Module Code: AA-3304

Module Title: Urban Society

Type of Module: Bachelor of Arts: Degree Core (Option)/Breadth/Minor Core

Modular Credits: 4
Student Workload: 8-10 hours per week
Contact hours for timetabling: 2 hours per week

Prerequisite: None
Antirequisite: None

Aims/Objectives/Rationale:
Combining anthropological and sociological insights, this course seeks to investigate the origins of urban life, the relationship between town and countryside and the sociology and culture of peoples living in and moving to urban environments. We will, inter alia, debate the opposing sociological and cultural views: (i) that there is a special, distinctive quality to life in urban places, and (ii) that city and countryside necessarily belong to the same social and cultural reality; consequently, to foster a division between rural and urban sociology is to distort the sociological and cultural realities we seek.

Course Content:
- the development of the sociological and anthropological study of urban life
- the origin and evolution of cities: from ancient Ur to modern Chicago
- rural-urban migration
- human adaptations to densely-populated urban environments: network, neighbourhood, community and urban village
- work and leisure in the urban milieu
- the city and social breakdown: poverty, crime and other urban dilemmas
- cultural continuities between city and countryside. Do we need an anthropology of cities or simply anthropology (and sociology) in cities?

Assessment

| Examination: (2 hours) | 50% |
| Course Work: 2 short essays (@ 20% each) 1 presentation report (10%) | 50% |

Textbook(s) References:

* Staff: