SOC 301 URBAN SOCIOLOGY

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will discuss the concept of “city” and the inherent problems that have arisen as more and more of the population have moved, and continue to move, to city living. The role of cities in developing and changing society will be examined. Students will discuss the development of cities, problems of city living, and theories of urban development, as well as urban growth, and perceptions of cities as dangerous places.

II. INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Learn about basic terminology and concepts used in the study of urban sociology.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1: Define concepts such as society/civilization/city/suburb/rural

A-2: Discuss propaganda and common beliefs/biases/prejudice (Jacobs)

GOAL B: Review the theoretical foundation of humans living in cities.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1: Examine major theories (including Plato and Aristotle) as they relate to urban sociology.

B-2: Look at actual/factual history of American and world cities (Mumford).

B-3: Discuss transportation problems related to living in cities (i.e. cars vs trolleys).

B-4: Look at shock cities: Lagos, Nigeria; Mexico City DF; Cleveland; Los Angeles.

B-5: Look at model cities: Model Cities: Ithaca, NY; Amsterdam; Curitiba, Brazil; Prague.

B-6: Discuss the failure of centrally planned totalitarian cities: Disney Land; Brasilia.

GOAL C: Examine the social life in urban spaces and the influence of the urban environment on human behavior.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1: Review social life in cities.

C-2: Explore how common areas and open spaces are used and abused by the rich, the poor, and outsiders.
C-3: The myths of sinful cities and honest yeoman farmers.

C-4: Apply theories of race, conflict, and power to city life.

**GOAL D:** Analyze the tools of oppression used to control those living in cities.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

**D-1:** Discuss city-living issues such as corrupt zoning, gerrymandering, red-lining, urban redevelopment, eminent domain for roads and highways, urban redevelopment, price fixing for rents and groceries, war against youth, over policing, under policing, etc.

**D-2:** Examine the separation of the “haves” and “have-not” in cities and that forms the city-scape in urban areas (i.e. access to transportation and services).