

CHRISTOPHER G. PRENER, PH.D.

READING LIST

SOC 3220: URBAN SOCIOLOGY & *THE WIRE*
FALL, 2017
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Reading Notes

Reading Abbreviations	
Abbreviation	Full Title
Fernández-Kelly	Fernández-Kelly, Patricia. 2015. <i>The Hero's Fight: African Americans in West Baltimore and the Shadow of the State</i> . Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
Fung & Wright	Fung, Archon and Eric O. Wright, eds. 2003. <i>Deepening Democracy: Institutional Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance</i> . New York, NY: Verso Press.
Potter & Marshall	Potter, T. and C.W. Marshall, eds. 2009. <i>The Wire: Urban Decay and American Television</i> . New York, NY: Continuum International Publishing.

Reading Locations	
Abbreviation	Location
ER	Electronic Reserves
Link	Website URL
PL	Pius Library

Reading List

Week 1 - Week of August 28nd

Course Introduction

Topics

- Monday - Syllabus Overview
- Wednesday - "Doing" Urban Sociology
- Friday - An Introduction to Baltimore

Required Readings

- Monday
 - Bennett, D. 2010. "This Will Be on the Midterm. You Feel Me? Why So Many Colleges Are Teaching 'The Wire'." [slate.com](#). [Link]
- Wednesday
 - Emerson, R., R. Fretz, and L. Shaw. 1995. "Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research." Pp. 1-16 in *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. [ER]
 - Emerson, R., R. Fretz, and L. Shaw. 1995. "In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes." Pp. 17-38 in *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. [ER]
- Friday
 - Fernández-Kelly - Introduction [Link]
 - Fernández-Kelly - Chapters 1 & 2 [ER]
 - Potter & Marshall - pp. 15-36 [ER]

Optional Reading

- Malinowski, B. 1953. "Introduction: The Subject, Method and Scope of this Inquiry." Pp. 1-25 in *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. New York, NY: E.P. Dutton. [ER]

Assignments Due August 30th

- Student Information Sheet and Syllabus Agreement
- Ethnographic Assignment - Release

Week 2 - Week of September 4th

The Urban Imagination

No Class Monday, September 4th - Labor Day

Topics

- Reflections on “Shady Shell”
- The (Urban) Sociological Imagination

Required Readings

- Wednesday
 - Mills, C.W. 1959. “The Promise.” Pp. 1-24 in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. [ER]
- Friday
 - Potter & Marshall - pp. 1-14 [ER]
 - Simon, D. 2009. “Introduction/Prologue.” Pp. 1-31 in *The Wire: Truth Be Told*, edited by R. Alvarez. New York, NY: Grove Press. **Focus on 1-13 & 29-31; skim remainder.** [IR] [ER]

Optional Reading

- Beer, D. and R. Burrows. 2010. “The Sociological Imagination as Popular Culture.” Pp. 232-252 in *New Social Connections: Sociology’s Subjects and Objects*, edited by J. Burnett, S. Jeffers and G. Thomas. New York, NY: Palgrave. [ER]

***The Wire* Episodes**

- Season 1, Episode 1 (**for Friday**)

Assignments Due September 6th

- Ethnographic Assignment - Field notes submitted online *and* brought to class for discussion
- First Pop Reading Notes (only one announced ahead of time)

Week 3 - Week of September 11th

Institutions and Inequality

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Chaddha, A. and W.J. Wilson. 2011. "Way Down in the Hole': Systemic Urban Inequality and *The Wire*." *Critical Inquiry* 38:164-188. [ER]
- Fernández-Kelly - Chapters 5 & 6
- Fuggle, S. 2009. "Short Circuiting the Power Grid: The Wire as a Critique of Institutional Power." *Dark Matter* 4:1-9. [IR] [Link]

***The Wire* Episodes**

- Season 1, Episodes 2, 3, & 4

Optional Readings

- Wacquant, L. 2009. *Punishing the Poor: The Neoliberal Government of Social Insecurity*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [PL]

Assignment Due September 11th

- Ethnographic Assignment - Paper

Week 4 - Week of September 18th

Race and Poverty

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Monday
 - Wacquant, L. 2002. "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the 'Race Question' in the U.S." *New Left Review* 13:41-60. [ER]
- Wednesday & Friday
 - Anderson, E. 1994. "The Code of the Streets." *Atlantic Monthly* May:81-94. [Link]
 - Dreier, P. and J. Atlas. 2009. "The Wire - Bush-Era Fable About America's Urban Poor?" *City & Community* 8:329-340. [IR] [ER]
 - Fernández-Kelly - Chapters 3 & 4

Optional Readings

- Anderson, E. 1999. *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. New York: W.W. Norton. [PL]
- Wilson, W.J. 2009. *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*. New York: W.W. Norton. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 1, Episodes 5, 6, & 7

Assignments Due September 18th

- Census Data Assignment
- Final Project - Memo

Week 5 - Week of September 25th

Police and Social Control

Response Paper Eligible Week

Last Week to Start Response Papers

Required Readings

- Civil Rights Division. 2016. "Report on the Baltimore Police Department - Executive Summary." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. [Link]
- Fernández-Kelly - Chapters 7 & 8
- Micucci, A.J. and I.M. Gomme. 2005. "American Police and Subcultural Support for the Use of Excessive Force." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 33:487-500. [ER]
- Potter & Marshall - Chapters 3 & 4 [IR]
- Western, B. and B. Pettit. 2010. "Incarceration and Social Inequality." *Daedalus* Summer: 8-18. [ER]

Optional Readings

- Fryer Jr., R. 2016. "An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force." *NBER Working Paper* No. 22399. [Link]
- Gelman, A., J. Fagen, and A. Kiss. 2007. "An Analysis of the New York City Police Department's "Stop-and-Frisk" Policy in the Context of Claims of Racial Bias." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 102(479):813-823. [PL]
- Helms, R. and S.E. Costanzab. 2009. "Race, politics, and drug law enforcement: an analysis of civil asset forfeiture patterns across US counties." *Policing and Society* 19(1):1-19. [PL]
- Kohler-Hausmann, I. 2013. "Misdemeanor Justice: Control without Conviction." *American Journal of Sociology* 119(2):351-393. [PL]
- Meares, T.L. 2014. "The Law and Social Science of Stop and Frisk." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 10:335-352. [PL]
- Western B. and C. Muller. 2013. "Mass Incarceration, Macrosociology, and the Poor." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 647(1):166-189. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 1, Episodes 8, 9, & 10

Week 6 - Week of October 2nd

Experiencing "The Game"

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Goffman, A. 2009. "On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto." *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 339-357. [ER]
- Harding, D. 2009. "Violence, Older Peers, and the Socialization of Adolescent Boys in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods." *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 445-464. [ER]
- Pager, D. 2004. "The Mark of a Criminal Record." *Focus* 23(2):44-46. [ER]
- Potter & Marshall - Chapter 7 [IR]

Optional Readings

- Goffman, A. 2014. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. [PL]
- Pager, D. 2003. "The Mark of a Criminal Record." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(5): 937-975. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 1, Episodes 11, 12, & 13

Assignment Due October 2nd

- Last Day to Submit Response Paper 01

Week 7 - Week of October 9th

Deindustrialization

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Bluestone, B. and B. Harrison. 1982. "Closed Plants and Lost Jobs." Pp. 25-48 in *The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closings, Community Abandonment, and the Dismantling of Basic Industry*. New York, NY: Basic Books. [ER]
- McNeil, D. 2009. "White Negroes and The Wire." *Dark Matter*. [IR] [Link]
- Strangleman, T. and J. Rhodes. 2014. "The 'New' Sociology of Deindustrialisation? Understanding Industrial Change." *Sociology Compass* 8(4):411-421. [ER]

Optional Readings

- Bluestone, B. and B. Harrison. 1982. *The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closings, Community Abandonment, and the Dismantling of Basic Industry*. New York, NY: Basic Books. [PL]
- Walley, C. 2013. *Exit Zero: Family and Class in Postindustrial Chicago*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 2, Episodes 1, 2, & 3

Assignment Due

- October 9th - Last Day to Submit Response Paper 02

Week 8 - Week of October 16th

When Work Disappears

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Brady, D. and Wallace, M. 2001. "Deindustrialization and Poverty: Manufacturing Decline and AFDC Reciprocity in Lake County, Indiana 1964-1993." *Sociological Forum* 21: 321-358. [ER]
- Fernández-Kelly - Chapters 13 & 14
- Newman, K. 2003. "The Job Ghetto." *The American Prospect*. [Link]
- Potter and Marshall - Chapter 9 [IR]
- Rosenfeld, J. 2010. "Little Labor: How Union Decline is Changing the American Landscape." *Pathways: A Magazine on Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy*. [Link]

Optional Readings

- Wilson, W.J. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York, NY: Knopf. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 2, Episodes 4, 5, & 6

Assignments Due October 16th

- Last Day to Submit Response Paper 03
- Final Project - Annotated Bibliography

Week 9 - Week of October 23rd

Off the Books: Illegal Labor

No Class Monday, October 23rd - Fall Break

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Bourgois, P. 1997. "Overachievement in the Underground Economy: The Life Story of a Puerto Rican Stick-up Artist in East Harlem." *Free Inquiry* 25(1): 23-32. [ER]
- Fernández-Kelly - Chapters 15 & 16
- Potter and Marshall - Chapter 8 [IR]

Optional Readings

- Bourgois, P. 1995. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. [PL]
- Levitt, S. and S. A. Venkatesh. 2000. "An Economic Analysis of a Drug-Selling Gang's Finances." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*: 755-789. [PL]
- Weitzer, R. 2009. "Sociology of Sex Work." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 213-234. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 2, Episodes 7, 8, & 9

Week 10 - Week of October 30th

Ghettos & Hipsters: Place, Poverty, & Gentrification

Response Paper Eligible Week

Topics

- Monday - The "Ghetto"
- Wednesday - Place, Poverty, and Health
- Friday - Gentrification

Required Readings

- Monday
 - Wacquant, L. 2012. "A Janus-Faced Institution of Ethnoracial Closure: A Sociological Specification of the Ghetto." Pp. 1-33 in *The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies*, edited by R. Hutchison and B. Haynes. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [ER]
- Wednesday
 - Sampson, R. J., and Winter, A. S. 2016. "The racial ecology of lead poisoning: Toxic inequality in Chicago neighborhoods, 1995-2013." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 13(2):261-283. [ER]
- Friday
 - Speidel, L. 2009. "'Thin Line 'tween heaven and here' (Bubbles): Real and Imagined Space in The Wire." *Dark Matter*. [IR] [Link]
 - Zukin, S. 2012. "The Spike Lee Effect: Reimagining the Ghetto for Cultural Consumption." Pp. 137-158 in *The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies*, edited by R. Hutchison and B. Haynes. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [ER]

Optional Readings

- Hutchison, R. and B. Haynes, eds. 2011. *The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [PL & Link]
- Wacquant, L. 2008. *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. New York, NY: Polity. [PL]
- Zukin, S. 2010. *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. [PL & Link]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 2, Episodes 10, 11, & 12

*Week 11 - Week of November 6th**Urban Social Issues: Housing & Discrimination***Response Paper Eligible Week****Topics**

- Monday & Wednesday - Public Housing
- Friday - Discrimination

Required Readings

- Monday & Wednesday
 - Bristol, K.G. 1991. "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth." *Journal of Architectural Education* 44(3):163-171. [ER]
 - Potter & Marshall - Chapters 2 & 11
 - Venkatesh, S. A. 2001. "An Invisible Community." *The American Prospect*. [Link]
- Friday
 - Pager, D. and H. Shepherd. 2008. "The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34:181-209. [ER]

Optional Readings

- Desmond, M. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York, NY: Crown Publishers. [PL]
- Pattillo, M. 2005. "Black Middle Class Neighborhoods." *Annual Review of Sociology* 31:305-329. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 3, Episodes 1, 2, & 3

Assignments Due November 6th

- Final Project - Draft Paper and Poster

Week 12 - Week of November 13th

Urban Social Issues: Substance Use & Abuse

Response Paper Eligible Week

Required Readings

- Monday
 - Bourgois, P. 2008. "The Mystery of Marijuana: Science and the U.S. War on Drugs." *Substance Use & Misuse* 43:581-583. [ER]
 - Provine, D. 2011. "Race and Inequality in the War on Drugs." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 7:41-60. [ER]
- Wednesday
 - Bourgois, P. and J. Schonberg. 2009. "A Community of Addicted Bodies." Pp. 79-116 in *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [ER]
- Friday
 - Buchanan, D. et al. 2003. "Empirical science meets moral panic: an analysis of the politics of needle exchange." *Journal of Public Health Policy* 24(3-4):427-444. [ER]

Optional Readings

- Bourgois, P. 2009. *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [PL]

***The Wire* Episodes**

- Season 3, Episodes 4, 5, & 6

Assignment Due November 13th

- Analytical Paper

Week 13 - Week of November 20th

Urban Social Issues: Death & Isolation (Part 1)

No Class Wednesday, November 22nd and Friday, November 24th - Thanksgiving

Topics

- Monday - Homelessness

Required Readings

- View series of videos of interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness via [Course Website](#)
- Phelan, J., Link, B. G., Moore, R. E., and Stueve, A. 1997. "The stigma of homelessness: The impact of the label 'homeless' on attitudes toward poor persons." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 60(4):323-337. [ER]

Assignment Due November 20th

- Last Day to Submit Response Paper 04

Week 14 - Week of November 27th

Urban Social Issues: Death & Isolation (Part 2)

Response Paper Eligible Week (includes Week 13)

Last Week to Finish Response Papers

Topics

- Monday - Homelessness
- Wednesday - Firearm Violence
- Friday - Natural and Social Disasters

Required Readings

- Monday
 - Stuart, F. 2013. "From 'Rabble Management' to 'Recovery Management': Policing Homelessness in Marginal Urban Space." *Urban Studies* 51(9):1-17. [ER]
- Wednesday
 - Wintemute, G.J. 2015. "The Epidemiology of Firearm Violence in the Twenty-First Century United States." *Annual Review of Public Health* 36:5-19. [ER]
- Friday
 - Klinenberg, E. 2001. "Dying Alone: The Social Production of Urban Isolation." *Ethnography* 2/4:499-529. [ER]

Optional Readings

- Gowan, T. 2010. *Hobos, Hustlers and Backsliders: Homeless in San Francisco*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press. [MOBIUS]
- Klinenberg, E. 2002. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. [PL]
- Stuart, F. 2016. *Down, Out, and Under Arrest: Policing and Everyday Life in Skid Row*. Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press. [PL]

The Wire Episodes

- Season 3, Episodes 7, 8, & 9

*Week 15 - Week of December 4th**Urban Utopias***Required Readings**

- Fung & Wright - Chapters 1, 2, 4, 7, & 9 to 11

The Wire Episodes

- Season 3, Episodes 10, 11, & 12

Assignment Due November 20th

- Last Day to Submit Response Paper 05

*Week 16 - Week of December 11th**Leaving Baltimore***No Class Wednesday, December 13th - Finals Week****Topics**

- Monday - Course Conclusion
- Friday - Final Project Presentations (8:00am to 9:50am, Morrissey 2720)

Required Readings

- Monday
 - Atkinson, R. and D. Beer. 2010. "The Ivorine Tower in the City: Engaging Urban Studies After The Link Wire." *City* 14:529-544. [ER]
 - Chaddha, A., W. Wilson and S. Venkatesh. 2008. "In Defense of The Wire." *Dissent* 55:83-86. [ER]
 - Penfold-Mounce, R., D. Beer and R. Burrows. 2001. "The Wire as Social Science Fiction?" *Sociology* 45:152-167. [ER]

Assignments Due December 15th

- Final Project - .pdf of Poster
- Final Project - .pdf and Printed Copy of Paper