

Special Topics in Sociology: The Sociology of Detroit

SOC 2100 (CRN #: 16375; Section #: 002) Fall 2014

Fridays 9:35AM – 12:20PM

0137 OLD MAIN

Joseph J. Byle

(248)-935-8423

Email: br7246@wayne.edu

Website: josephbyle.weebly.com

Description: This course has two goals. First, it covers the historical and contemporary effects of racial segregation on racial inequality in Metro Detroit. Secondly, it assesses the role religious organizations have played in pushing for greater racial and social equality in the region.

Required Texts:

Farley, Reynolds, Sheldon Danziger, and Harry J. Holzer. 2002. *Detroit Divided*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. ISBN: 0871542811

Sugrue, Thomas J. 1996. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton, N.J. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691058881

Warren, Mark R. 2001. *Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Revitalize American Democracy*. Princeton, N.J. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0-691-07431-3

Dillard, Angela 2007 *Faith in the City*
Ann Arbor, MI. University of Michigan Press. ISBN: 0-472-03207-0

Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students should gain a deeper understanding of Detroit that moves beyond the typical news headlines, and that reflects the broader sociological and historical perspectives. By gaining a sociological perspective students will better understand group and racial relations within and around the city, and by gaining a historical perspective students will have a better understanding of how certain events and trends of the past have shaped the Detroit we know today. Part of this historical perspective will include the significant role religion played in the civil rights and labor movements within the city. With these perspectives students should have a better understanding of the challenges facing the city which should motivate them to access their role in making the city a better place.

Course Requirements:

Reaction Papers: Students are required to write **six** 1 to 2 page reaction papers (12 point Times New Roman double spaced). Included in the reaction papers is a summary and critique of the readings. That is, what is/are the main arguments made in the readings? What are the major implications for these arguments in regards to the racial inequality and/or religion and social justice? Are the authors' arguments valid? Why or Why not? Students have the option of re-writing 3 of their reaction papers during the course of the term. These papers are worth a total of 150 points.

Quizzes: There will be **six** quizzes each worth 20 points. The lowest score will be dropped to make a total of 100 possible points.

Note: If you miss class on a quiz day you cannot make it up, however, you can either choose to drop it, or you can write a reaction paper which, like quizzes, will be worth 20 points.

Class Participation: Class participation is vital and is worth 50 points. To participate fully students must complete the assigned readings before class meetings and attend class regularly to discuss them. In addition, students are to share a minimum of three current events on scheduled days. **Note:** You may share a current event on a week that you are not scheduled, but there will be no extra credit given for additional current events.

Attendance Policy: All students are allowed 2 unexcused absences without penalty, but after the 3rd absence there will be an 8 point reduction for each unexcused absence. I will excuse absences for extreme emergencies and for students who have a note from their doctor. Students who are more than 10 minutes late for class are considered tardy. Three unexcused tardies equals one absence.

Extra Credit: 20 points for volunteering at least one hour within the City of Detroit. This will be discussed further in class.

Academic Standards

Academic Standards: Students are expected to approach the course with seriousness and integrity. It is important to complete assignments on time, attend class regularly, and foster a collegial learning environment. Plagiarism and other instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the respective assignment. Students should refer to the *WSU Undergraduate Bulletin* and/or the *WSU Graduate Catalog* for clarification on the University's policies and procedures.

Writing. Clear writing is essential for you and me. On-line guides to writing in the English language can be found at the [Grammar and Style resources website](http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/) and the Guide to Grammar and Writing: <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>. The Writing Center, located at 2310 Undergraduate Library (313) 577-2544, is also an excellent writing resource. Their webpage can be found at, <http://www.english.wayne.edu/writing/>

Format. Papers must be prepared on a word processor in one of four formats: text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Microsoft Word (.doc) or Word Perfect (.wpd). Papers must be double spaced, with reasonable font size (10-12) and margins (1 inch), and within the specified length guidelines.

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be based on the following scale:

ACTIVITY	Points
Class Participation	50 points
Reaction Papers	150 points
Quizzes	100 points

Total: 300 points

Grading scale:

285 - 300 = A
269 - 284 = A-
253 - 268 = B+
237 - 252 = B
221 - 236 = B-
205 - 220 = C+
189 - 204 = C
173 - 188 = C-
157 - 172 = D+
141 - 156 = D
125 - 140 = D-
124 and below = Failing

Course Outline:

Week 1 – September 5th Introduction/Black Migration to Urban Centers

Origins of the Urban Crisis: Chapter 1

Detroit Divided: Pp. 14-33

Visit: Gordon L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology

Quiz One

Week 2 – September 12th Historical Segregation Patterns

Origins of the Urban Crisis: Chapters 2 & 3

Detroit Divided: Pp. 34-52

Reaction paper

Week 3 – September 19th White Resistance to Integration

Origins of the Urban Crisis: Chapters 7-9

Detroit Divided: Pp. 144-161

The 1943 Detroit race riots (**In class**)

Quiz Two

Week 4 – September 26th Racial Inequality in Employment

Detroit Divided: Chapter 3-5

Reaction paper

Week 5 – October 3rd Contemporary Racial Segregation

Detroit Divided: Pp. 161-177, Chapter 7

American Apartheid: Chapter 4 (On Reserve at Blackboard)

Quiz Three

Week 6 – October 10th Consequences of Segregation

American Apartheid: Chapters 5 (On Reserve at Blackboard)

Reaction paper

Week 7 – October 17th Racial Attitudes

Required Readings:

Detroit Divided: Chapter 8

New segregation: Races accept divide (Blackboard)

Quiz Four

Week 8 – October 24th Civil Rights & Religion

Reaction paper

Faith in the City: Intro-Chapter 2

Reaction paper

Week 9 – October 31st No Class-volunteer/extra credit week

Week 10 – November 7th Civil Rights & Religion II

Faith in the City: Chapter 3 – Chapter 5

Quiz Five

Week 11 – November 14th Post Civil Rights

Chapter 6 & Conclusion

Week 12 – November 21st Museum Visit

Dry Bones Rattling: Chapters Introduction, 1 & 2

Quiz Six

Week 13 – November 28th No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 14 – December 5th Interracial Coalitions

Dry Bones Rattling: Chapters 3 – 7

Reaction paper

Week 16 – December 12th No Class (Last day to turn in work).