

**URBAN PROBLEMS
UPA 680**

Dr. S. Koven
Rm. 118 Standard Oil Building
Office Hrs: M, T, 2-5 and by appointment
Phone: 852-8257 (o), 398-6008 (h)

Spring 2023
Class Meeting: T, 5:30-8:15 p.m.
Rm. USI 117

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course examines major problems of urban areas. These include but are not limited to problems of poverty, declining tax bases, inequality, segregation, a declining middle class, gentrification and global urbanization.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL:

Books:

Florida, R. (2017). *The New Urban Crisis*. Basic Books. (F)
Gordon, G. (2010). *The Formula for Economic Growth on Main Street America*. CRC Press. (G)
Kelso, W. (1994). *Poverty and the Underclass*. New York University Press. (K)

Articles:

Eisinger, P. (2014). Is Detroit Dead? *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 36(1), 1-12. (E)
Teitz, M. & Chapple, K. (1998). The Causes of Inner-City Poverty. Eight Hypotheses in Search of Reality. *Cityscape*. 3(3), 33-70. (T&L)

Course Grading:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate in class discussions and complete two examinations. Exams will be essay format, four out of five questions worth 25 points each.

Grading criteria for the course appears below

Midterm Exam	45% of grade
Final Exam	45% of grade
Class Participation	10% of grade

Grading Scale:

95.0-100=A; 90.0-94.9=A-; 87.0-89.9 =B+; 82.0-86.9 =B; 80.0-81.9=B-; 75.0- 79.9=C+ 70-74.9=C; 60-69.9=D; below 60=F.

COURSE CALENDAR AND READING SCHEDULE

Class Meeting	Subject	Reading Assignment
Jan. 10	Introduction to Course	
Jan. 17	Doesn't Anything Work? Poverty: How Serious? What is Causing the Problem?	K, Ch. 1-3

Jan. 24	The Lack of Human Capital The Lack of Entrepreneurial Skills The Growing Instability of the Family	K, Ch. 4-6
Jan. 31	Rational Economic Explanations: The Liberal Version Rational Economic Explanations: The Conservative Version Cultural Explanations	K, Ch. 7-9
Feb.7	Barriers to Racial Discrimination The Economy I: The Lack of Jobs The Causes of Inner-City Poverty	K, Ch. 10-11; T&L
Feb. 14	The Economy II: The Lack of High Paying Jobs The Economy III: Stagnating Productivity and the Lack of High Paying Jobs The View from the Left: Exploitation and the Lack of Political Power	K, Ch. 12-14
Feb. 21	Changing Perceptions of the Causes of Poverty: A Summary Maybe Something Will Work After All The Urban Contradiction	K, Ch. 15-16; F, Ch. 1
Feb. 28	MIDTERM EXAM Review readings and class notes	
March 7	Winner Take All Urbanism City of Elites Is Detroit Dead?	F. Ch. 2-3, E
March 14	Spring Break	
March 21	Gentrification and its Discontents The Inequality of Cities	F, Ch 4-5
March 28	The Bigger Sort Patchwork Metropolis Defining Economic Growth in a Changing Business Climate	F, Ch. 6-7; G, Ch. 1

April 4	Suburban Crisis The Crisis of Global Urbanization Viewing Economic Growth as Part of a Comprehensive Strategy Local Economies in Decline: How to Lose the Economic Base	F, Ch. 8-9, G, Ch. 2-3
April 11	Urbanism for All Local Economic Recovery: Growth After the Fall The New Growth Economies: Attracting and Retaining the Local Business Base	F, Ch. 10; G, Ch. 4-5
April 18	Can Communities Suffer from Too Much Success? Will the Formula Change? Conclusions	G, Ch. 6-8
April 25	Reading Day	
May 2	Final Exam - Good Luck	

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT: The primary purpose for the imposition of non-academic discipline in the University setting is to protect and preserve a quality educational environment in the campus community. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: copying answers and unauthorized prior possession of examinations. Students are expected to act with civility and personal integrity respecting other students' dignity, rights, and property.

TITLE IX/CLARY ACT STATEMENT: Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111). Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a university-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer. For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide (<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS: The University of Louisville is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require accommodation to participate and complete

requirements for this class, notify me immediately and contact the Disability Resource Center (Stevenson Hall 119, 502-852-6938) for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.

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Syllabus Statement: *Things to help you along the way...*

Basic Needs Support: Doing well in classes (and in life, for that matter) means getting a good night's sleep, having enough to eat, and being able to get to where you need to go. If you are having any difficulties with these basic necessities, remember that UofL has resources to assist you. These challenges are unfortunately more common than we would wish. Please reach out to me or to one of these great resources if you find yourself in need at any time during this course or after.

- Food (fresh and non-perishable), household and toiletry items [Cardinal Cupboard](#) (SAC W312)
- Clothing, shoes, household items and office/art supplies [UofL Free Store](#) (SAC W303C)
- If you're experiencing any academic, financial, or personal difficulties [Student Success Coordinator](#) in UofL's Student Success Center can work with you individually to provide guidance and support as well as connect you to relevant resources.
- The UofL Concern Center can help you find and connect with relevant resources <https://louisville.concerncenter.com/>.

Counseling Center: If you notice you are having a difficult time or generally feel stuck, it may be helpful to work with a trained therapist at the Counseling Center in an individual or group setting. People come into the Counseling Center to discuss a range of topics, including relationships, family, identities, grief and loss, depression, stress, and many more experiences and concerns. The Counseling Center provides short term individual, group, and crisis counseling, crisis intervention, and psychological testing. Clients seek services for a variety of areas of concern, including psychological, social, academic, and career issues. To schedule an appointment, please contact the Counseling Center at 802-6585 or stop by the office in the Student Activities Center Room W204. More info: <http://louisville.edu/counseling/>

Additional Counseling Resources

- [24/7 Adult Crisis Line](#) 502-589-4313 or 800-221-0446 (available 24/7)
- [The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) 988 or 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (available 24/7)
- [Crisis Text Line](#) Text HOME to 741741 (available 24/7)
- [The Trevor Project](#) 1-866-488-7386 (available 24/7 for individuals ages 13-24 who identify as LGBTQ)