

**San José State University**  
**Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences**  
**SOCI 161, City Life, Spring, 2023**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Jason DeHaan (he/him)
Telephone:	408-755-0522
Email:	jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 12:00 to 1:00 pm (online, by appointment)
	Wednesday: 2:00 to 3:00 pm (online, drop-in)
Class Days/Time:	None
Course Website:	<a href="http://sjsu.instructure.com">sjsu.instructure.com</a>
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing or instructor consent

**Course Description**

This course offers a sociological perspective on cities and how they shape human lives. We will explore sociological definitions of cities, how they are shaped by economic factors and politics, how people experience urban “space,” how urban planners design space, and how people’s experiences differ based on factors like race, class, and gender. You will be encouraged to explore the city of San Jose, consider your own experiences in it, and critically analyze the experiences.

**Course Format**

This is an asynchronous online course. This means that there are no scheduled course meetings or live lectures, and you will not be required to log in to participate at a scheduled time. All course materials, including readings, videos/lectures, and assignments, will be shared on Canvas. You will have the flexibility to complete the coursework according to your own schedule but will need to organize that schedule around set assignment due dates.

**Course Website**

All Course materials such as the syllabus, reading, lecture videos, assignment instructions, etc. can be found at the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking the course Canvas page and your SJSU email to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, see the [Canvas Student Resource page](#).

## Communication and Messaging

The table below contains a list of ways that you can communicate with me or your classmates.

Communication Method	Access Information	Notes
Email	<a href="mailto:jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu">jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu</a>	My preferred contact method.
Canvas Messaging	<a href="#">The Canvas messaging system</a>	Canvas messaging is OK but I prefer to use email.
Text	408-755-0522	Text messaging is best for simple questions or urgent matters.
Phone Call	408-755-0522	I only answer my phone for scheduled meetings. Schedule a meeting with <a href="#">Calendly</a> .
Zoom	<a href="#">Drop-in office hours link</a> I will email you a link for scheduled meetings.	Schedule a meeting with <a href="#">Calendly</a> .

## Office Hours

My office hours are held via Zoom or phone only; I do not hold in-person meetings.

- My Tuesday office hours are held from 12:00 to 1:00 and are appointment-only. You can schedule a meeting using [Calendly](#). We can meet via Zoom or phone, and you can select the option you prefer when you sign up.
- My Wednesday office hours are drop-in and held on Zoom from 2:00 to 3:00. You can access them using [this link](#). I only hold meetings individually (unless a specific request is made) and meetings are first-come, first-serve. If you attend while I'm meeting with someone else, you'll have to wait until my meeting with them is completed.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe sociological theories that explain urban life
2. Describe the differences between urban and rural social experience
3. Describe the structural conditions that shape the structure of cities and the experiences of people in them
4. Describe how urban form/the built environment shapes human experience
5. Apply urban sociological theory to the city of San José
6. Describe the ways in which some groups are excluded from public spaces and the impact this has on city life
7. Describe how city life is shaped by factors like race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability
8. Document features of cities through photos and mapping, and analyze those features using sociological theory.

## Course Resources

### Textbook

There is no required textbook. All readings will be shared on Canvas in a digital format.

### Word Processing Software

I recommend that you use Microsoft Word for the writing that you will do in this class. While options like Google Docs and Apple's Pages are acceptable, they are not as fully featured as Word and frequently lead to formatting issues. You have access to the entire Microsoft Office suite (which includes programs like Word, PowerPoint, and Excel) as a student. This will allow you to download the applications to your computer or access the web-based versions. To get access to Microsoft Office, please visit [the Office 365 Education site](#). It will require you to verify your eligibility and create an account using your SJSU email.

### Adobe Creative Cloud

I recommend signing up for and installing Adobe Creative Cloud. This will give you access to many different Adobe applications, including Acrobat Pro, Illustrator, and Photoshop. Acrobat Pro is the most fully featured PDF software available, and I recommend that you use it. Creative Cloud also gives you access to Adobe Spark, which is a web-based application you can use to create websites. It is a great way to create presentations. You can get access to it at [SJSU's Adobe Creative Cloud for Students webpage](#).

### Library Liaison

Michal Aguilar is the library liaison for the SISS department. He is a great person to contact if you have any questions about using library resources. The best way to contact him is to email him at [michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu](mailto:michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu).

## Coursework

### Workload Statement

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Course Introduction Assignments		2
Profile Photo	January 26	.5
Getting to Know Each Other Discussion Post	January 26	0.75
Course Introduction Module Quiz	January 26	0.75
Module and Video Quizzes	Due Weekly	25
Photo Project		20
Photo Project Part One	March 20	10
Photo Project Part Two	May 8	10
Mapping Project	April 24	25
Portfolio	May 22	28

## **Course Introduction Assignments**

You will have three introductory assignments to complete. These include uploading a profile photo, introducing yourself in a discussion thread, and taking a quiz about the Course Introduction module.

These assignments cannot be submitted late. The discussion post is used to take attendance and failure to complete it will result in you being dropped from the class.

## **Module and Video Quizzes**

There are two different types of quizzes you will complete: module quizzes and video quizzes. The point value for each quiz will depend on the number of questions. Each question will be worth one point and the quizzes are worth 25 percent of your grade overall. You can expect there to be roughly eight to ten quiz questions per week but that is not consistent. The quizzes will be timed, and you will be given four minutes per question. That is applied as a total amount of time to complete the quiz, not per-question.

- **Module quizzes:** There will be 14 total module quizzes, one for each week of class (excluding the Course Introduction Module Quiz). These quizzes will primarily focus on the module sources (readings, videos, and podcasts) but may also include ideas introduced in the lecture videos. Your two lowest module quiz scores will be dropped.
- **Video quizzes:** I have begun to gradually introduce video quizzes into my courses as I record new lecture videos. They will not be implemented consistently but you can expect some lecture videos to have quizzes integrated into them. The video quizzes can be retaken as many times as you'd like.

The standard late policy will apply to the quizzes. You will have a three-day grace period to complete them without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five additional days to complete the quizzes with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day they are late.

## **Photo Project**

For this project, you will be required to take photos of San José (or the city nearest where you live). Each photograph you should focus on a different aspect of urban life as you learned about it in this class. You will describe and analyze each photo you submit and must clearly connect the photo to the course materials. You will submit 10 in total, but the project is divided into two parts (you will submit 5 photos for each part).

The standard late policy applies to the photo project submissions. You will have a three-day grace period for each submission without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five days to complete the work with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day it is late.

## **Mapping Project**

Much of what you learn about in this class will focus on urban space and this project will require you to think critically about the space around you. You will create a map of an urban neighborhood that represents ideas from the course materials.

The standard late policy applies to the mapping project. You will have a three-day grace period for your submission without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five days to complete the work with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day it is late.

## **Portfolio**

The portfolio assignment will be completed over the course of the semester. I will provide a variety of different smaller assignments for you to complete, and you will choose from them to create a portfolio of work that will be submitted at the end of the semester. The assignments will vary in point values and you will be able to choose whatever combination of point values you want to get to the required total of 35 points.

The Portfolio assignment can be submitted up to two days late with a 10 percent late penalty applied for each day it is late.

### **Final Examination or Evaluation**

There is no final exam in this course.

### **Submitting Work**

All your work for this course will be submitted on Canvas. Following are my policies regarding the submission of your work and some notes about the submission process.

- All work must be submitted on Canvas and I will not accept emailed assignments.
- I require any written documents you submit to be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.
- You can resubmit your work until it has been graded. I do not allow resubmission of graded work. See my Assignment Resubmission policy below for more information.
- Everything you submit on Canvas is saved. When you resubmit an assignment, any previous submissions are saved and available for me to review. Unless you ask me to review an earlier submission, I will only ever look at the most recent submission. This means that resubmitting an assignment never overwrites or deletes your previous submissions.

### **Grading Information**

#### **Determination of Grades**

Grades will be calculated by tallying up the total points earned on assignments and then weighting them according to the percentages provided in the assignment table. Canvas handles this process automatically and while your grade will fluctuate as you complete your work over the course of the semester, your grade on Canvas will always be accurate and reflect your standing in the class.

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the table below. I use standard rounding rules (any decimal 0.5 or greater will be rounded up) when I assign final letter grades. For example, if you finish the class with a total of 86.5 points, will round that up to 87.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A+	97 to 100%
A	93 to 96%
A-	90 to 92%
B+	87 to 89 %
B	83 to 86%
B-	80 to 82%
C+	77 to 79%
C	73 to 76%
C-	70 to 72%
D+	67 to 69%
D	63 to 66%

Grade	Percentage
D-	60 to 62%
F	Below 60%

### **Extra Credit**

I do not have any extra credit planned and will only offer it if some opportunity where I think offering additional work is appropriate comes up. Any extra credit opportunities will be created as assignments on Canvas and announced there as well.

### **Late Work**

The course introduction assignments cannot be submitted late. Those are used to take start-of-the-semester attendance and failure to submit them could result in you being dropped from the course.

All other course assignments, with the exception of the Portfolio, can be submitted up to three days late without penalty. This is a grace period that everyone receives, and you do not need to reach out to me to request it. After the three-day grace period, your work can be submitted up to five days late. A 10 percent penalty will be applied for each day your work is late.

The Portfolio assignment is due at the end of the semester and, due to the necessity of getting final grades calculated, there will be no grace period. The assignment *can* be submitted up to two days late though, with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day they are late.

### **Assignment Resubmission**

I do not allow you to resubmit graded work to improve your grade. I consider all assigned grades final unless I made some mistake (tell me if you think I did!). However, I am always willing to review your work before you submit it for a grade. If you'd like me to review your work, please submit it to the appropriate assignment prompt on Canvas and then message me to let me know you'd like feedback. If I know you are uploading your work for feedback, I will not assign a grade.

### **Policies**

#### **Late Work Submission**

You will find my late work submission policy above in the "Grading Information" section of this syllabus.

#### **Incompletes**

Incompletes are only intended to be assigned when a student has completed most of the coursework (70-80 percent) but is facing some hardship that prevents them from completing the rest. I am never going to evaluate a student request to take an incomplete by calculating the exact percentage of work that was completed, but I will take what is left to be done into consideration.

If you want to take an incomplete in the course, please reach out to me as soon as possible to discuss it. It helps if you provide me a list of the work you have left to complete along with a general description of what stands in the way of you completing your work. I do not need specifics and I will never pry to get more information than you want to share. I do not need documentation or any other type of proof.

You will find a description of the University policy for incompletes [at the SJSU Academic Expectations \(Policies\) webpage](#).

## Plagiarism

I enable the Turnitin plagiarism checking service for any written assignments that require you to reference sources. I use the service as a tool to help you improve your writing, not to try police or punish you. Plagiarism is very common in academia and one of the most important skills I hope to teach you is how to appropriately reference other people's ideas and work. I will share additional information about what plagiarism is during the course, but you should generally understand that most plagiarism is unintentional and results from rushed and/or sloppy work. However, just because you did not mean to plagiarize does not mean it is not a problem.

Following is my policy for dealing with instances of *significant* plagiarism. These are cases where there is a clear pattern of plagiarism within your work that goes beyond a simple mistake.

- First instance: We will review the plagiarized work together and discuss how it happened, how to address it, and how to avoid it in the future. You will have the opportunity to rewrite the plagiarized passages and resubmit your work with no penalty applied to your work. If you choose not to address the plagiarism, you will receive a zero on your assignment.
- Second instance: We will review and discuss your work again and you will be given the opportunity to rewrite the plagiarized passages. I will apply a penalty to your assignment grade (no more than 50 percent) that depends on the significance of the plagiarism. If you choose not to address the plagiarism, you will receive a zero on your assignment.
- Third instance: You will receive a zero on the assignment.

For minor instances of plagiarism, I will reach out to you to point out the plagiarized passage(s) and ask you to rewrite them. If you choose not to rewrite them, I will apply a penalty to your assignment grade (no more than 25 percent) based on the significance of the plagiarism.

The goal of this policy is to encourage you to take plagiarism seriously, not to scare you. I want to help you become a competent and confident academic writer. To do that, you will need to learn how to communicate other people's writing and ideas by putting those ideas in your own words and giving them appropriate credit.

## Late Drop Policy

If you need to drop one or more of your courses after the drop deadline, please review the University's [late drop policy](#).

## University Policies

University policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## SOCI 161 / City Life, Spring 2023, Course Schedule

This schedule provides a weekly overview of when coursework will be due. The dates reflect the beginning of each week of the semester, not the specific due dates. Please refer to the coursework section of this syllabus and Canvas for specific due dates.

Lecture videos and video quizzes are not listed here. You will find those in the Canvas modules.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be announced on Canvas.

### Course Schedule

Module		Date	Learning Materials	Assignments
A	Course Introduction	Jan. 25	Watch: Course Welcome Video Review: Course Introduction Module Read: Syllabus	Profile Photo Getting to Know Each Other Discussion Post Course Introduction Module Quiz
1	Introduction to Urban Sociology	Jan. 30	Read: The New Urban Sociology	Introduction to Urban Sociology Module Quiz
2	What is a City?	Feb. 6	Read: The Rise of Urban Sociology Listen: How "Most Livable Cities" Lists Center Upwardly Mobile White Professionals	What is a City? Module Quiz One
		Feb. 13	Read: The Metropolis and Mental Life Read: Urbanism as a Way of Life	What is a City? Module Quiz Two
3	Silicon Valley	Feb. 20	Read: A Short Political History of San Jose Read: Silicon Valley Mystery House	Silicon Valley Module Quiz
		Feb. 20	Last Day to Drop Classes Without a "W" Grade and Last Day to Add Classes via MySJSU	
4	The Development of Urban Space	Feb. 27	The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project The Los Angeles School of Urbanism	The Development of Urban Space Module Quiz
5	Cities and Capital	Mar. 6	Read: Contemporary Urban Sociology	Cities and Capital Module Quiz One
		Mar. 13	Read: The Right to the City	Cities and Capital Module Quiz Two



Module		Date	Learning Materials	Assignments
			Watch: Owned: A Tale of Two Americas	
6	Gentrification	Mar. 20	Read: The Revitalization of the Historical Inner City	Gentrification Module Quiz One Photo Project Part One
		Mar. 27	Spring Recess	
		Apr. 3	Read: The City That Lost Its Soul Watch: City Rising	Gentrification Module Quiz Two
7	Urban Design	Apr. 10	Read: The Design of Spaces Read: The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety Watch: The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces	Urban Design Module Quiz One
		Apr. 17	Read: The City Images and Its Elements Read: Selections from <i>Life Between Buildings</i> Listen: Shade	Urban Design Module Quiz Two
		Apr. 21	Semester Withdrawal Deadline	
8	Community and Inequality	Apr. 24	Read: Neighborhoods and Communities: Differential Groups and Spatial Location in the Metropolitan Region	Community and Inequality Module Quiz One Mapping Project
		May 1	Read: Cities of Color: The New Racial Frontier in California's Minority-Majority Cities Read: Gender and Urban Space	Community and Inequality Module Quiz Two
		May 8	Read: The End of Public Space?	Community and Inequality Module Quiz Three Photo Project Part Two
		May 15	Last Day of Instruction	
		May 22	Last Day of Class	
		May 26	Initial Faculty Grade Deadline	

<b>Module</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Learning Materials</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
	May 31	Final Faculty Grade Deadline	