.edu/rstudiogit, and github maintains a quite good help-system at https://help.github.com/.

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Last Reviewed: OES Team

Date: 10/20/16
Student Help

Access the many support resources made available to you by the university.

Learning Outcomes

Course-level Outcomes (CO)

This course supports the following course and ODL program-level Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course-level Outcomes (CO)</th>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>PO</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1   Apply Ecological and Spatial Thinking to the neighborhood system</td>
<td>Digital Reflection Essay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essay</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2   Discuss the multiple disciplines’ perspectives on neighborhoods</td>
<td>Digital Reflection Essay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essay</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3   Define the study of Sociology of Neighborhoods</td>
<td>Digital Reflection Essay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essay</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4   Use mapping and statistical analysis software on neighborhood data</td>
<td>Labs 1, 2 and 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5   Identify the various sources and types of data used to study neighborhoods</td>
<td>Digital Reflection Essay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essay</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last Reviewed: OES Team

Date: 10/20/16
21st Century Skills

This course focuses on the 21st Century Learning and Development skills highlighted in yellow. Students have the opportunity to earn badges to certify their acquisition of these skills.

Course Schedule

Last Reviewed: OES Team

Date: 10/20/16
Modules run from Monday through Sunday. All assignments are due by 11:55 p.m. Sunday at the end of the week in which they are assigned. For more information, see your Moodle course site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module / Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Activities and Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1             | Getting Started                      | Update Your Moodle Profile  
|               |                                      | Prepare for Google Video Calls  
|               |                                      | Introduce Yourself  
|               |                                      | Update Your Google+ Profile  |
|               | Classic Takes on the City            | Group Forum 1  
|               |                                      | Class Forum 1  
|               |                                      | Reflection Essay 1  |
| 2             | Tableau, Maps and US Census Data (part 1) | Forum 2  |
| 3             | Tableau, Maps and US Census Data (part 2) | Forum 3  
|               |                                      | Lab 1: Tableau  
|               |                                      | Provide Course Feedback  |
| 4             | The Urban Environment                | Group Forum 4  
|               |                                      | Class Forum 4  
|               |                                      | Reflection Essay 4  |
| 5             | Inequality, Segregation, and Neighborhood Effects | Group Forum 5  
|               |                                      | Class Forum 5  
|               |                                      | Digital Reflection Essay 5  |
| 6             | Broken Windows Theory                | Group Forum 6  
|               |                                      | Class Forum 6  
|               |                                      | Reflection Essay 6  |
| 7             | Geographers take on Neighborhoods    | Group Forum 7  
|               |                                      | Class Forum 7  
|               |                                      | Reflection Essay 7  
|               |                                      | Provide Course Feedback  |
| 8             | Ethnography                          | Forum 8  
|               |                                      | Neighborhood Project Checklist  
<p>|               |                                      | Lab 2: Ethnography  |
| 9             | Spatial Data Analysis and            | Forum 9  |
|               |                                      |                                      |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mapping</th>
<th>Lab 3: Spatial Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Public Housing and American Urban Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Social Networks and Neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Social (Dis)Organization and Collective Efficacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Relationship between Health and Neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Relationship between Education and Neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Future of the American City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group Forum 10  
Class Forum 10  
Digital Reflection Essay 10  
Group Forum 11  
Class Forum 11  
Reflection Essay 11  
Group Forum 12  
Class Forum 12  
Digital Reflection Essay 12  
Group Forum 13  
Class Forum 13  
Reflection Essay 13  
Group Forum 14  
Class Forum 14  
Reflection Essay 14  
Group Forum 15  
Class Forum 15  
Reflection Essay 15  
Neighborhood Project

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Assignment Guidelines

Assignment guidelines are located in the Assignments Summary document in the Essential Information section of your Moodle site.

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Last Reviewed: OES Team  
Date: 10/20/16
Grading

Grading Table
The following table summarizes the requirements and grading of the assignments in this course. The specific instructions for each activity are included in the appropriate forum, assignment, or quiz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activity</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Forum</td>
<td>Online forum</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Forum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Forum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essay</td>
<td>Written Essay or media submission</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11 @ 100pts) Lowest score dropped</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs (3 @ 100pts)</td>
<td>Written Essay and media submission</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Project</td>
<td>Written Essay and media submission</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final draft</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals, drafts, check ins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Submissions
Late work will only be accepted with prior approval from the instructor.

Make-up Work for Legitimate Absences
You are responsible for informing your instructor as soon as possible of missed classes for legitimate reasons and provide documentation of the reason for absence. Reasonable and timely accommodations will be arranged.

Withdrawals
Week 10 is the last week to withdraw without your college's approval. For details check the Cancel/add & refund deadlines page.

Incompletes

An "Incomplete" requires prior approval from the instructor for extraordinary circumstances. Contact your instructor if you need to arrange an incomplete.

Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Achieved</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Definition of Grades and Workload Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an 'I' (see also I). Academic dishonesty: academic dishonesty in any portion of the academic work for a course shall be grounds for awarding a grade of F or N for the entire course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better (achievement required for an S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last Reviewed: OES Team

Date: 10/20/16
the work of the course on time. Requires a written agreement between instructor and student.
http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html

For more information on UMN Grade Distribution, please see Grades and Grade Basis.

Expected Student Academic Work per Credit
UMN defines one undergraduate credit as equivalent to 42–45 hours of learning effort distributed across a semester (including all classroom and outside activities).

UMN defines one graduate credit as exceeding 45 hours of learning effort distributed across a semester (including all classroom and outside activities).

Please review the UMN Policy on Expected Student Academic Work per Credit.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights
Students can expect:
● the instructor will return email and phone communications within 2 days unless otherwise announced in the course
● discussion participation will be responded to/graded within 5 days of the due date
● assignments will be graded within 5 days of the due date

Student Responsibilities
Students are responsible for:
● reviewing any assigned learning resources as stated in the weekly Module Overviews
● reading all discussion postings in the weekly modules as assigned
● posting weekly discussion postings as assigned
● assuring that their computer is compatible and working to engage effectively in this online course
● uploading assignments before or on the assigned due date/time

Last Reviewed: OES Team Date: 10/20/16
Academic Policies and Accommodations

Academic Policies

Academic Accommodations

Syllabus subject to change

This syllabus may change as needed to support the student learning outcomes for this course.