

**THE URBAN ETHNOGRAPHIC TRADITION: THEORY, METHOD, STANDPOINT**

**CAAS 634**

**SOCIOLOGY 634**

**Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**LSA Building -- Room 4050**

**Instructor: Professor Alford Young, Jr.**

<b>Office:</b>	<b>205B West Hall (CAAS)</b>	<b>4028A LSA Building (Soc.)</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>763-0033</b>	<b>647-4444</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Tuesday 10:00 -11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Thursday 12:00 -1:00 p.m.</b>

**This course provides a critical consideration of classic and contemporary literature in the urban ethnographic tradition, one of the oldest and most renowned subfields in sociology. Race and class-based social inequality are central themes in this tradition. Hence, the literature in this course will focus on these issues. More specifically, this course will involve an exploration of how social actors in various race and class categories react and respond to -- and, thus, ultimately help create -- different dimensions of the urban experience. The literature for this course includes classic Chicago School-style ethnographies, post-World War II era "realist" ethnographies, and contemporary works that reflect diverse theoretical and methodological orientations. Each work will be explored in terms of the three points of emphasis included in the course subtitle:**

- 1) theoretical, which concerns the specific claims made in each work about culture and social organization,**
- 2) methodological, which includes how different research tools (e.g., participant-observation, interviewing), research designs (e.g., the community study, streetcorner/public space study, small group study), and data-presentation techniques (e.g., depiction of whole characters, use of select quotes and fieldnotes) were employed in these works, and**
- 3) standpoint, which refers to the narrative style employed in these works (i.e., whether and how researchers situate their own voices and persons in their works).**

**Finally, attention will be given to where and how each work fits into the intellectual history of ethnographic research and the social and cultural dynamics in American urban life at the time of its publication. The themes and perspectives will be considered through a series of short critical reaction papers. A final paper, a review essay on a book of your choosing, will incorporate all of the points of emphasis.**

**Course Assignments:**

Four short papers (4-5 pages)	15% each
Final Paper (10-12 pages)	30%
*Class participation	10%

\*Includes preparing and leading a class discussion on one of the readings

#### Course Materials:

(Available at Shaman Drum Bookstore and on reserve at the Shapiro and CAAS Libraries)

Elijah Anderson Streetwise  
Philippe Bourgois In Search of Respect  
St. Claire Drake and Horace Cayton Black Metropolis  
W.E.B. DuBois The Philadelphia Negro  
Steven Gregory Black Corona  
John Hartigan, Jr. Racial Situations  
Eliot Liebow Tally's Corner  
Jay MacLeod Ain't No Making It  
Mary Pattillo-McCoy Black Picket Fences  
William Foote Whyte Streetcorner Society

Coursepack available at Excel on S. University

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### COURSE OUTLINE

#### Introducing Urban Ethnography: Situating Theory, Method, and Standpoint

January 10: General introduction to course design and objectives.

Reading due: None for this period

January 17: The Craft of Ethnography: Issues in Production and Analysis

Reading due: "Ethnography and Ethnographic Representation" (coursepack)  
"Writing: A Method of Inquiry" (coursepack)  
"Ethnographies as Texts" (coursepack)  
"Personal Writing in Social Research" (coursepack)  
"Urban Ethnography: Situational and Normative Accounts" (coursepack)

#### The Emergence of the Urban Ethnographic Tradition

**January 24: Initiating an Approach to Urban Ethnography**

Reading due: W.E.B. DuBois The Philadelphia Negro chapters 1, 2, 6-9, 11, 12, 13, 18.  
(recommended) The Philadelphia Negro chapters 3, 4, 5, 10, 14.

**January 31: The Chicago School and the Community Study**

Reading due: St. Claire Drake and Horace Cayton Black Metropolis chapters 6, 8-10,  
14,  
18, 19, 21-23.  
(recommended) Black Metropolis chapters 1-5, 7, 11-13, 15, 16.

**The Legitimation of the Urban Ethnographic Style**

**February 7: The Formalization of Ethnographic Analysis in American Sociology**

Reading due: William Foote Whyte Street Corner Society chapters 1-4, Conclusion,  
Appendix A  
Paper I Due

**February 14: Culture and Social Organization in 1960s Urban Ethnography**

Reading due: "Research in the Black Ghetto: A Review of the Sixties" (coursepack)  
"Culture and Class in the Study of Poverty..." (coursepack)  
"The Culture of Poverty" (coursepack)  
"Identity and Culture in Negro Low-Income Families" (coursepack)

**February 21: Culture and Social Organization in 1960s Urban Ethnography (continued)**

Reading due: Eliot Liebow Tally's Corner

**Contemporary Approaches to Urban Ethnography**

**March 7: Race, Class, History and Culture**

Reading due: Jay MacLeod Ain't No Making It Part I and Appendix  
(recommended) Ain't No Making It Part II  
Paper II Due

**March 14: Race, Class, History, and Culture (continued)**

**Reading due: John Hartigan, Jr. Racial Situations**

**March 21: Race, Class, and Space**

**Reading due: Elijah Anderson Streetwise**

**March 28: Race, Class, and Space (continued)**

**Reading due: Steven Gregory Black Corona chapters 1-6, 9  
Paper III Due**

**April 4: Race, Class, Space, and Culture**

**Reading due: Philippe Bourgois In Search of Respect chapters 1-4, 6, 7, 9  
"Three Pernicious Premises in the Study of the American Ghetto"  
(coursepack)**

**April 11: Race, Class, Space, and Culture (continued) and Overview of the Course**

**Reading due: Mary Pattillo-McCoy Black Picket Fences  
"Working the Hyphens: Reinventing Self and Other..." (coursepack)  
Paper IV Due**

**FINAL PAPER DUE:**

**MONDAY APRIL 22, 2002  
5:00 P.M.  
SOCIOLOGY MAILBOX  
LSA BUILDING ROOM 3009**