

**Department** .: Sociology

**Course number** : Soci 283W

**Title** : City Life

**Credits** : 3

**Contact Person** : Brad Wright

**Catalog Copy** :

Soci 283. City Life. Either Semester. Three credits. Ways of life in large cities and suburbs and the culture of modernism.

Soci 283W. City Life. Prerequisite: Engl 110 or 111 or 250.

**W Criteria:**

The course would require 3 major writing assignments of about 4 pages, which would critically evaluate the perspectives offered in the readings and lectures. A few shorter assignments (1-2 pages) would be included as preparation for the major assignments. The W component would make up about 50% of the course grade. Students can only pass the class if they pass the writing portion of the class, and they will be informed of this in the course syllabus.

The writing assignments permit students to engage the topic of city life in-depth by writing a research design or literature review paper. The papers will be based on independent research, which will focus on a particular aspect of urban life that they can then link to what they are learning in the classroom. This assignment will improve both their writing and research skills.

Since different students are likely to have different issues, the instruction would be mostly individual conferences and written commentary. Formal instruction would be used as necessary for topics that had general relevance. In order to provide experience in giving and receiving constructive criticism, students would also be asked to read and comment on (although not to grade) other students' work at least once during the semester.

For each assignment, students would turn in a first draft and then revise it based on the instructor's comments. Time for the revisions would be built into the schedule.

**Role of Grad Students** : None