

SOCI 155
City of San Diego
Fall 2009

Instructor: Cristin M. McVey, Ph.D.
Class Times: Tues 6:00 - 8:50 pm
Office Location: SSB 463

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Class Location: WLH 2205
Office Hours: Tues 11:30-12:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides a solid introduction to the City of San Diego, educates students about the diversity of experience in the city, and encourages students to pursue their own research and personal interests in urban sociology. With that said, my specific goals for the course are as follows:

1. To introduce relevant data and findings generated by sociologists and other social scientists about San Diego and to link our discussion of the City of San Diego to theoretical perspectives of urban sociologists and urbanists.
2. To apply our “sociological imaginations” to the City of San Diego as we tackle the many problems facing the city in the next decade. To name just a few would be affordable housing, relocation of San Diego airport, budget crisis, and public safety.
3. To understand the “trajectory” of San Diego politics and its influence on public debate and social policies

TEXTS

1. “SOCI 155 Course Reader” will be available through University Readers (www.universityreaders.com). A copy of the reader will be available on reserve at the Main Library.
2. Logan and Molotch’s Urban Fortunes. Available at Groundwork Books at the Student Center in the Grove.
3. Various publications and materials available on the Internet and Library Reserves.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation: Students are required to visit two off-campus sites and write a 2-3 page response, incorporating the readings and lectures. In addition, each week we may have an in-class assignment and/or pop-quiz on the readings and/or concepts from lecture. Students must earn 100 points on all assignments to receive full credit for class participation. In-class assignments cannot be made up after class.

Course Project: Each student will be responsible for creating a Tour of San Diego. Students are encouraged to do a group project (no more than three students per group). Students must include visual images in the final presentation. Students can create a simple PowerPoint slide show with text accompanying each image as well as submit a summary of the project and its relationship to course themes. Length of project: 5-6 pages, 7-9 images (individual project); 7-8 pages, 10-12 images (group project).

Due: Tuesday, November 24 (in class)

Research Paper: Each student must write a 5-7 page research paper on an important sociological issue facing San Diego. In developing their research, students must utilize at least 3-4 readings

from the course syllabus, one of which must be Logan And Molotch's *Urban Fortunes*. Students will be graded not only on the quality of the research but also on the linkages made to course themes and materials.

Due: Tuesday, December 1 (in-class)

Festival of Images: Students will be required to attend the "Festival of Images" on the time and place scheduled for the final exam. For the event, we will take a series of "tours" of San Diego through the eyes of the students in the class. Presenters will be notified by **Week 10** if their tour was chosen for the festival. *Failure to attend the festival will result in a 20% deduction in the Course Project grade.*

Festival Date: Tuesday, December 8 from 7:00-9:00 pm

GRADES

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 15% |
| Research Paper | 45% |
| Course Project/Festival | 40% |

READING ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK ONE: San Diego Boosters and Location of Memory

September 29

**Logan and Molotch, Chapter 2, "Places as Commodities", p. 17-39

Norman Klein, "Histories of Forgetting" from *The History of Forgetting* (1997)

Lucinda Eddy, "Visions of Paradise" in *Journal of San Diego History*, Summer 1995, Vol. 41, Num 3.

<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/95summer/visions.htm>

WEEK TWO: San Diego Governance

October 6

**Logan and Molotch, Chapter 3, "The City as Growth Machine", p. 57-97

City Organizational Chart <http://www.sandiego.gov/orgchart/pdf/orgchart2.pdf>

City Council Map <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/>

WEEK THREE: Temporary Paradise

October 13

**Uldis Ports, "Geraniums vs. Smokestacks" in *Journal of San Diego History*, Summer 1975, Vol. 21, No. 3

<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/75summer/geraniums.htm>

Appleyard and Lynch, *Temporary Paradise* (1974)

<http://gort.ucsd.edu/edocs/local/temp Paradise.pdf>

**Christine Killory, “Temporary Suburbs” *Journal of San Diego History*, Winter-Spring 1993, Volume 39, Numbers 1-2
<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/93spring/suburbs.htm>

WEEK FOUR: Housing: Part I

October 20

**Logan and Molotch, Chapter 4, “Homes: Exchange and Sentiment”, 99-124; 139-146

Professor Piggington’s Econo-Almanac for the Landed Poor
piggington.com

WEEK FIVE: Housing: Part II

October 27

DUE: Course Project Theme and Short Summary (DRAFT)

**Leonard Nevarez’s “Spaces of Lifestyle” from *New Money, Nice Town* (2003)

**Kevin Starr’s “Mind Games” and “Play Ball!” in *Coast of Dreams* (2004)

SANDAG, “Solving the San Diego Region’s Housing Crisis”
http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_37_3412.pdf

WEEK SIX: UCSD

November 3

**Mary Ellen Stratthaus, “Flaw in the Jewel” in *American Jewish History*, 84:3 (1996)

**Abe Shragge’s “Growing Up Together: The University of California’s One Hundred-Year Partnership with the San Diego Region” in *The Journal of San Diego History*, 47:4
<https://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-4/ucsd.htm>

Thomas Jamison, “La Jolla Hermosa: A Subdivision Triumph”, *Journal of San Diego History*, Summer 1985, Vol. 31, Num. 3
<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/85summer/hermosa.htm>

FILM: *Captain Milkshake*, dir. Richard Crawford, Richmark, 1970.

WEEK SEVEN: Redevelopment Districts

November 10

DUE: Research Paper Topic/Thesis/Source List (DRAFT)

**Logan and Molotch, Chapter 5, “How Government Matters”, p. 151-192

Peter Schrag’s “The Spirit of 13” in *Paradise Lost* (1998) (On Reserve at Library)

**Reiner Hof's San Diegans Inc.: The Formative Years, 1958-1963 in *Journal of San Diego History*, Winter 1990, Vol. 36, Num. 1
<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/90winter/sdinc.htm>

About San Diego's Downtown Redevelopment
http://www.ccdc.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/aboutCCDC.redev_defined

WEEK EIGHT: Low-Intensity Class Warfare

November 17

**Logan and Molotch, Chapter 6, "Overcoming Resistance to Value-Free Development", p. 209-228

**Mike Davis, "Fortress L.A." from *City of Quartz* (1990)

FILM: *Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story*, dir. Garret Scott, First Run (2002)

WEEK NINE: Bucking the System

November 24

DUE: Course Project (FINAL DRAFT)

**Robert Alvarez, Jr., "The Lemon Grove Incident", *Journal of San Diego History*, Spring 1986, Vol. 32, Num. 2

<http://sandiegohistory.org/journal/86spring/lemongrove.htm>

**Larralde and del Castillo, "San Diego's Ku Klux Klan: 1920-1980," *Journal of San Diego History*, Spring/Summer 2000, Vol. 46, Num. 2-3

<http://sandiegohistory.org/journal/2000-2/klan.htm>

Estes, "Offensive Stupidity," and the Struggle of Abe Tokunoske, *Journal of San Diego History*, Fall 1982, Vol. 28, Num. 4

<http://sandiegohistory.org/journal/82fall/offensive.htm>

Estes and Estes, "Further and Further Away: The Relocation of San Diego's Nisei Community, 1942" *Journal of San Diego History*, Winter-Spring 1993, Vol. 39, Num. 1-2

<http://sandiegohistory.org/journal/93spring/further.htm>

WEEK TEN: Regional Hybridities

December 1

DUE: Research Paper (FINAL DRAFT)

**Logan and Molotch, Chapter 7, "The Dependent Future", 257-292

Lawrence Herzog's "Global Tijuana"

FINALS WEEK: "FESTIVAL OF IMAGES" (Attendance Required!!)

December 8