Abstract

This lesson plan covers the major theoretical developments in urban sociology from the late 19th century to the late 20th century. Through this lesson students will learn the following concepts: Gemeinschaft, Gesellschaft, Metropolitan Man, Wirth’s theory of urbanism, Gan’s critique of Wirth, and Fischer’s subcultural theory of urbanism. It includes a written lesson plan (including learning goals, a list of resources, learning sequence, and content outline), a 14 slide PowerPoint presentation, an accompanying PowerPoint guide, a content quiz, as well as a formal written assessment. Although this lesson corresponds with Part 1 of the Urban Sociology Reader (Lin and Mele 2007, pp. 7 - 58), a bibliography is included so that instructors can adapt readings as they chose.

Learning Goals

1. Students will know the following concepts: Gemeinschaft, Gesellschaft, The Metropolitan Man, as well as the Compositional, Deterministic, and Subcultural theories of urbanism.
2. Students will be able to apply concepts of urban theory to varying views of the urban environment.

Essential Question

1. How do you view the city? Is it a bastion of vice, decay, and disorganization or a stronghold of freedom, life, and organization?

Resources

2. PowerPoint Guide
4. Selected Readings

Bibliography

***Please note that excerpts of the following articles can be found in: Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele, eds. 2007. The Urban Sociology Reader. New York: Routledge.


Suggested Articles for Assessment:


Assessment

1. Content Quiz
   a. Goal assessed: #1
   b. See Assessment attachment
2. Discussion Question on slide #14
   a. Goal assessed: #2
   b. Formal: Use as a prompt for an in-class or out-of-class writing assignment
   c. Informal: Have students think about the question and then call on them randomly to share their answer
3. Theoretical Analysis
   a. Goals assessed: #1 and #2
   b. See Assessment attachment
**Learning Sequence**

1. Hook – Slide 1 (10 minutes)
2. Lecture – Slide 2 (5 minutes)
3. Group Activity – Slide 3 (30 minutes)
4. Lecture – Slide 3 (10 minutes)
5. Class Activity – Slide 4 (15 minutes)
6. Class Discussion – Slide 5 (5 minutes)
7. Sensory Figure Activity – Slide 5 (20 minutes)
8. Lecture – Slide 5 (15 minutes)
9. Class Discussion – Slide 6 (10 minutes)
10. Class Discussion – Slide 7 (10 minutes)
11. Lecture – Slide 8 (10 minutes)
12. Class Discussion – Slide 9 (10 minutes)
13. Lecture – Slides 9 & 10 (20 minutes)
14. Group Activity – Slide 11 (30 minutes)
15. Lecture – Slides 11, 12, & 13 (20 minutes)
16. Assessment(s)
   a. Slide 14 (informal or formal)
   b. Content Quiz
   c. Theoretical Analysis

**Content**


***Sections of the outline are attached to the “Notes” sections of specific slides in the PowerPoint presentation.

I) Ferdinand Tonnies (1855 – 1936) (pronounced: Ton – niece)
   A) Biography
      1) Born into a wealthy farming family in Schlewig-Holstein, Germany
      2) Peasant culture of the rural province was being transformed by mechanization and the money-economy
      3) 1881 – became lecturer at the University of Kiel
      4) Ousted by the Nazis in 1933 because of his communist ties
   B) Two basic principles
      1) Gemeinschaft (community)
         (a) Organized around family, village, and town, with a mainly agricultural economy and local political culture
         (b) Primary sentimental relationships predominate
         (c) May be compared with the traditional society conceived by Durkheim
            (i) Mechanical solidarity – simple division of labor and a morally homogeneous population bound by similar values and beliefs
(d) “Folk Society”
   (i) Based on consensus of wills
   (ii) Rests on harmony
   (iii) Developed and ennobled by folkways, mores and religion
(e) Roots in family life and land ownership
(f) Folk life and culture persist here
(g) The town is the most complex form of social life
   (i) Local character is contrasted to the family character of the house
   (ii) Agricultural
(h) Family is the general basis of life
   (i) Strangers aren’t always welcome
   (i) Wealth is in the common ownership of property

2) Gesellschaft (society)
(a) Secondary associational relationships proliferate
(b) Characterized by Kurwille, or arbitrary will, which is deliberative, purposive, instrumental and goal oriented
   (i) The capacity to distinguish means from ends and to act practically out of rational self-interest
   (ii) Related to the Hobbesian social contract, whereby citizens control the state through deliberation and reasoned discussion to counter tyrannical authority and avaricious despotism
(c) Organic Solidarity – found in the modern society that has a complex division of labor and a heterogeneous population held together by interdependency, laws, and contracts
(d) “Rational Society”
   (i) Union of rational wills
   (ii) Rests on convention and agreement
   (iii) Ideological justification in public opinion
   (iv) Peace and commerce maintained through conventions and the underlying mutual fear
   (v) The state protects the civilization through legislations and politics
(e) Derives from the conventional order of trade and similar relations but attains validity and binding force only through the sovereign will and power of the state
   (i) Important instruments is policy because it sustains, impedes or furthers social trends
   (ii) Also, public opinion – encompasses all relations arising out of contractual sociableness, contracts and political intentions
   (iii) Also science
(f) Economic control is achieved through planned capitalist production and large-scale industry
(g) Occurs in the city
   (i) Then nations then the entire world begins to resemble one large city
   (ii) Commercial town
      • Commerce dominates its productive labor
   (iii) Wealth is capital wealth
   (iv) Center of science and culture
      • The arts make a living by being exploited in a capitalistic way
   (v) Can be distinguished from the national capital
      • Residence of the court and government
• Represents the world market and world traffic, it’s where world industries are concentrated
(h) Only the upper strata, the rich and cultured, are really active and alive
  (i) They set the standards to which the lower strata have to conform
(ii) These lower classes conform partly to supersede the others
(iii) The city consists, for both groups, of free persons who stand in contact with each other, exchange with each other and cooperate without any Gemeinschaft or will thereto developing among them except as such might develop sporadically or as a leftover from former conditions
(i) All people acquire the characteristics of the Gesellschaft
  (i) The difference between natives and strangers is irrelevant
    • Everyone is who he is because of personal freedom through wealth and contracts
(j) Family life is decaying
3) Society was transitioning from Gemeinshaft to Geshellschaft during the Industrial Revolution
   (a) Comparable to the transition from youth to adulthood
   (b) Folk culture has given rise to the civilization of the state
   (c) Thus, the forms of law change form a product of the folkways and mores and the law of custom into a purely legalistic law (a product of policy)
   (d) As a consequence intellect changes: originally rooted in the imagination, it now becomes dependent upon thinking
     (i) Less and less influenced by religion and more influenced by science
   (e) Government replaced folkways, mores, and religion
     (i) Police and laws represent social control
       (ii) The state will then arrive at the conclusion that in order to create moral forces and moral beings it must prepare the ground and fulfill the necessary conditions, or at least it must eliminate counteracting forces.
     (iii) Public Opinion can rise above the state
       • The state becomes the enemy
   (f) The common people decay and die
   (g) So does culture
II) Georg Simmel (1858 - 1918)
A) Biography
  1) Born to a prosperous Jewish family in Berline
  2) Lectured at the University of Berlin
  3) Rootless cosmopolitan and public figure
  4) Lectures and exhibits examined the intellectual, economic, and political dimensions of German urbanism
     (a) Addressed issues related to social problems
  5) Interested in the social construction of the modern urban self
  6) Viewed the metropolis as the nexus point for the circulation of capital, commodities and people
     (a) Talked about the detached and capricious urban cosmopolitan
     (b) The barrage of lures, stimulations and choices in the modern city of commerce has induced a kind of monkish self-reflection that can be seen as transcendence as much as retreat
(c) The urban modernist is now embedded in the iron cage of a world of work and bureaucracy as well as the consumer’s dilemma of a search for identity in a soulless mass society

(d) Furthers this idea in his essay, “The Stranger”
   (i) The quintessential outsider who is not regarded as an individual, but as a type of social category
       • i.e. black underclass, immigrant foreigner, homeless

B) The Individual in the city
   1) “The deepest problems of modern life derive from the claim of the individual to preserve the autonomy and individuality of his existence in the face of overwhelming social forces, or historical heritage, of external culture, and of the technique of life.”
   2) Psychological conditions of the city
      (a) Rapid crowding
      (b) Changing images
      (c) Sharp discontinuity in the grasp of a single glance
      (d) The unexpectedness of onrushing impressions
      (e) The city sets up a deep contrast with small town and rural life with reference to the sensory foundations of psychic life
   3) The Metropolitan Man
      (a) Develops an organ protecting him against the threatening currents and discrepancies of his external environment which would uproot him.
      (b) He reacts with his head instead of his heart
      (c) Thus, the Metropolitan Man becomes intelligent
          (i) Less sensitive and more sensory
          (ii) Intellectuality is thus seen to preserve subjective life against the overwhelming power of metropolitan life
      (d) The Metropolis is the seat of the money economy
          (i) Money is connected to intellect
          (ii) Money reduces all to an exchange value: How much?
              • Only the objective measurable achievement is of interest
          (iii) Thus interaction becomes about reckoning economic values
          (iv) No one can say which came first: intellect or economy, but reciprocity exists
      (e) Interaction becomes matter – of – fact
          (i) Brevity and scarcity
          (ii) Appear “to the point”
      (f) Quantitative values
          (i) The calculative exactness of practical life based on the market economy has brought about the ideal of natural science: to transform the world into an arithmetic problem and solve everything through mathematical formulas
          (ii) Thus, punctuality, calculability, exactness are forced upon life by the complexity and extension of metropolitan existence
          (iii) Stable and impersonal time schedules
          (iv) Irrational impulses do exist, but they are the exception
      (g) Created the blasé attitude
          (i) A highly personal subjectivity
          (ii) Results first from the rapidly changing and closely compressed contrasting stimulations of the nerves
(iii) A life in boundless pursuit of pleasure makes one blasé because it agitates the nerves to their strongest reactivity for such a long time that they finally cease to react at all
(iv) Blunting of discrimination – the things they experience are insubstantial
(v) Money becomes the core value
(vi) A negative behavior of a social nature – reserved
   • We don’t talk to our neighbors
   • A state of indifference
   • Antipathy protects us
   • Dissociation is an elementary form of socialization

(h) Personal Freedom
(i) At first you have groups, closed against neighboring (seemingly antagonistic) groups
(ii) If the group grows then the inner unity loosens, and the rigidity of the original boundaries soften
(iii) Thus the Metropolitan Man would feel restricted in small town environments
   • Deindividualizing small town
(iv) So the Metropolitan Man is “free” in a spiritualized and refined sense, in contrast to the pettiness and prejudices which hem in the small town man
(v) Freedom does not equate to comfort
(vi) The price? The city expands and we have “others”

(i) Division of Labor
(i) The concentration of individuals and their struggle for customers compel the individual to specialize in a function from which he cannot be readily displaced by another
(ii) Thus, people specialize in order to find a source of income that is not yet exhausted and to find a function that cannot readily be displaced
(iii) This process promotes differentiation, refinement, and the enrichment of public’s needs

(j) Assertion of Personality
(i) Adopt the most tendentious peculiarities, that is, the specifically metropolitan extravagances of mannerism, caprice, and preciousness
(ii) Form of “being different”
(iii) The only means of saving themselves some modicum of self-esteem and the sense of filling a position is indirect, through the awareness of others
(iv) The development of modern culture is characterized by the preponderance of what one may call the “objective spirit” over the “subjective spirit”
   • The individual has become a mere cog in an enormous organization of things and powers which tear from his hands all progress, spirituality, and value in order to transform them form their subjective form into the form of a purely objective life
(v) Thus, the Metropolitan Man summons the utmost in uniqueness and particularization in order to preserve his most personal core
   • He has to exaggerate this personal element in order to remain audible even to himself
   • “The atrophy of individual culture through the hypertrophy of objective culture...”
- Individuals liberated from historical bonds now wished to distinguish themselves from one another.

III) Louis Wirth (1897 – 1952)

A) Biography
   1) Born in Germany, emigrated to Nebraska
   2) PhD at University of Chicago
   3) Jewish, ethnography of the Jewish Ghetto in Chicago
   4) Part of the Chicago School

B) Theory
   1) Foundational statements of the Chicago School of urban sociology
      (a) Size
      (b) Density
      (c) Heterogeneity
   2) Focus on the “schizoid” urban personality beset by “segmented roles”
      (a) Attention to anomie
   3) But feels that city life liberated urbanites from the prejudices and provincialities of rural life
   4) Agrees with Park that the city is a “mosaic of social worlds” which increases social distance between people and is an outcome of population density and specialization

C) The City and Contemporary Civilization (1938)
   1) “Nowhere has mankind been farther removed from organic nature than under the conditions of life characteristic of these cities.”
      (a) The city cannot completely wipe out previous dominant modes of human association
      (b) Cities still bears the imprint of early folk society
      (c) But if we understand the difference of folk society and the Metropolis we will understand contemporary civilization
   2) Defining City
      (a) Urbanism – complex set of traits which make up the characteristic mode of life in cities
      (b) Urbanization – the development and extension of urbanism
      (c) We must think generally
         (i) Urbanism as a way of life with any specific locally or historically condition cultural influences are not essential
      (d) City – relatively large, dense, and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals
   3) Theory of Urbanism
      (a) Population must recruit population from the countryside or from other countries – it cannot reproduce itself
         (i) Hence the “melting-pot”
         (ii) People are different and therefore useful to one another
         (iii) The city does not form from homogeneous and like-minded people
      (b) Based on Three principles
         (i) Size of the population aggregate
            - Law of Large Numbers – the greater the number of individuals participating in a process of interaction, the greater is the potential differentiation between them
            - Bonds of kinship or neighborliness are absent – particularly in light of diversity
            - The multiplication of persons in a state of interact under conditions which make their contact as full personalities impossible produces that segmentalization of human relationships
            - The “Schizoid” Character
• Urbanites meet one another in highly segmental roles
  ♦ Less dependent upon others, thus more secondary than primary relationships
  ♦ Interaction is impersonal, superficial, transitory, and segmental
  ♦ Create devices for immunizing against others
  ♦ Creates anomie – social void – that lead to various forms of social disorganization
• But we do have expression in the proliferation of specialized tasks
  ♦ Corporation exploits the use of the specialized task
  ♦ How? The corporation has no soul, no connection
  ♦ The hinterlands fall under the dominance of the city

(ii) Density
• An increase in numbers when area is held constant
• Tends to produce differentiation and specialization
• Which leads to increasing complexity of the social structure
• The competition for space is great, so that each area generally tends to be put to the use which yields the greatest economic return
  ♦ Proximity of industrial and commercial establishments makes an area both economically and socially undesirable for residential purposes
  ♦ Creates places of settlement for different sections of the population
  ♦ The different parts of the city thus acquire specialized functions
  ♦ Formal controls are implemented to counteract irresponsibility and potential disorder
• Personally this leads to loneliness, friction, irritation, nervous tensions

(iii) Heterogeneity
• Tends to break down the rigidity of caste lines and to complicate the class structure
• Thus induces a more ramified and differentiated framework of social stratification than is found in more integrated societies
• Acceptance of instability and insecurity of groups becomes the norm
• Groups with which a person typically is affiliated are tangential to each other or intersect in highly variable fashion
  ♦ Turnover in groups membership is generally rapid
  ♦ Place of residence, employment, income and interests fluctuate
  ♦ Holding lasting acquaintanceship between the members is difficult
• Since a transitory habitat does not generate binding traditions and sentiments, only rarely is he a true neighbor
• This makes collective behavior in the urban community so unpredictable and problematic
• The process of depersonalization also enters
  ♦ This is a leveling mechanism
  ♦ Individuality must be replaced by categories – when large numbers have to make common use of facilities and institutions, those facilities and institutions must serve the needs of the average person rather than those of particular individuals
- If the individual is to participate in the life of the city he must subordinate some of his individuality to the demands of the larger community

4) Relation between a theory of urbanism and sociological research
   (a) May be approached empirically from three interrelated perspectives
      (i) Urbanism in ecological perspective: a physical structure comprising a population base, a technology and an ecological order
         - Many of the technical facilities and skills grow and prosper in cities
         - Statistics of people
         - Birth rate generally may be regarded as one of the most significant signs of the urbanization of the Western world
      (ii) Urbanism as a form of social organization: involving characteristic social structure, a series of social institutions, and a typical pattern of social relationships
         - Substitution of secondary for primary contacts
         - Weakening of bonds of kinship
         - Declining social significance of the family
         - In cities mothers are more likely to be employed, lodgers are more frequently part of the household, marriage tends to be postponed, and the proportion of single and unattached people is greater
         - Sharpened and differentiated income and status groups – although broken through caste differentiations
         - Discourages subsistence economics and self-employment
         - Urbanites spend a large portion of their income for recreation and advancement
         - Catering to thrills and furnishing means of escape from drudgery, monotony, and routine
         - Creative self-expression
         - Spontaneous group association
         - Passive spectatorism
      (iii) Urban personality and collective behavior
         - Largely conducted through the activities of the larger voluntary groups (i.e. religious, educational, cultural) that the urbanite expresses and develops his personality, acquires status, and is able to carry on the round of activities that constitutes his life.
         - Personal disorganization, mental breakdown, suicide, delinquency, crime, corruption, and disorder might be expected in urban settings
         - We create fictive kin groups or interest units.

IV) Herbert Gans
   A) Biography
      1) Born in Germany, but moved to US
      2) PhD from University of Chicago
      3) Was a planner
      4) Taught at UMass, MIT and Columbia
   B) Theory
      1) Forceful critique of Wirthian urbanism
         (a) Places an overemphasis on the social dynamics of the central or inner city, and cannot be generalized to the whole urban area
(b) High-density planning and development is the outgrowth of Wirthian ecological formulation, which treats people as a matter of statistic and violates or ignores their humanity and their culture

2) Quasi-primary relationships exist in the outer city and suburbs, where there is more privacy than the inner city

3) Contributes an alternative to the view that suburbs are places of conformity, alienation, or monotony
   (a) Suburbanism is as legitimate a concept as urbanism
   (b) Urbanism and suburbanism may be spurious

4) Offers a typology
   (a) Cosmopolites
   (b) The unmarried or childless
   (c) Ethnic villagers
   (d) The deprived
   (e) The trapped

5) Argues that the persistence of immigrant colonies in the city is testament to the continuing salience of primary ties and the community networks of Gemeinschaft

C) Argument against Wirth

1) Wirth deals with urban-industrial society, rather than with the city
   (a) Compares settlement types of pre-industrial and industrial society, not comparing urban to rural

2) Wirth’s conception of the city dweller as depersonalized, atomized, and susceptible to mass movements suggests that his paper is based on, and contributes to, the theory of the mass society
   (a) His characterization of the urban way of life applies only – and not too accurately – to the residents of the inner city
   (b) Quasi-primary relationships exist

3) Difference between the ecological (Wirth) and socio-spatial (Hans)

4) The Inner City
   (a) Conclusions derived from a study of the inner city cannot be generalized to the entire urban area
   (b) There is not enough evidence to prove that number, density, and heterogeneity result in the social consequences which Wirth proposed

   (c) Five ideal types of urbanites
       (i) Cosmopolites
           • Students, artists, writers, musicians, and entertainers, intellectuals and professions
           • Special cultural facilities
           • Can be unmarried or childless
           • Less affluent may move to the suburbs to raise their children, continuing to live as cosmopolites under considerable handicaps
           • Also includes the very rich and powerful
       (ii) Unmarried or childless
           • Temporarily unmarried or childless
             ♦ Live in the inner city for only a limited time
             ♦ Young adults may team up to rent
Then they leave for the outer city or the suburbs with the arrival of the first or second child
- Permanently unmarried
- Stay in the inner city for the remainder of their lives, their housing depending on their income

(iii) Ethnic Villagers
- Ethnic groups which are found in inner-city neighborhoods
- Emphasis on kinship and primary group
- Lack of anonymity and secondary-group contacts
- Weakness of formal organizations
- Suspicion of anything and anyone outside their neighborhood

(iv) Deprived
- Live in the city without choice
- Emotionally disturbed or handicapped
- Broken families
- Poor white and nonwhite populations
- Dilapidated housing and blighted neighborhoods
- Temporary stopover to save money for a house in the outer city

(v) Trapped
- Without choice
- Stay behind in a neighborhood when it is invaded by non-residential land uses or lower-status immigrants because they cannot afford to move or are otherwise bound to their present location
- Downward mobiles – who started life in a higher class position, but are forced down in the socioeconomic hierarchy
- Old people living out their existence on small pensions

(d) Hard to see how density and heterogeneity could exert a common influence
(i) When people who live together have social ties based on criteria other than mere common occupancy they can set up social barriers, regardless of the physical closeness or the heterogeneity of their neighbors
(ii) Cosmopolites and Unmarried can detach from the neighborhood and only concern themselves with superficial contacts
(iii) If familial defenses against the neighborhood climate are weak, as may happen among single-parent families, parents may lose their children to the culture of “the street”

(e) Wirth’s description of the urban way of life fits best the transient areas of the inner city
(f) The social features of Wirth’s concept of urbanism are a result of residential instability, rather than of number, density or heterogeneity

5) Outer City and Suburbs
(a) Quasi-Primary – characterizes relationships between neighbors
   (i) More intimate than secondary contact, but more guarded than primary contacts
   (ii) Few secondary relationships exist because of the isolation of residential neighborhoods from economic institutions and workplaces
   (iii) Very little anonymity, impersonality or privacy
(b) Represented in Postwar suburbia, particularly single-family homes
   (i) Quiet streets facilitate the supervision of children
More opportunities for visual contact between adjacent homeowners (compared to apartment buildings)

The differences in actual social contact are less marked—particularly within homogeneous populations

- Particularly within ethnic populations

Much more homogeneous than cities as a whole, but suburbs are no more homogeneous than outer cities

- Brand new neighborhoods are more homogeneous than older ones, because they have not yet experienced resident turnover, which frequently results in population heterogeneity.

D) Characteristics, Social Organization and Ecology

1) Three propositions
   a) The inner city must be distinguished from the outer city and suburbs
   b) Ways of life, even in the inner city, resemble Wirth’s description only to a limited extent
   c) Physical and other differences between city and suburb are often spurious

2) Number, density and heterogeneity are all ecological concepts which describe human adaptation to the environment

3) But choices and demands do not develop independently or at random: they are functions of the roles people play in the social system
   a) Especially class and life cycle stage

4) Must relate ways of life to environmental features of the city qua settlement type

E) Thus we must formulate more adequate theory of the relationship between settlements and the ways of life within them.

V) Claude Fischer

A) Biography
   1) Teaches at UC, Berkley
   2) Executive Editor of Context

B) Theory

1) The Urban Experience— a seminal codification of academic thought on the theory of urbanism

2) Believes that critical mass in cities have independent effects in fostering subcultures
   a) Increasing size and density fosters greater heterogeneity, thus the larger the city the greater there is the potential to produce subcultural communities

3) Therefore he provides a different perspective on differentiation as a cultural process linked with specialization in the division of the labor
   a) Subcultures mark the emancipation of the individual from traditional controls and conventions, while providing a new set of subgroup identities and communities
   b) Subcultures are seen as a creative force of communication or bricolage, which provide youth, sexual and racial/ethnic minorities with a means of defying and criticizing the established cultural hegemony
   c) These subcultures are a lure for the children of suburbia who are drawn to the central city in search of the authenticity, excitement of what is unfamiliar
      i) This is a distinct contrast from the earlier generation of the postwar period, which escaped the city in search of privacy and open space

4) He concludes that people living in large cities versus small towns have roughly the same amount of social ties; neither group is any more likely to be isolated

C) Theories of Urbanism

1) Four broad definitions of city
(a) Demographic – involve essentially the size and density of population
   (i) A city is therefore a place with a relatively large population
   (ii) Has three advantages
       • The numerical criterion is common to virtually all definitions of “urban” or “city”
       • Does not beg the question as to whether any other factor is necessarily associated with size
       • Implies that ‘urban’ and ‘city’ refer to matters of degree – they are not all or nothing variables
(b) Institutional definitions – reserves the term for communities with certain specific institutions
(c) Cultural – a community possess particular cultural features, such as a group of literate people
(d) Behavioral – require certain distinctive and typical behavioral styles among the people of a community

2) Theories of Social-psychological consequences of urbanism
   (a) The essence of classical sociological analysis is the connection of the structural characteristics of a society, particularly its scale, to the quality of its “moral order”
   (b) Determinist
       (i) Also called Wirthian or theory of urban anomie
       (ii) Argues that urbanism increases social personality disorders over those found in rural places
       (iii) How?
           • Intensification of nervous stimulation
           • People insulate themselves from other people
           • However, even these protective devices are not enough, so that “psychic overload” exacts at least a partial toll in irritation, anxiety, and nervous strain
           • Ultimately, interpersonal estrangement produces a decline of community cohesion and a corresponding loss of ‘sense of community’
           • Their time and attention come to be divided among different and disconnected places and people
       (iv) The differentiation of the social structure and of the lives of individuals living within that structure weakens social bonds in two ways
           • At the community level, people differ so much from each other in such things as their jobs, their neighborhoods, and their life-styles that moral consensus becomes difficult
           • As community-wide cohesion is weakened, so is the cohesion of the small, intimate primary groups of society
             ♦ i.e. family, friends, neighbors
             ♦ The ones on which social order and individual balance depend
           • Each encompasses less of an individual’s time or needs
       (v) Thus by dividing the community and by weakening its primary groups, differentiation produces a general loosening of social ties
       (vi) This situation results in anomie
           • A social condition in which the norms – the rules and conventions of proper and permissible behavior – are feeble
           • Formal integration – rational and impersonal procedures that arise to prevent or to moderate anomie arise
People, therefore, are left unsupported to suffer their difficulties alone; and they are unrestrained by social bonds or rules from committing all sorts of acts, from the simply “odd” to the dangerously criminal.

A society in which social relationships are weak provides freedom from individuals, but it also suffers from:

- Debilitated moral order
- Social disruption
- Personality disorders

(c) Compositional theory

(i) Also called non-ecological theory
(ii) Denies such effects of urbanism; it attributes difference between urban and rural behavior to the composition of the different populations
(iii) Emerged from the Chicago school
(iv) But understand the “mosaic of the social world” as intimate social circles based on kinship, ethnicity, neighborhood, occupation, life-style, or similar personal attributes
(v) Denies ecological factors
   - Particularly size, density and heterogeneity of the wider community
   - It matters little to the average kith and kin groups whether there are 100 people in the town or 100,000
   - In either case the basic dynamics of that group’s social relationships and its members’ personalities are unaffected
(vi) Promotes social factors such as class, ethnicity, and life cycle
(vii) Do argue that both the direct psychological effects on the individual and the direct anomic effects on social worlds are insignificant
(viii) Can acknowledge urban-rural social psychological differences and account for them insofar as these difference reflect variations in class, ethnicity and life-cycle
(ix) Such differences, however, result from the psychological experience of city life or from an alteration in the cohesion of social groups

(d) Compositional vs. Deterministic

(i) Both emphasize the importance of social worlds in forming the experiences and behaviors of individuals, but they disagree sharply on the relationship of urbanism to the viability of those personal milieus

(e) Subcultural Theory

(i) Adopts the basic orientation of the compositional school but holds that urbanism does have certain effects on the people of the city, with consequences much like the ones determinists see as evidence of social disorganization
(ii) Contends that urbanism independently affects social life – not, however, by destroying social groups as determinism suggests, but instead by helping to create and strengthen them.
   - Significant social consequence of community size is the promotion of diverse subcultures
   - Intimate social circles persist in the urban environment
   - It maintains that ecological factors do produce significant effects in the social orders of communities, precisely by supporting the emergence and vitality of distinctive subcultures
   - Social worlds and subcultures are roughly synonymous
In both subcultural and compositional theory these subcultures persist as meaningful environments for urban residents. 

(iii) Thus urbanism has unique consequences, including the production of “deviance” but not because it destroys social worlds, but because it creates them.

(iv) This occurs in two ways:
   - Large communities attract migrants from wider areas than do small towns, migrants who bring with them a great variety of cultural backgrounds and thus contribute to the formation of a diverse set of social worlds.
   - Large size produces the structural differentiation stressed by the determinists:
     - Occupational specialization, specialized institutions and special interest groups.

(v) Urbanism intensifies subcultures – two processes:
   - Critical mass - a population size large enough to permit what would otherwise be only a small group of individuals to become a vital, active subculture.
   - People form one subculture often find people in another subculture threatening, offensive, or both.
     - Thus a common reaction is to embrace one’s own social world all the more firmly, contributing to its further intensification.

(vi) Types of subcultures:
   - Deviant
   - Odd
   - Breakers of tradition.

(vii) A synthesis of the determinist and compositional theories.

(viii) Urbanism does have direct influences.
The City According to….” The Theory of Urban Sociology.
PowerPoint Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slide No.</th>
<th>Slide Image</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</table>
| 1         | Hook (Slide): | • Provide students with a recent news story concerning a divisive urban issue  
• Have students read the article |
|           | Class Discussion: | • Describe the issue described in the article.  
• How does the author frame the city?  
• What is the argument for proponents of the issue?  
• What is the argument for opponents of the issue?  
• How do these arguments relate to urban theory? |
|           | Note: | The last discussion question is rhetorical; after all this is the question that students should be able to answer at the end of the lesson. |
|           | Note: | An example of an urban issue used in my class is the installation of a streetcar system in Cincinnati. I provided students with two articles: (1) an independent editorial outlining why the city should build streetcars, and (2) a response to the editorial outlining why the city should not build streetcars. When answering the discussion questions students pulled out of the articles some arguments for and against the streetcars. Throughout the lesson I then referred to these arguments in relation to the theories covered. For example, one argument for the streetcars is the notion that it will build a greater community feeling for Cincinnatians. I then related Gemeinschaft to this argument when we discussed the concept (see Slide #4). |
| 2         | Lecture (Slide): | • Life and context of Tonnies and Simmel  
• See Content Outline Sections IA and IIA |
| 3         | Group Activity (Prior to slide): | • Have groups create a two column table.  
• Have them label one column, “Gemeinschaft” and the second column, “Gesellschaft”  
• Based off of the Tonnies reading have students work in groups to compare the differences between the Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft  
• Optional: Have groups combine to check answers  
• Mark on the board group answers |
|           | Lecture (Slide) |
Go over comparison
See Content Outline Section 1B

All Class Activity (Slide):
- Ask the class if the following visuals are examples of Gemeinschaft or Gesellschaft.
- Survey the students for each visual
- Ask students why they think the visuals are examples of one or the other (make sure you get feedback from multiple points of view)
- Click to reveal the answers (the presentation is set up to show one answer at a time)
- Discuss

Notes: Slide #4 is best utilized as a review or informal assessment of the Gemeinschaft – Gesellschaft binary. It lists conventions typically found in an urban environment and examines student’s connection of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft with visual examples. However, it is important to note that Tonnies’ conceptualization of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft is intended for a macro level of analysis, but the pictures on Slide #4 represent a meso level of analysis. Thus, although this slide does not capture these concepts as Tonnies originally intended, as a heuristic tool it helps students understand the difference between Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft in very tangible ways.

Furthermore, the picture of the streetcar on slide #4 can be switched with a local urban issue unique to your context. In Cincinnati, where this presentation was originally broadcasted, the construction of a streetcar network was a hot-button urban issue and deserved analysis in light of the Gemeinschaft - Gesellschaft binary (e.g. Is the streetcar an example of Gemeinschaft or Gesellschaft?). Accordingly, unless your city is examining the use of streetcars, I highly suggest you replace the picture of the streetcar with a visual representation of an urban issue that is more relevant to your context.

Class Discussion (Slide):
- How does this picture reflect Tonnies and Simmel?

Sensory Figure Activity:
- Have students draw a stick figure
- Tell students that this figure is the Metropolitan Man
- Have students note what the Metropolitan Man: Thinks, Feels, Sees, Does, and Hears
- Have students share their sensory figures in a group
- Draw a stick figure on the board
- Title the stick figure, “Metropolitan Man”
- Call on students to fill in what the Metropolitan Man senses (e.g. thinks, feels, sees, does, and hears)
- Discuss

Lecture
• Click to reveal the how Simmel conceptualized the Metropolitan Man (the presentation is set up to show one concept at a time)
• See Content Outline Section IIB
• Discuss: How do our versions of the Metropolitan Man compare?

**Notes:** The painting on Slide #5 is Street, Dresden by German expressionist Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, a contemporary of Simmel. I use it as a caricature of Simmel’s Metropolitan Man.

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Class Discussion (Slide):
• What does Simmel mean by “the deepest problems of modern life”?
• According to Simmel, how do individuals preserve the autonomy in the face of overwhelming social forces? Is this still accurate in contemporary society?
• What is the atrophy of individual culture? Provide an example.
• How does the atrophy of culture contrast to the hypertrophy of objective culture? How does this relate to our social world?

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Class Discussion (Slide):
• Show “The Message Video”
• Discuss: How are the theoretical implications of Tonnies and Simmel illustrated in this video?
• Discuss: Do we see this in other contemporary contexts?

**Notes:** A video of Blackstar performing Respiration can be found at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeTnog5RRQo&ob=av2e

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Lecture (Slide):
• Life and context of Wirth and Gans
• See Content Outline Sections IIIA and IVA
Class Discussion (Slide):
- Read the poem “While the City Sleeps” (Slide)
- Discuss: Who would have liked this poem better, Wirth or Gans? Why?

Lecture:
- Wirthian urban theory
- See Content Outline Sections IIIB and IIIC

Lecture (Slide):
- Gans’s urban theory
- See Content Outline Sections IVB and IVD

Group Activity (slide):
- Have groups create a Venn diagram.
- Have them label one circle, “Wirth” and the second circle, “Gans”
- Based off of the Wirth and Gans reading have students work in groups to fill in the Venn diagram by comparing and contrasting the arguments made by Wirth and Gans
- Optional: Have groups combine to check answers
- Mark on the board group answers

Lecture (Click to reveal answers)
- Go over contrasts and comparisons
- See Content Outline Section IVC and IVE

Lecture (Slide):
- Fischer’s Subcultural theory of urbanism
- See Content Outline Sections VA, VB, and VC1

Lecture (Slide):
- Fischer’s typology of urban theory
- See Content Outline Sections VC2
<table>
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**The City According to You**

**How do you view urban society?**

**Do you agree more with Wirth, Gans or Fischer? Why?**

**Assessment (Slide):**

- Formal Assessment: Use as a prompt for an in-class or out-of-class writing assignment
- Informal Assessment: Have students think about the question and then call on them randomly to share their answer
**Content Quiz**

Match the following concepts with their appropriate descriptions or definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts</th>
<th>Descriptions / Definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_______ 1. Gemeinschaft</td>
<td>A. A perspective which argues that psychological effects of the urban environment are products of social factors such as class, ethnicity, and life-cycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ 2. Gesellschaft</td>
<td>B. A concept that describes a rational society based on capital wealth, commerce economy, and national as well as international politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ 3. The Metropolitan Man</td>
<td>C. A concept which argues that urbanites develop a blasé attitude due to the matter-of-fact interactions needed to manage a highly stimulating urban environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ 4. Compositional Urban Theory</td>
<td>D. A perspective which argues that urbanism increases personality disorders by breaking down individual’s primary groups and social ties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ 5. Deterministic Urban Theory</td>
<td>E. A concept that describes a “folk” society based on an agricultural economy, local politics, and a consensus of wills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ 4. Subcultural Urban Theory</td>
<td>F. A perspective which argues that greater attention needs to paid to how society interacts with space and how settlement spaces are affected by globalization, government, and the real estate industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ 4. Subcultural Urban Theory</td>
<td>G. A perspective which argues that ecological factors help to strengthen intimate primary groups; thus providing urban environments with a high degree of social organization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theoretical Analysis

Prompt: Read the assigned article (pick from the list of “Suggested Articles for Assessment” located in bibliography on the Lesson Plan). Afterward, analyze the article in light of TWO urban theorists covered in class (Tonnies, Simmel, Wirth, Gans, Fischer). What would they say about this topic? How does this article demonstrate the theoretical propositions of these writers? Or does the article stand in contrast to what theorist have written about urban society? How would (fill in theorist’s name here) view the content of this article?

Note: I use this prompt on a graded discussion board. This way students can evaluate each other’s work by commenting on their post. You can make commenting mandatory to ensure this type of evaluation. I place the following note with the prompt:

A couple of things to remember:
1) This is a public forum. People will be able to read and comment on your answers. Keep this in mind as you write.
3) If I feel that your work is not original (i.e. it looks too much like any student’s work who posted earlier than you did) I will consider your work plagiarism. Please see the syllabus for the statement of academic honesty.
4) Feel free to post your entry as a comment on a classmate’s thread. In this case, you can either confirm or contradict what others are writing. I like this option because it shows me that you are not only analyzing the article, but also analyzing another’s thought.