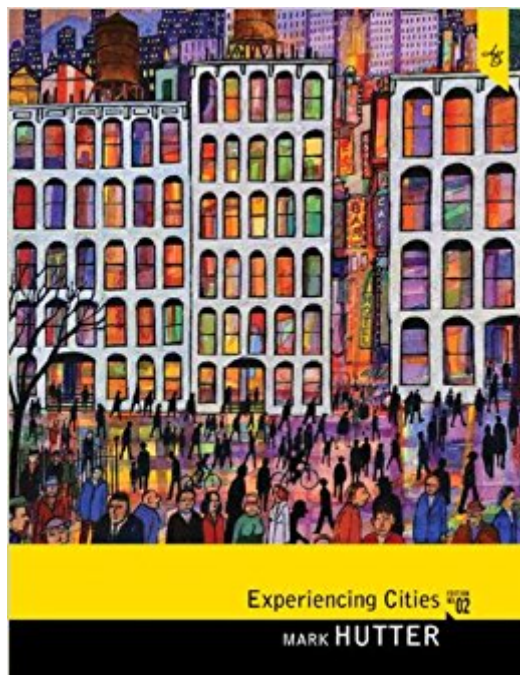


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Experiencing Cities (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

For undergraduate and graduate courses in urban sociology. A social psychological perspective informed by political economy encourages sociological understanding of the city and suburb in the past and in the contemporary world. Experiencing Cities is an introduction to urban sociology based heavily on microsociology and symbolic interaction theoryâ€”emphasizing the way people experience the urban world in their everyday lives, interact with one another, and create meaning from the physical and human environments of their cities. Note: MySearchLab does not come automatically packaged with this text. To purchase MySearchLab, please visit: www.mysearchlab.com or you can purchase a ValuePack of the text + MySearchLab with Pearson eText (at no additional cost). ValuePack ISBN-10: 0205863647 / ValuePack ISBN-13: 9780205863648

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Customer Reviews

I teach Urban Sociology and have looked at a number of textbooks. For me, Mark Hutter's book is the best one on the market at the moment. It covers all of the topics one would expect in a textbook and it is well written, for the most part. Although Hutter discusses the main theories in urban sociology, he primarily uses symbolic interactionism to show how people's perceptions of the city are shaped by their social class, race, and gender characteristics and the political economy perspective to illuminate how cities do not just happen, but take shape based on the influence of political, business, and real estate elites. Hutter, for example, discusses how our notions about gender and family shaped the development of shopping in downtown areas and lead to the rise of

the suburbs. What sets Hutter's book apart from the rest is that he incorporates a cultural perspective in his analysis of city life. For example, the book has a chapter on the City as Work of Art, where Hutter links impressionist paintings, city life, and the emerging middle class in Paris and the work of Mural artists in Philadelphia to urban redevelopment. There is also a chapter on how skyscrapers reflect the image that corporate interests want to project to the public. Lastly, Hutter looks at connections to others and how urban settings can facilitate or inhibit them, and the consequences of social isolation for people's well-being. Most of the problems that I have with the book revolve around poor editing. There are passages in one paragraph that are repeated in the next one, which suggests that Hutter moved some sentences around for this Second Edition and was not careful about deleting the old material. There are also some mistakes in citations.

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