PBPL 25700/SOCI 28043: “The Other Chicago,” Summer 2015
Summer Session I (6/22-7/10), MTThF 1:00-3:30 p.m., SS 401

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This urban sociology class combines readings, documentary films, guest speakers, and excursions to explore Chicago—primarily on the South Side—with an emphasis on understanding poverty, crime, urban education, and community empowerment. The course will engage students in project-based learning to develop basic research skills including interviewing, basic demographic data gathering, map-making and spatial analysis, and policy memo writing for a client. This course can count as a “Windows” or “Methods” class in the Public Policy Studies program.

Grading: 25% attendance/involvement
60% Wednesday Papers (3 @ 20% each)
15% Teach Back reflection presentation

Attendance/Participation: Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes and arrive on time. This is a discussion-based class so think of participation as a primary requirement.

Wednesday Papers: Due each Wednesday, these papers provide an opportunity to synthesize reading and experiential materials on several themes and with a client-oriented purpose on the second and third write-ups. Topics are:

1) Historical South Side: African American segregation and the immigrant experience
2) Understanding Crime: memo on key factors of crime, effective policing, spatial analysis
3) Fixing Urban Schools: memo on problems, solutions for youth, demographic data

Wednesday Papers must adhere to these guidelines:
- rigorously engage at least three course readings
- must also include perspectives from guests, excursions, data activities
- can include insights from course films and resources not on the syllabus
- are 1,000-2,000 words and include a word count
- are submitted at Chalk by 5 p.m. on Wednesdays (one point penalty per day late)
- five-hour extensions granted if requested at least 24 hours before deadline

Teach Back: A presentation about your reflections on the class.

Required Book:

WEEK 1: A Historical and Social Overview of the South Side

**Recommended reading:** Nature’s Metropolis, W. Cronon (at Chalk); The Jungle, Upton Sinclair; The Warmth of Other Suns, Isabel Wilkerson

**Recommended media:** “Ghetto Life 101/Remorse,” L. Jones and L. Newman (at Chalk); HBO’s “The Wire” (Season 4); “Hoops Dreams” (documentary film)

6/22 (M): City of the Century: The South Side and the Ascent of Industrial Chicago
- **Read:** Chalk: Spear, Black Chicago, 1890-1920, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 7
- **Read:** Chalk: Spinney, City of Big Shoulders, Chp. 7
- In-class viewing: Excerpts from “City of the Century”

6/23 (Tu): The Great Migrations, the Disappearance of Work, and the Post-Industrial Turn
- **Read:** Chalk: Wilson, When Work Disappears, Chapters 1 and 3
- **Listen at home:** This American Life, “Harper High School, Part 1” (57 min.)
- In-class reading: “How Hyper-selectivity Drives Outcomes,” Contexts
- In-class viewing (excerpt): “Crips and Bloods: Made in America”

6/24 (W): Wednesday Paper due by 5 p.m. at Chalk

6/25 (Th): Growing Up on the South Side: Joblessness and Concentrated Poverty
- **Read:** Jones and Newman, Our America (entire book)
- **Listen at home:** Act of Listening (0-5:50 and 24:00-33:00, 33:00-50:00 rec’ed)
- In-class video: “Geospatial Revolution” (map assignment distributed)
- In-class guests: Rudy Nimocks and Demeatreas Whatley

6/26 (F): South Side Apartheid: Reinventing Areas of Concentrated Poverty
- **Read:** Chalk: Austen, “The Last Tower: The Decline and Fall of Public Housing”
- **Listen at home:** “Whole Foods and Englewood”
- **Listen at home:** This American Life, “Harper High School, Part 2” (62 min.)
- **EXCURSION DAY** (meet at 59th and Ellis at 12:55 p.m.) to Englewood
  - GECDC, Growing Home, Harper High School, foreclosure crisis

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WEEK 2: Social Economies of the South Side

Recommended resources: American Project, S. Venkatesh; Black on the Block: Mary Pattillo; There Are No Children Here, A. Kotlowitz; Children’s Defense Fund, “America’s Cradle to Prison Pipeline”

6/29 (M): The Other Economy: Black Gangs and the Drug Trade on the South Side
  Read: Chalk: Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow (excerpt)
  Read: Chalk: ACLU, “Stop and Frisk in Chicago,” 2015
  View at home: “Welcome to Chiraq”
In-class video: PBS Frontline, “Prison State” (to 24:40 min.)
In-class guest: Gloria Graham, UCPD
  Due: Screenshot of crime map by 10 a.m. at Chalk

6/30 (Tu): Opportunity Cost and Strategic Interventions
  Read: Chalk: Lisa Dodson, Don’t Call Us Out of Name, “Choice and Motherhood”
  Read: Chalk: NYTimes, “Closing the Math Gap for Boys” & “Intensive Tutoring Helps”
  View at home: “Youth Guidance and Becoming a Man”
View at home: Frontline, “The Interrupters”
EXCURSION DAY (meet at 59th and Ellis at 12:55 p.m.)
  • John Walker’s boyhood home, drug economy, foreclosure crisis

7/1 (W): Wednesday Paper due by 5 p.m. at Chalk

7/2 (Th): Graduating Kids from Chicago’s High Schools
  Read: Chalk: Tough, How Children Succeed, Introduction, Chp. 1
  Skim: Chalk: CCSR, “Preventable Failure: Focused on the Ninth Grade”
  Listen at home: This American Life, “Back to School!” (57 min.)
In-class viewing: Frontline, “Middle School Moment” (13 min.)
Demographic data assignment distributed

7/3 (F): The Character Education Debate
  Read: Chalk: Tough, How Children Succeed, Chp. 2
  Read: Chalk: Kohn, “How Not to Teach Values”
  Watch at home: School Project, “Chicago Schools: Worst in the Nation?”
In-class viewing: PBS NOW, “A Radical Fix for Schools” (a turnaround school)
In-class guests: TFA and Chicago charter school teachers
**WEEK 3: Possible Futures of the “Other Chicago”: Education on the South Side**

**Recommended resources**: Consortium on Chicago School Research; *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, Diane Ravitch

7/6 (M): Rethinking Early Childhood Education and CPS


**Read**: Chalk: Heckman, “The Value of Early Childhood Education”

**Listen at home**: WBEZ, “Falling before kindergarten: 30 million word gap” (6 min.)

In-class viewing: Sir Ken Robinson, “Do Schools Kill Creativity?”

In-class guests: Joyce Nimocks, Woodlawn Children’s Promise Community

**Due**: Demographic data tables by 10 a.m. at Chalk

7/7: (Tu): Reinventing Chicago’s Schools

**Read**: Chalk: Gladwell, *Outliers*, Chp. 9, “Marita's Bargain”


**Listen home**: Freakonomics, “Is America’s Ed. Problem a Teacher Problem?” (34m)

**EXCURSION DAY** (meet at 59th and Ellis at 12:55 p.m.)

- UChicago Woodlawn Charter School, 6420 S. University Ave

7/8 (W): **Wednesday Paper due by 5 p.m. at Chalk**

7/9 (Th): Overhauling Chicago’s Public Schools: Charters in Chicago

**Read**: Chalk: Payne, *So Much Reform, So Little Change* (excerpt)

**Watch at home**: Canada, Ted Talk, “Our Failing Schools: Enough is Enough”

In-class viewing and discussion: “Waiting for Superman” (Part 1)

7/10 (F): Which Way(s) Forward?

**Read**: Chalk: Tough, *Whatever It Takes*, Chps. 8, 9, and 11

**Read**: Chalk: Hancock, “Why Are Finland’s Schools Successful?” *Smithsonian*

In-class viewing: “Waiting for Superman” (Part 2)

**Due**: reflection presentation