

Syllabus
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Urban Theories in the 20th Century

Lecture 1: The Chicago School of Urban Sociology

The Chicago School of urban ecology sees urban growth as the result of competitions of individuals and corporate actors for efficient locations. Major urban theorists are Ernest Burgess, Louis Wirth and Robert Park.

- Burgess, E. 1925, 1967. "The Growth of the City". In Park, R. and E. Burgess (eds.) *The City*. University of Chicago Press.
- Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life". In *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 44, No. 1, pp: 1-24.
- McKenzie, R. D. 1925, 1967. "The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community". In Park, R. and E. Burgess (eds.) *The City*. University of Chicago Press.
- Park, R. 1925, 1967. "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment". In Park, R. and E. Burgess (eds.) *The City*. University of Chicago Press.

Lecture 2: Critiques of the Chicago School (1): Political Economy of the 1960s

The Chicago School of urban ecology was criticized by the Marxist urban ecologists in the 1960s. Manuel Castells, David Harvey are major figures. Neo-Marxists pay much more attention to power, state, and politics, which are largely ignored by the Chicago School.

- Harvey, David. 1989. *The Urban Experiences*. Johns Hopkins University Press. (selected chapters)

Lecture 3: Critiques of the Chicago School (2): the L.A. School of the 1990s

L.A. School of postmodern urban theories challenges the urban ecology of Chicago School by bringing in a postmodern flavor. However, it has its own criticisms too.

- Michael Dear. "Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a Debate".
- Responses: in *City and Community*, vo. 1, no. 1.

Lecture 4. Globalization and Cities

The process of globalization has changed the way we think about cities. Saskia Sassen is one of the pioneers of research on globalization and cities.

- Sassen, Saskia. 2001. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. 2nd Edition. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. (selected chapters)

Lecture 5. Urban Amenity Theories

Urban amenity theory provides a new perspective to think about urban growth. Florida and Clark argue that it is amenities, not factories and industries that attract talents and spur economic growth.

- Florida, Richard. 2002. *The Rise of the Creative Class*. Basic Books.
- Clark, Terry. 2004. *City as an Entertainment Machine*. Ch2.

Lecture 6. Discussions

So far, we have seen different urban theories in the 20th century. Are these theories applicable to the urban situation in China as well?

Students are encouraged to find some news on the urban development in China, such as news on urban housing, the development of luxury residential and commercial buildings, urban policies, social problems, or the transformation of urban space. The resources can be TV, newspapers, magazines or Internet. We will have a discussion on these articles in relation to the theories we've learned.