



INTS 361: Neighborhood, Community, & Identity

3 credits | TR 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm | Nguyen Engineering Building 1108

Popular culture romanticizes notions of neighborhood and community, but rarely do we question the meanings behind these images. The central concerns of this course are who controls access to physical space and symbolic space, how do spaces shape communities, how do individuals and communities shape spaces to reflect who they are, who gets to belong within these spaces, and how have communities challenged systemic inequalities around race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability. Through readings, case studies, and original observations, this course deconstructs the meanings behind neighborhood and community and explores the challenging yet meaningful work of community building.

As a participant in this learning community, you can expect to:

- ✓ Understand how physical space is created;
- ✓ Articulate how individuals interact to create social and symbolic spaces;
- ✓ Discuss the role of community in shaping identity;
- ✓ Define and apply the concepts of neighborhood and community;
- ✓ Examines processes of neighborhood formation and transformation in the context of urbanism, suburbanism, immigration, and transmigration;
- ✓ Discuss theoretical perspectives defining urban and suburban growth;
- ✓ Identify the ways in which physical and social space are controlled or constrained.

****UPDATED 8/30/2019****

Mason Core

This course meets the “exploration” requirement of Mason Core which seeks to acquaint students with the broad range of intellectual domains that contribute to a liberal education. By experiencing subject matter and ways of knowing in a variety of fields, students will be better able to synthesize new knowledge, respond to fresh challenges, and meet the demands of a complex world.

Commitment to Diversity & Student Support

The School of Integrative Studies (SIS) promotes and works to maintain an equitable learning environment. We value all individuals and believe that diversity makes for a richer learning experience. I am open to recommendations for ways to make the classroom a collaborative and inclusive space where students’ voices are heard. If you require accommodations to fully participate in this course, please contact me as soon as possible. On Blackboard I have provided contact information for relevant campus and academic resources and supports.

How to Communicate with Professor Frye



Visit: Enterprise Hall Room 426
Call/text: 571-310-3866 (Google voice)
Email: sfrye4@gmu.edu (Official University Email)
Follow:  Samuel Frye (Professor Frye)
 @ProfessorFrye
Share: slf182@gmail.com (Google docs)

Materials Needed to Succeed in INTS 361

First and foremost, you need an open mind and an eagerness to learn. Beyond that, we will rely heavily on the following two books which can be purchased through the GMU bookstore or from online book vendors. Simply do a web search for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN):

1. Lin, J. & Mele, C. (Eds.) (2013). *The Urban Sociology Reader* (2nd edition). London & New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9780415665315
2. Duneier, M. (1999). *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux. ISBN: 9780374527259

Note: Additional readings will be assigned and provided to you on Blackboard.

Learning Assignments At-A-Glance

Point Value	Graded Assignment
300	Observational Studies (4 @ 75 pts. ea.)
200	Neighborhood Study (Blackboard Presentation + Peer Reviews + Paper)
200	Reading Discussant (4 @ 50 pts. ea.)
100	Attendance & Participation (25 class periods @ 4 pts. ea.)
100	Midterm Exam (Take-home)
100	<i>Sidewalk</i> Blackboard Discussions (5 @ 20 pts. ea.)
Total: 1,000	

Summary* of Learning Assessments

*Note: Additional instructions and grading rubrics for the following assignments will be provided in class and/or on Blackboard.

Observational Studies (300 points): Four times throughout the semester you will conduct observations of a space of your choosing: The first space will be on-campus and the remaining three observations will take place in an off-campus neighborhood of your choosing.

Neighborhood Study (200 points): The observations mentioned above will form the basis of a written neighborhood study (ethnography) you will produce and present to the class as the culminating activity for this course.

Reading Discussant (200 points): Four times during the semester, you will be asked to complete a 2-page typed summary/analysis of the assigned readings for that day using a template I provide to you. In addition to the assigned readings, you must also choose one scholarly article that relates to the day's topics. Articles will be uploaded to Blackboard at least 48 hours before your assigned due date. Students completing summaries will be expected to lead the discussion for the day. Please note that to receive credit for your reading discussant, you must attend class on the day you are assigned to lead class discussion.

Attendance & Participation (100 points): You can earn four points for each class period, up to a maximum of 100 points. However, to receive full credit, you must do more than just show up. This course integrates experiential and community-based learning as a key component. Learning occurs through active participation in community work and class activities, discussion, and personal reflection upon experiences. In class and web-based assignments based on the reading materials and group experiences will be factored into the participation grade. Further, you must be present for the entire class period to receive full credit unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Midterm Exam (100 points): Approximately halfway through the course, you will complete a take-home exam in the form of essay questions, the prompts for which you will receive several days before the exam is due. These essay questions will test your understanding of course content and help prepare you for your neighborhood study.

Sidewalk Blackboard Discussions (100 points): Five times throughout the semester, you will participate in a Blackboard forum to discuss issues presented in the *Sidewalk* book to help you better understand and apply major course concepts.

Final Course Grade Calculations

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage	Letter Grade	Points	Percentage
A ⁺	1,000-970	100-97%	C ⁺	799-770	79-77%
A	969-930	96-93%	C	769-730	76-73%
A ⁻	929-900	92-90%	C ⁻	729-700	72-70%
B ⁺	899-870	89-87%	D	699-600	69-60%
B	869-830	86-83%	F	599-000	59-00%
B ⁻	829-800	82-80%			

For information on course policies, classroom etiquette, and university supports and services, please refer to Blackboard.

Proposed Course Schedule

The following calendar outlines course topics, required readings, learning assignments, and due dates. I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and course schedule for pedagogical reasons. I will notify you when changes occur.

***USR = Urban Sociology Reader**

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Aug. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome, Introductions, & Expectations 	—
Aug. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding constructed and symbolic space: Part I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USR*, pp. 429-432 Blackboard reading
Sep. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding constructed and symbolic space: Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackboard reading
Sep. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying space: Part I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USR, pp. 58-67

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Sep. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studying space: Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sidewalk, Introduction & Appendix: A Statement on Method ▪ Blackboard reading ✓ Discussant due in class
Sep. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No face-to-face meeting -- Observation workday 	-
Sep. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss observations 	✓ Observations due in class
Sep. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining community: Agricultural societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 16-22 ▪ Sidewalk, The Book Vender ✓ Discussant due in class
Sep. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining community: Industrial societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 23-41 ▪ Sidewalk, The Magazine Vendors ✓ Discussant due in class ✓ <i>Sidewalk</i> discussion due @ 11:59 pm
Sep. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban growth: Ecological perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 42-49; 83-99 ▪ Sidewalk, The Men Without Accounts ✓ Discussant due in class
Oct. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban growth: Political economy perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 100-117 ▪ Sidewalk, How Sixth Avenue Became a Sustaining Habitat ✓ Discussant due in class
Oct. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining neighborhoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ USR, pp. 50-57 ✓ Blackboard reading ✓ Discussant due in class ✓ <i>Sidewalk</i> discussion due @ 11:59 pm
Oct. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood cultures: Part I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 349-369 ▪ Sidewalk, Sidewalk Sleeping ✓ Discussant due in class
Oct. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood cultures: Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 370-387 ▪ Sidewalk, When You Gotta Go ✓ Discussant due in class
Oct. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Midterm exam take-home – No face-to-face meeting 	✓ Observations due in class
Oct. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss observations in class 	-

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Oct. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Racialized spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 183-201; 234-241 ▪ Sidewalk, Talking to Women ✓ Discussant due in class ✓ Midterm due @ 11: 59 pm
Oct. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Racialized spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 202-233 ▪ Sidewalk, Accusations: Caveat Vendor? ✓ Discussant due in class ✓ <i>Sidewalk</i> discussion due @ 11:59 pm
Oct. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gendered spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 249-269 ▪ Sidewalk, The Space Wars: Competing Legalities ✓ Discussant due in class
Oct. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Space and sexuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USR, pp. 270-295 ▪ Sidewalk, A Christmas on Sixth Avenue ✓ Discussant due in class
Nov. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Space and disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blackboard reading ▪ Sidewalk, A Scene from Jane Street ✓ Discussant due in class
Nov. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Observations due in class ✓ <i>Sidewalk</i> discussion due @ 11:59 pm
Nov. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Politics of housing: Part I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blackboard reading ▪ Sidewalk, Conclusion ✓ Discussant due in class
Nov. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Politics of housing: Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blackboard reading ▪ Sidewalk, Afterward by Hakim Hasam ✓ Discussant due in class
Nov. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suburban sprawl: Part I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blackboard reading ✓ Discussant due in class ✓ <i>Sidewalk</i> discussion due @ 11:59 pm

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Nov. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suburban sprawl: Part II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USR, pp. 68-76 Blackboard reading ✓ Discussant due in class
Nov. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USR, pp. 301-315; 334-342 Blackboard reading ✓ Discussant due in class ✓ Observations due in class
Dec. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social control in the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USR, pp. 393-413 ✓ Discussant due in class
Dec. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare neighborhood study presentation – No face-to-face meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Neighborhood study presentation due @ 11:59 pm
Dec. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare neighborhood study presentation – No face-to-face meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Neighborhood study presentation peer reviews due @ 11:59 pm
Dec. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare neighborhood study write-up – No face-to-face meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Neighborhood study write-up due @ 11:59 pm

Please ask two classmates to be your contacts for notes and other course happenings if you miss class:

Name	Email	Cell
1.		
2.		