UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER & AFRICAN STUDIES
COURSE OUTLINE 3RD YEAR 2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR
NAF 208- URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY
Instructor: Dr. D. Omia

Course overview: This course introduces students to the significance and development of urban anthropology within socio-cultural anthropology and core themes and debates in the field of urban anthropology. It is structured to introduce students to important theoretical perspectives that inform anthropologists' studies of urban contexts. The course pays focus on three core themes in the study of urban anthropology: 1) the possibilities and limits of cities as global and local ethnographic sites, 2) the past, present and future of cities, and 3) scale: the dynamics internal to the city itself, cities in relation to other cities, and cities in relation to other political, economic, social and historical formations like the nation and the global economy. Other important sub-themes include the relationship between the rural and urban, political economy and inequality, urban life and its cultural and social dynamics, space and place, ethnicity and exclusion, emergence of ethnic welfare organizations and their role in maintaining ethnic identity in urban centres; clanism and clan-based organizations in Kenyan urban centres.

1. The City and the Anthropological Imagination: An Introduction to Urban Anthropology
M. Weber, 1958, "The Nature of the City," pp. 71-87 in *The City* (Collier).
L. Wirth, 1938, "Urbanism as a way of life" pp. 101-118 in *Urban Life* ed. by G. Gmelch (Waveland)
L. Mumford, 1986, "What is a city?" pp. 104-107 in *The Lewis Mumford Reader* (Pantheon)

2. Development of Urban Anthropology in the US (Chicago School) and Europe (Manchester School)
Blanka S. (2010). Anthropology of the City: A Social Viewpoint, Main Tendencies, Perspectives and National Traditions of Research. An example of Czech Urban Anthropology. *Urban people,* 12 (2): 249-267.

3. Anthropology In Cities and Anthropology Of Cities
Foster, G. and Kemper R. (2010). Anthropological fieldwork in cities. In *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*, eds. Gmelch et al., pp. 5-19. Long Grove Ill: Waveland Press.
Fox, R. (1972). Rationale and romance in urban anthropology. *Urban Anthropology*, 1:205-233.

4. Towns, Cities, and the Question of Urbanism
Wirth, L. (1938). Urbanism as a way of life. *The Journal of Sociology*, 44(1):1-24.
Leeds, A. (1980). Towns and villages in society: Hierarchies of order and cause. In *Cities in a Larger Context,* ed. T. Collins, pp. 6-33. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

5. The Institutional Characteristics and Organization of Urban life: Political, Economic and Social order, Economic and Social Mobility, Family life, Moral Decay and other Social Problems.
Case analysis 1: The concept of private governments in urban areas, the case of Nairobi
Case analysis 2: Socio-spatial differentiation in urban settings, the case of Mombasa Kenya
Case analysis 3: The economic and social mobility in Kenya's three cities since independence

6. Migration as an Urban topic: Rural-Urban Migration, Ethnicity, and Kinship Linkages in the Urban set up. Rural-Urban Linkages.
Case analysis 4: Rural-urban migration; the push-pull factors and the implications for the rural-urban socio-economic linkages
Case analysis 5: Ethnicity succession theory and the observed settlement patterns in Nairobi

7. Housing in the Urban Centres; Problems of the City: Unemployment; Underemployment; Misemployment, Poverty, Slum dwellings and Squatter Settlements.
Case analysis 6: Slumlord culture and stalled slum upgrading program in Kenya
Case analysis 7: Slums as sites of social exclusion

Oscar Lewis: Culture of Poverty. In: *Urban Life*, p.175-184.
Adrian Smith, Stennin, Rochovská, wia tek: The Emergence of a Working Poor: Labor Markets, Neoliberalisation and Diverse Economies in Post-Socialist Cities.
Sykora, L.: Processes of Socio-spatial Differentiation in Post-communist Prague, 1999, p. 680-700.

8. Urban anthropology today: Contemporary insights into life in cities
Wellman, Barry. 1999. *Networks in the Global Village: Life in Contemporary Communities*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
Ansari, Ghaus, Peter J. M. Nas, eds. 1983. Town-Talk. The Dynamics of Urban Anthropology. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
Gmelch, George and Walter P. Zenner, eds. 1996. Urban Life. Readings in Urban Anthropology. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press.

Term paper: Due date: 17/10/2016.
Option A: Discuss the socio-spatial differentiation of Nairobi City County and its impact on the well-being of the under-privileged.
Option B: Using the lenses of Emile Durkheim's *Anomie theory,* discuss the observed moral decadence in Nairobi City County.