

WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2008 URBAN SOCIOLOGY MIDTERM!

There are three sections to the exam. Read ALL below instructions carefully.

Please type your answers and print them. Make sure your NAME and COURSE SECTION NUMBER are at the top of each page.

Admittedly, this exam is long, but you will have over two weeks to complete it. Do not leave it all until the night before because it will be IMPOSSIBLE to finish in one sitting.

SECTION I (2 pages + photos – 40% of grade)

You will be required to go on one of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum's (<http://www.tenement.org/>) many walking tours of NYC.

To choose which walking tour you will go on visit their Immigrant Heritage Trail website.

<http://immigrantheritagetrail.org/?q=node/898>

Before you start the self-guided tour you must print out the online MAP and PDF. I suggest reading the PDF beforehand so that you know what to expect.

Please then follow the below instructions:

1. Photograph yourself at three or more of the tour sites and attach it to the exam so that I know you were actually there!
2. Write a solid TWO pages about how the tour that you visited connects to topics covered in the course. This should not be a SUMMARY instead it should be an analysis of the exhibition. Consider answering some of the following questions: Is this tour interesting, why/why not? How did this tour relate to topics covered in class, which topics? Did you like it, why/why not? Would you recommend this tour to other people, why/why not? What was excluded that you would have liked to see included? What would you have liked to learn more about? Why did you choose this particular tour?

SECTION II (6 pages – 40% of grade)

This section is designed to help you make progress on your Final Research paper. Using Ebsco-host, JSTOR, and/or ProjectMUSE please find **3 academic journal articles** (not newspapers) closely related to your research topic.

Write a 1 page summary of each article.

Write a 1 page explanation of what research or theories you found in the article that you will use in your final paper. Ask yourself questions like: Could this be a comparative case study? Is there any useful data here? Does the author share the same ideas or positions as me on this controversy? Who is this topic impacting and how?

SECTION III (2 pages – 20% of grade)

Choose two or the three questions below. Answer them based on the readings and in class discussion. Remember, I am looking for more than definitions, you should be able to make connections between the concepts and reflect on them.

1. How is city space organized differently in the United States than in Europe? What is the core and what is the periphery? Who lives in each in U.S. cities? Who lives in each in European cities? Did cities in the Soviet Union have a core and periphery? How is city space organized in most cities in the “third world” – what does the periphery look like?

2. Describe how the criminalization of the homeless occurs in most American cities. Then discuss whether the case in the following article (title & summary below) is different or not. Finally make an informed hypothesis (guess) about what Mike Davis might say about this new local policy.

October 11, 2007 – The New York Times ran a story with the headline “LOS ANGELES TO PERMIT SLEEPING ON SIDEWALKS.” The lead paragraph explains, “City officials agreed Wednesday NOT to enforce an ordinance used to bolster police sweeps of homeless people sleeping on sidewalks until 1,250 units of low-cost housing are built.”

3. Political economists would say that THREE policy decisions of the United States government contributed to widespread suburban growth after WWII. What were these policies and how did they impact the North-American landscape? By contrast, how would neoclassical economists explain suburban growth?