

URBAN INEQUALITY
UPPP 102
PROFESSOR SCOTT BOLLENS

Course Description:

This course examines urban income, racial, and ethnic inequality and the influence that cities and urbanization have in impacting inter-group relations in this country. The course examines inequality using an 'urban' lens or perspective, revealing how inequality “takes place” in physical settings. Urban and regional policies pertaining to economic development, housing, education, local land use regulation, and social benefits can have significant effects on the relative conditions of urban ethnic, racial, income groups and on the level of tolerance or tension between these groups.

Course Objectives:

1. To expose you to the role of cities in either lessening or increasing racial, ethnic, and income inequalities. Most of the problems of the city are in the city, but not of the city. Their roots, however defined, are in the larger society and not in the city per se. Yet, inequalities “take place” in urban environments, becoming manifest in contemporary society in ways that have substantial impacts on opportunities provided individuals, households, and families.
2. To reveal to you how contemporary economic growth is creating a “winner-take-all” urbanism that is intensifying urban inequality and creating a “new urban crisis”. Florida, *The New Urban Crisis*.
3. To develop an awareness of how urban space, housing, economic development, public education and land policy intersect in America's cities, both historically and today. To examine the nexus between the physical development of a city and its social structure and impacts.
4. To show you how U.S governments (cities, states, and federal) have in the twentieth century deliberately imposed racial segregation on metropolitan areas nationwide, contrary to constitutional principles. Rothstein, *The Color of Law*.
5. To examine options available to us (as policy analysts and planners) that may lessen urban inequality and increase equality of opportunity.

Required Readings:

- Florida, Richard. 2017. *The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class—And What We Can Do About It*. New York: Basic Books.
- Rothstein, Richard. 2017. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. New York: Liveright Publishers