



## Urban Culture: Exploring Cities And Cultures- (Value Pack w/MySearchLab)

By Alan C. Turley

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Using contemporary cultural examples as a recurrent theme, this innovative volume examines the various theoretical perspectives and paradigms of urban and cultural analysis. It explores the city's impact on how we make and consume all types of culture: art, music, literature, architecture, film, etc., illustrating not only the effects the urban environment has on the production of culture, but, at times, how culture has influenced the city. The author provides an introduction to why the city matters and details the urban environment, culture in the city, music, art/sculpture and writing/theater, architecture/fashion, photography/film/television, government producing culture such as cities/parades/concerts, spontaneous culture and social movements and deviant culture. For individuals interested in urban culture and sociology.

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Back Cover

This innovative text uses the lens of culture to examine the various theoretical perspectives and paradigms of urban analysis. It explores the city's impact on how we make and consume all types of culture—art, music, literature, architecture, film, and more—not only illustrating the effects the urban environment has on the production of culture, but, at times, how culture has influenced the city.

Theoretically diverse, *Urban Culture* employs the major theoretical perspectives in sociology and the major paradigms in Urban Sociology and Urban Studies: Urban Ecology, Marxism, New Urbanism, Socio-Psychological Perspective, Structuralists/Econometrics, and Urban Elites/ Entrepreneurs. Urban Terrorism is also addressed to provide a timely examination of the cultural impact and sociological effects of terrorism in an urban setting.

About the Author

**Alan C. Turley**, Concordia University, Austin, Texas.

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This book illustrates the effects of the urban environment on the production of culture. It covers music, art, writing, and deviant culture production from the perspective that the urban landscape and urban structure impact the groups of people living in the city. City life has an effect on production and consumption of culture and literally defines where culture can take place. Using urban theory to talk about culture reflects a new approach to a field that hasn't witnessed many new teaching innovations. A book that covers cultural topics together with urban theory and methods will reach modern students in a way in which they haven't before been challenged. Students grasp modern culture better than they grasp any other type of knowledge, so by combining elements of what they know of their world with the theory and methods of urban sociology and anthropology, this book presents pedagogy in a way that is more accessible to students. Applying urban sociology's main theories to new challenges—like examining culture—should make this book more accessible to students of all ages.

This book is a text for courses in urban sociology or urban anthropology; it can also be used as the primary text in an urban culture class. Though some of the culture discussed is from ancient times, the text attempts to engage students to apply the urban theories to which they are exposed to the cultural topic being discussed. Hopefully, this will provoke readers to apply these theories on their own, and this is the goal of any urban course—enabling students to use the theories, not just read, memorize, and forget.

The first chapters explain the major theories in urban sociology by using culture production in the urban environment as the recurrent theme. Then we will examine music, writing and theater, architecture and fashion, and photography and film as examples of ways to see urban theory in action as well as to get students to use urban theory in new and novel ways. No special artistic knowledge is needed for these chapters; again, the goal is to get students to use urban theories and apply them to culture (something with which they are more comfortable and familiar than with demographical tables or maps). If I have committed some oversight and the artistic explanations are not detailed enough, please contact me at the following, address: Department of Sociology, University of New Orleans, 2000 Lakeshore, New Orleans, LA 70148.

I wish to thank the following reviewers for their helpful comments and suggestions: Brian Aldrich, Winona State University; Henry Lee Allan, Wheaton College; Walter F. Carroll, Bridgewater State College; Joe Feagin, University of Florida; W. Richard Goe, Kansas State University; Earl Smith, Wake Forest University; and Renee T. White, Central Connecticut University.

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