

Classes: Mondays 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in B&GS-0153 and
Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30 pm in SSC 2028.

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Course Description

Today, with over half the world population living in cities, urban fieldsites have become the norm for many an anthropologist. After a brief overview of how anthropologists came to study in the urban context, the first section of the course, draws primarily on case studies focused on U.S. and Latin American cities, to consider how anthropologists have approached the interrelated subjects of affluence, marginality, contestation, crime, violence and spatial segregation in the urban context. The second section of the course includes an experiential learning component which this year centres on the subject of poverty in the City of London, Ontario.

Course Prerequisite: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 essay course.

Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- List the qualities that have often been linked with sociality in the urban context.
- Recognize the methodological challenges faced by anthropologists working in cities.
- Identify key themes and debates that have characterized the work of urban anthropologists.
- Recognize how social difference and social identification are mapped onto, challenged, and reproduced in the use of urban space.
- Describe the way in which urban design and the built environment shape (and are shaped by) sociocultural, political, and economic processes.
- Acquire first-hand insights into the problem of poverty in the city of London, Ontario.
- Work collaboratively with others to derive insights from London case study.
- Assess the value, as well as the drawbacks, of common initiatives to address poverty in the city.
- Critically engage with ongoing public and academic debates on a range of current urban issues, including poverty, crime and spatial segregation.
- Apply concepts learnt in the course to a specific case study.
- Communicate the insights derived from experiential learning via verbal and written assignments.

Required Texts:

Course readings will be made available via OWL.

Course Requirements:

2 short in-class assignments (5 points each)	10 points
Term Exam	35 points
3 contributions to group debate on London case study, including advanced online submission of rough fieldnotes (5 points each)	15 points
1 short essay on experiential project	30 points
Final Quiz	10 points