**Overall Questions**

What are some of the key concepts and readings that you’d include in an urban sociology syllabus and what do they tell us about the urban?

* Classic urban sociology
  + Du Bois
    - Best piece of urban sociology I’ve ever read
    - Pay attention to methods and comprehensiveness
    - Argument he is making
  + Chicago school concentric circle model
  + Simmel: blasé attitude
* Urban political economy
  + Florida: new urban inequality
  + Harvey: right to the city
  + Zukin: the influence of culture, prob another book or chapter on Disney
* Ethnography
  + Evicted: blending of methods and stories
  + Sidewalk: methodological questions
  + Code of the Street: speak to perspective and experiences
  + Har
* Gentrification
  + Zukin: authenticity, chapters on state vs private led gent
  + Freeman: paper on displacement, there goes the hood
  + Timberlake: think about gentrification as not only race-based
* Segregation
  + Wilson:
  + Massey and Denton:
* Housing policy
  + Schwartz: intro, trends, financing, public housing, fair housing, homeownership
  + Jacobs: Ch1 intro, sidewalks, mixed development read with moses
  + Pattillo: housing as a commodity—social dynamics of housing

Not included

* When a heart turns rock solid: life on and off the streets
* Phillip Bourgiois: in search of respect

How did the structure vs. agency debate play out in your readings for this exam?

* Gentrification literature
  + Structure vs agency
* Neighborhood effects and concentrated poverty
  + Structure’s effect on individuals
* Federal Housing policy
  + Determine limits to individual actions
  + Homeownership is the result of structure making individual choice possible

Pulling from different readings throughout your list, how has segregation and social inequality always been a part of the urban experience?

* Engles: class segregation, reserve army of labor for capital development
* Chicago school: segregation of uses, nativity, and life cycle
* Florida: city produces more and more inequality, catering to the creative class
* Evicted, gentrification literature, zoning: segregation of housing tenure and land use
* Wilson: result of social and economic processes deindustrialization, ghetto concentration
* Massey: segregation is the organizing principal of contemporary American society
  + Has been since the 1920s

What readings have been influential in thinking your dissertation topic?

* Massey: segregation is the organizing principal of contemporary American society
  + Has been since the 1920s, contradicting Wilson
* Gentrification literature: what is driving the middle class into poor neighborhoods
* Sharkey: intergenerational transfer of poverty------> affordability through families or through cities

**Classical Readings in Urban Sociology**

How have different urban theorists conceived of the city?

* Engles as a reserve army of
* Chicago school
  + Loop, transition, working mans, residential, commuter zones
  + competition, invasion, succession, and segregation
* Florida: engine of economic growth and inequality
* Logan and Molotch: growth machine

What effect does living in a city have on individuals as opposed to living somewhere else?

* Wirth: Large, dense, heterogeneous concentration of people
* Simmel: Blasé attitude
* Engles: alienation and exploitation
* DuBois: Position in racial hierarchy conditions experience of city

How are some of the concerns of classical urban theory that are still relevant today?

* Spatial laboratory
* Blasé attitude
* Gentrification and concentric zone model
* Du Dois and segregation

**Urban Political Economy**

What are some of the different ways that urban political economists define the city and how do they contrast to classical theorists?

* Logan and Molotch: growth machine governing urban property relations
  + Reconceiving of urban development as a conflict between use value and exchange value
  + Different actors have different interests in promoting growth of the city
* Florida: centers of cultural production, consumption, and technological innovations
  + Centers for production of inequality
* Abu Lougod: cities have always been centers of globalization and connected to global flows of capital
* Harvey: citizens have a right to share in the decisions that structure the urban environment

What is the city for these thinkers?

* See above

What is the “right to the city” and why is this discussion important?

* The city is in constant process of being remade by the capitalist class
* Everyday ordinary citizens deserve a role in deciding how the urban environment is developed

How does the local and global work together?

* The global must happen somewhere
* The global can be thought of in someways as an amorphous process that sterilizes, collapses space, and makes every place the same
* the local is the context in which that happens and the context that shapes the global

**Urban Ethnography**

Describe the power and importance of ethnography using some of the authors you’ve read.

* Convincingly tells a story while analyzing data that resonates with readers and hopefully helps to change their minds or their thinking on issues
* Zukin and gentrification literature
  + Authenticity
  + Sterilization of culture

How does Pattillo’s concern with the poor working class relate to that of Anderson’s?

* Anderson’s old heads are similar to Pattillo’s middleman/woman
  + they intercede on behalf of individuals trying to help them in someway
  + really about the tensions of people that look like them trying to help them navigate the system of rules that doesn’t always benefit them
    - get them jobs, navigate local politics, advocate for them

How does Desmond address issues of structure and agency with his policy suggestions?

* Policies
  + Housing voucher is universal
  + Landlords have to accept
  + Free legal assistance to prosecute discrimination
* Still within framework of housing vouchers (agency) but grants protections against discrimination (structure)
* Misses the point of his own work
  + That poor people are systematically disadvantaged
  + How likely are landlords to accept? ----> litigation can take years, Fair Housing Act
  + Limited to neighborhoods they already know
  + Legal aid doesn’t guaranty people will accept

**Gentrification**

What is gentrification and what are some of its central debates?

* Upgrading of a neighborhood, influx of higher income groups, displacement, usually involves race and the cultural transformation of the neighborhood
* Supply vs demand side
  + housing supply, minimal investment to capture rent gap that drives
  + cultural consumption patterns of gentrifiers that change the neighborhood
* Quant vs qual
  + What is the scale? Happening everywhere or just some places
    - 16% of neighborhoods
  + Who is being displaced and how frequent?
    - Freeman says poor are more like to stay
    - Qual seems to think it’s everywhere
    - Planetary gentrification literature
* Material vs cultural
  + How separate material upgrading of neighborhood from gentrification
  + How is culture changing? Are both necessary
  + What is the role of race?
    - Timberlake and Sampson papers suggest otherwise

How does race fit into the debates about gentrification?

* Mixed reviews
  + Popular vision of gentrification talks about it in racial terms
    - Colonialization and cultural genocide of a neighborhood
    - Signaled by the influx of white, middle class hipsters
  + Freeman
    - Some black homeowners in harlem benefited
    - Addressing of their concerns and bringing of resources
  + Original definition does not include race
    - Ability to pay higher rent
    - Tends to down play middle class minorities that move into neighborhoods
    - How do we talk about it in other countries where there are less stark racial lines
  + Clearly an intersection of race and class

Why do debates about gentrification seem to have persisted?

* Structure vs agency
  + Shifts in occupational structure that drive gentrifers to neighborhoods or the desire to profit from the rent gap?
  + Individual consumption choices of gentrifiers
* So little consensus along all the divides

What are the demand- and supply-side theories?

* Supply
  + Neil Smith: The pursuit of the rent gap
    - The difference between what its current use and its highest and best use
    - Luxury apartments vs tenements
  + Availability of housing stock for higher uses attracts more wealth individuals, drives up prices, and displaces local and longtime residents
  + How capital changes neighborhoods
* Demand
  + David Ley: Changes in the occupational structure that have created a new urban middle class with specific cultural tastes and consumption patterns
    - This class is driving the desire for higher and better uses (driving supply)
  + How culture changes neighborhoods

**Residential Segregation and the Ghetto**

What is segregation, how is it measured, and what are some of the trends?

* **Segregation**: involves the separation of socially defined groups in space, such that members of one group are disproportionally concentrated in one set to geographical units compared to others in the population
* **Measures**
  + **clustering**: the tendency of geographical units to cluster in space
  + **centralization**: the tendency of them to be located around a single point
  + **concentration**: refers to the amount of physical space they occupy
  + **evenness**: the degree to which two or more groups are evenly distributed
    - dissimilarity index
  + **isolation**: the degree to which individuals inhabit areas that are primarily inhabited by people from their own group
    - isolation index
* **trends**
  + pre-1980s
    - hyper-segregated: high on 4 out of 5 measures
      * blacks were only group
  + post 1980s
    - black-white segregation has decreased somewhat
    - increase in socioeconomic segregation
      * highest was political ideology
      * levels of black-white segregation are still twice as high
  + levels of segregation did not change much for Hispanics or Asians even after the large influx of immigrant’s post 1965

What is the underclass and how does this debate relate to the concentrated poverty debate?

* Debate arises out of the nexus of the culture of poverty arguments
  + That it’s the culture of people in poverty that is the source of their problems
  + Their culture is bad, a tangle of pathologies
  + Reduced the structural sources of problems to their culture
* Wilson’s *Truly Disadvantaged*
  + Take seriously the structural and economic conditions and cultural situations
  + Structural causes
    - historical discrimination and concentration in urban areas
  + Spatial mismatch theory
    - Jobs were not were no longer near them
    - poor labor market attachment, suburbanization of jobs, and changes in labor market
  + shifts to cultural explanations
    - out migration of black middle class
    - no more role models
    - shortage of marriageable black men
  + underclass is the result of a new form of concentrated poverty
* Massey and Denton’s *American Apartheid*
  + Agree with much of thrust but not the mechanism
  + Segregation
    - This heightened the consequences of the structural transformation of labor on black communities
    - Concentrate effects in smaller community
  + Rebuttal to Wilson
    - Middle class out movers does not explain effect
    - Not a new phenomenon: Great Depression poverty levels were just as high
    - Class segregation is still low for blacks
    - It is segregation
      * Hyper segregated
      * Levels of segregation for blacks remained high as compared to Hispanics and asisans
      * Blacks are equally segregated across the spectrum

What are some the critiques of the concept of concentrated poverty?

* Dispersal Consensus
  + Moving out a poor individual doesn’t make them any less poor or remove structural forces

What are some different ways to define the ghetto and what is the debate about using the term?

* Classic ghetto
  + Defined by characteristic of outside world
  + not a matter of the individual choice, can’t opt out
  + not just race
* Outcast ghetto
  + The classic ghetto but with addition
  + Ghetto economy that is closed off from everyone else
* Hyper ghetto
  + Excises the spatial and becomes a set of persons, nothing to do with space

Debate over the ghetto’s use: Mario Smalls

* More heterogeneity than researchers assume
* ghettos represent the stereotype not the typical
* there is not one ubiquitous state actor, but several (federal, state, local)
* ghettos are constrained choices that black residents make

only heterogeneity is an actual argument against, but I don’t buy his argument

* looks at the density in a few handpicked neighborhoods and shows there is density across cities
* St. Louis, Philly, NYC
* That density mirrors the cities size, almost perfectly

**Housing Policy and the Foreclosure Crisis**

What are the dominant themes of federal housing and the larger policy context?

* Homeownership
  + Promoted homeownership
    - HOLC and FHA
      * 30-year self-amortizing loan to make housing more accessible
      * Lender insurance to reduce risk, make more affordable
    - Fannie Mae
      * Second mortgage market thus providing market liquidity
    - Mortgage interest deduction
      * Single biggest subsidy after healthcare
* Income integration
  + Low Income Housing Tax Credit
    - Tax credit to developers
  + Gautreax
    - Dispersal consensus forced
  + Move to Opportunity and Section 8
    - Dispersal consensus experiment
  + HOPE VI
    - 1993 program to demolish public housing and build low density, higher quality housing
    - 6 billion to develop 262 projects in 34 states
  + Choice programs
    - 1:1 development

What does housing discrimination look like and what policies have been developed in response?

* Disparate treatment
  + Differences in treatment
  + Individuals are treated differently because of protected class
* Disparate impact
  + Unequally affected
  + No loans under 300,000---> mostly whites
* Fair Housing Act of 1968
  + Banned steering
  + Banned discrimination
  + Blockbusting
  + Little enforcement, until 1988, but still not as widely used
  + 2012 housing audit said it was stil around
* Home Mortgage Disclosure Act 1975
  + Lenders have to disclose information on loans being made
* Community Reinvestment Act 1977
  + Banks have to lend to community from which they draw deposits

How has public housing policy changed since it began in the 1930s?

* Preservation to demolition
  + Public housing to HOPE VI
* Policy context
  + Wilson: Concentrated poverty
  + President Bill Clinton: neoliberal approach
  + Developers: gentrification

What were some of the causes of the Foreclosure Crisis?

* Massey and segregation
  + Not:
    - Overbuilding
    - excessive lending
    - housing price inflation
    - failure to evaluate creditworthiness