

SOCIOLOGY 350: City and Community Life

Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor Melinda Milligan

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Prerequisites: Major or minor in Sociology or permission of instructor.

General Education: No.

Please note information below is subject to change.

Course Description & Objectives

In Fall 2009, Sociology 350 will have a special emphasis throughout the semester on the sociology of historic preservation, with attention paid to preservation issues in post-Katrina New Orleans and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Overall, Sociology 350 will focus on the social psychology of urban and community life. It is concerned with everyday life within the built environment. We will explore questions about how people organize their relationships to one another and to physical spaces such as cities, neighborhoods, and dwellings. We will cover topics such as the culture of public life; space, place, and place attachment; patterns of interaction in urban and neighborhood settings; the sociological debate surrounding loss of community; private, parochial, and public relationships and realms of interaction; and the personal and social consequences of varying patterns of urban form, i.e., patterns of the built environment.

Thematic areas to be examined include: (1) classic sociological conceptions of city and community life; (2) public life and the world of the street; (3) fear of public spaces and responses to that fear; (4) place, place attachment, and community; (5) the architectural and urban planning movement known as the “New Urbanism” and, as noted above, (6) the sociological study of historic preservation and the role of the debate over preservation in the post-Katrina rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf South.

Note: Sociology 350 falls into the substantive area of “Microsociology” for the Sociology Major Requirements.

Required Texts:

A list of the required texts will be emailed to enrolled students prior to the start of the semester.

Course Assignments:

The course will require papers and exams, with an emphasis on application of course concepts to real-world situations. There will be opportunities for individual and class field trips to local historic sites. Details will be provided in the syllabus.