This course is an introduction to the sociological study of lifestyles and social relations in urban spaces. Two main parts compose it.

The first part has to do with structural contexts of opportunities, and the evolution of approaches and paradigms in urban sociology. We will ask two main questions. How does sociology understand the morphology of urban spaces and their constraints? How is it possible to track social effects related to the distribution / cohabitation / segregation of different social and ethnic groups? The general idea is to highlight contemporary debates related to urban population dynamics and to relations between groups and individuals.

The second part is about sociological methodology. A preliminary introduction to methods of urban ethnography will help designing and implement a mini-survey in three different types of urban spaces.

Last but not least: as a teacher, I’ve two main intellectual goals for this course. The first one is to introduce students to the weberian approach to community. The second one is to elaborate on the concept of integration as modes and mechanisms operating at all three fundamental levels of human social organization: (1) the micro universe of interaction in face-to-face encounters, (2) the meso world of corporate units and categoric units, and (3) the macro systems of institutional domains and stratification systems as these become the pillars of societal and inter-societal structures.

**Class 1:** Community, Association, and Locality in Historiography and in Sociology: The Weberian Legacy.

**Class 2:** The Macro and Meso Basis of the Micro Social Order

Class 3: The Problem of Social Order in Nested Group Structures

Reading: Guan W., Kamo Y., 2015, «Contextualizing Depressive Contagion: A Multilevel Network Approach », *Society and Mental Health* XX(X) 1–17. DOI: 10.1177/2156869315619657

Class 4: Integrating and Disintegrating Dynamics in Communities


Class 5: Connecting in public space and at school: categorical units interaction in mixed environments.


Class 6: The Spatial Dimensions of Urban Social Exclusion and Integration


Class 7: Neighbourhoods as Generators of Integration


Class 8: Contextualising friendship


Class 9: Distinguishing interventions seeking to foster community change from those attempting to promote structural change in local welfare services.


Class 10: Cities as structural contexts of opportunities


Class 11: Ethnic Minorities and Urban Integration: The Interplay of Social, Cultural, and Opportunity Structures


Class 12: Communities, Innovations and the City: The Causal Power of Social Structures

Readings (for critical analysis: they are 2 position papers):

- Center for an Urban Future, 2016, *Innovation and the City*, www.nycfuture.org

Team paper (urban sociology and integration)

How groups integrate into a structural context of opportunities? This is the research question for teams of 4 students to write a short team paper based on observations and interviews. Team papers have to explore contextual constraints and opportunities for integration, as well as the actions and strategies developed by a specific group to integrate into a specific context. Team papers must show evidence on the main mechanisms and processes of social integration.

Requirements

Students should read all the assigned readings before the class and come to class with comments and criticisms on the readings, being able to present the main contents, consistently take an active part in class discussions, and respect dead lines.

Grades

Grades are between 0 and 20.

They will be determined by two main components:

A paper based on a short collective urban ethnography (between 4000 and 7000 words, by groups of four students) 85%

Class participation: random selection of four students to present and discuss the readings of the week (15%)
General information

Faculty: Prof. VITALE Tommaso. On my webpage you can find useful links for sociological research, as well as my cv.

Office Hours: Monday, but by appointment. Please specify if you ask for a 10’ or a 15’ meeting. Please consider booking 2 weeks in advance.

Office Address: Centre d'études européennes- 28, rue des Saints Pères - 4th floor, c 407.

Recommendation letters: Students asking me for a recommendation letter have to send me their CV two weeks before the dead line.

Contacts: tel: 0033.(0)1.4549.8320 (please call me any day of the week but between 17:00 and 18:00, and not in the morning)

skype: tomvita

tommaso.vitale@sciencespo.fr (answers in one week, not in real time, sorry)

Cities are back in town

This is the website of the research program in urban studies at Sciences Po. You can find a lot of interesting news on seminars, publications, urban data, and so on: http://blogs.sciences-po.fr/recherche-iles/

My papers

You can download most of my papers from the Sciences Po open repository: http://spire.sciencespo.fr

Urban School

If you are interested in advanced education in Urban Sociology and broadly speaking in Urban Studies, please take a look at the website of the Sciences Po urban school: http://www.sciencespo.fr/ecole-urbaine/en

Suggestions for academics journals

Please note that the most important academic journals for urban sociology are: International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Urban Studies, City and community, Research in Urban Sociology

Also: please consider looking carefully at this undergraduate Journal, it accepts papers from young, undergraduate urban sociologist: Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography (JUE).

Suggested adding readings


