Course Meeting Times and Locations
Tues/Thurs Lecture (3 units) - 1:35pm-2:50pm in Periera 208
Tuesday Lab (1 unit) - 3-5:50pm in University Hall 2725

Course Pre-requisites
MATH 104, 204, 112, 122, or 131

Lead Faculty
Heather Tarleton, Ph.D., M.S., M.P.A.P.
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Course Faculty
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Eric Strauss, Ph.D.
Presidential Professor, Department of Biology
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Office Hours: TBA and by chance/appointment

Friends of the Course

Daniel Rizik-Baer
Community Relations Manager
Skidrow Housing Trust

Tim Huffman
Assistant Professor, Communication Studies
Loyola Marymount University

Reginald D. Gautt, Captain
Marina Del Rey Station
Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department
Course Description
The first module for this course will begin by examining why homelessness exists and how changes in resource allocation and service provision have contributed to the problem. In the second module, we will explore homelessness in order to understand what it means to be homeless in terms of physical and social disamenity. We will contrast the human experience in urban cities with the human experience in nomadic cultures and non-human populations. In the third module, we will create a solution space where we are able to characterize successful and effective interventions and, subsequently, separate out the approaches that generate “tolerance” from those that promote “solutions”.

During the course, students will be exposed to the diversity of the homeless population in America (families, single men and women, veterans, adolescents) in an attempt to educate beyond the stereotypes of what homelessness looks like. Students will be engaged in laboratory and fieldwork experiences that simulate research in community health science and urban ecology. Lab sessions will prepare students in mathematical modeling, community resource assessment, and ecology.

Learning Goals

Explain the similarities and differences in how each discipline: creates definitions and assumptions related to homelessness, approaches and analyzes the issue of homelessness, sets priorities.

Understand homelessness as a complex systems problem (social, political, economic, land use, postindustrial phenomena, human migration, shifts in public service priorities).

Describe the physical, social, and political burdens experienced by the homeless.

Define the characteristics of an effective homelessness intervention with attention to the scope, application, scale, system quality, relevance, appropriateness. Evaluate whether current interventions or policies are successful and effective.

Identify the specific impacts of homelessness on the educational experience and academic achievement. Distinguish the educational impacts of homelessness from other oppressive social conditions.

Identify the legal and educational resources and policies in place to/intended to protect the educational rights of homeless children.

Understand the importance of mathematics and statistics in generating population-based models. Be able to write clear statement for the first three steps of a basic mathematical modeling problem.

Examine and compare mathematical (prediction/limitations) models of migration and human-environmental exposure interaction: infectious disease transmission, herd immunity at neighborhood scale, movement of animal populations in response to resource availability, possibly model an adaptive trait.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that can range from receiving no credit for assignments/tests to expulsion. It is never permissible to turn in any work that has been copied from another student or copied from a source (including Internet) without properly acknowledging the source. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the “LMU Honor Code and Process” which appears in the LMU Bulletin 2010-2011 (see http://www.lmu.edu/about/services/registrar/Bulletin/Bulletins_in_PDF_Format.htm.)
Special Accommodations: Students with special needs who require reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning, Physical, or Psychiatric) needing academic accommodations should contact the DSS Office (Daum Hall 2nd floor, 310-338-4216) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit www.lmu.edu/dss for additional information.

Expectations for Classroom Behavior: Disruptive behavior, which is persistent or significantly interferes with classroom activities may be subject to disciplinary action. A student may be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs if their behavior constitutes a violation of the conduct code. RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS: As an LMU Lion, by the Lion’s Code, you are pledged to join the discourse of the academy with honesty of voice and integrity of scholarship and to show respect for staff, professors, and other students. ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Please turn off and put out of sight all electronic devices (other than a calculator or computer, if/when allowed) during class-time. The interruptions and/or distractions they cause disrupt class and interfere with the learning process.

Email Communication: At times we will communicate with the entire class using campus email systems, so it is essential that you regularly check your lion.lmu.edu email address or forward your lion account email to your preferred email address.

Emergency Preparedness: To report an emergency or suspicious activity, contact the LMU Department of Public Safety by phone (x222 or 310-338-2893) or at the nearest emergency call box. In the event of an evacuation, follow the evacuation signage throughout the building to the designated safe refuge area where you will receive further instruction from Public Safety or a Building Captain. For more safety information and preparedness tips, visit http://www.lmu.edu/emergency. A longer syllabus insert is also available at http://www.lmu.edu/cte.

Work Load Expectations
This is a 3-credit course with a 1-credit laboratory. As such, you are expected to spend a minimum of 6 hours of time outside of class each week on the lecture (homework assignments, assigned readings, preparing for class discussions, studying for exams). You are expected to additionally spend a minimum of 30 minutes of time outside of class each week studying for laboratory quizzes and working on projects.

Required Readings
There is no textbook assigned for the class. All readings will be posted to the course website. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings for each class session IN ADVANCE of that particular class session.

Changes to Syllabus
This syllabus and its contents will change throughout the semester. Changes will be announced using the Announcements section on the course website. Please be sure to attend class and check your LMU email account and the MyLMU course website regularly.

Grading
Course Assignments (15%)
Lab Quizzes (10%)
Fieldwork Assignments (20%)
Midterm (20%)
Oral Presentations (20%)
Final Project (15%)
Attendance and Participation
Regular attendance at labs and fieldwork is mandatory. Regular attendance at lectures is expected. If a student is absent, then s/he is still responsible for the material covered during that lecture.

Course Assignments (15%)
There will be 3 assignments due by midnight on the Thursday of Weeks 5, 9, 12. Each assignment is worth 5%. Assignments should be completed with your assigned partner.

Lab Quizzes (10%)
Three quizzes will be given during the lab sessions.

Fieldwork Assignments (20%)
Fieldwork reflections should be submitted on Blackboard (10%). Assignments will be due by midnight on the Thursday of Weeks 3, 4, 6, 10, and 14. Each is worth 2% and should be completed individually. Each fieldwork project will be carried out in groups of 6-7 students. A draft of the final fieldwork project is due on April 3rd (10%).

Midterm (20%)
In-class on February 27th.

Oral Presentations (20%)
Each fieldwork project will be carried out in groups of 6-7 students. Each group is expected to make a 20-minute oral presentation of their project during Week 14 (20%). You will receive feedback from your peers, faculty instructors and community partner.

Final Fieldwork Project (15%)
Each fieldwork project will be carried out in groups of 6-7 students. The final project will be due on the last day of class (15%). Each final project submission is expected to also include a modeling component with variables to put into play and an evaluation of the pieces needed to define the model as effective. More details regarding the fieldwork projects will be provided in class.

Course Topics
Week 1: Introductions
Lecture 1 (Jan 14): Introduction to the Course & Privacy and Respect in Community-Based Research
Lab Session 1 (Jan 14): Introduction to Mathematical Modeling & How to Build Mathematical Models
Lecture 2 (Jan 16): Core Frameworks from Public Health and Urban Ecology

Week 2: Module #1: Why Does Homelessness Exist?
Understand homelessness as a complex systems problem (social, political, economic, land use, postindustrial phenomena, human migration, historical framework).

Lecture 3 (Jan 21): Transitional Living in Human and Non-Human Populations (Historical, Biological)
Lab Session 2 (Jan 21): How to Build Mathematical Models & Model Processes
Lecture 4 (Jan 23): The Built Environment

Week 3: Module #1: Why Does Homelessness Exist?
Lecture 5 (Jan 28): Discussion of Final Project with Skidrow Housing Trust
Lab Session 3 (January 28): Fieldwork at Ballona Wetlands/Skidrow Housing Trust
Lecture 6 (Jan 30): Historical Trends in Public Health and Urban Ecology (Agrarian to Industry)

FIELDWORK JOURNAL DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY
Week 4: Module #1: Why Does Homelessness Exist?
Lecture 7 (Feb 4): Historical Trends in Public Health and Urban Ecology (De-Industrialization)
Lab Session 4 (Feb 4): Fieldwork at Ballona Wetlands/Skidrow Housing Trust
Lecture 8 (Feb 6): Historical Trends in Public Health and Urban Ecology (De-Institutionalization)
FIELDWORK JOURNAL DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY

Week 5: Module #1: Why Does Homelessness Exist?
Lecture 9 (Feb 11): Education, Prison and Military Settings
Lab Session 5 (Feb 11): Quiz #1 & Model Processes
Lecture 10 (Feb 13): Bringing it All Together
COURSE ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY

Module #2: How Do We Understand Homelessness?
Recognize the role/strength/limitations of a theory of homelessness, explore interactions between human institutions, behavior, human cognition, cultural values, ecosystem, community function, services.

Week 6: Module #2: How Do We Understand Homelessness?
Lecture 11 (Feb 18): Transitional Living in Human Populations (Contemporary)
Lab Session 6 (Feb 18): Fieldwork in Downtown LA
Lecture 12 (Feb 20): Individual Freedoms, Oppressive Social Conditions, and Social Ecology
FIELDWORK JOURNAL DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY

Week 7: MIDTERM
Lecture 13 (Feb 25): Review for Midterm Exam
Lab Session 7 (Feb 25): Model Processes
Lecture 14 (Feb 27): Midterm Exam

SPRING BREAK FROM MARCH 3RD-7TH: NO CLASSES OR LABS

Week 8: Module #2: How Do We Understand Homelessness?
Lecture 13 (March 11): Chronic Disease Burdens
Lab Session 8 (March 11): Model Applications
Lecture 14 (March 13): Communicable Disease Transmission

Week 9: Module #2: How Do We Understand Homelessness?
Lecture 15 (March 18): Eye Care, Oral Health and Nutrition
Lab Session 9 (March 18): Quiz #2 & Model Applications
Lecture 16 (March 20): The Ecology of Physical and Mental Disabilities
COURSE ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY

Module #3: How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Meaningful solutions instead of tolerance or inaction.

Week 10: Module #3: How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Lecture 17 (March 25): Biological Adaptations and Community-Based Solutions
Lab Session 10 (March 25): Fieldwork in Downtown LA
Lecture 18 (March 27): Rules of Assembly and Organization
FIELDWORK JOURNAL DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY
Week 11: Module #3: How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Lecture 19 (April 1): Children, Adolescents and Families
Lab Session 11 (April 1): Model Evaluation
Lecture 20 (April 3): Resources and Services Provided by External Private Sources
DRAFT OF FIELDWORK PROJECT DUE ON APRIL 3RD

Week 12: Module #3: How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Lecture 21 (April 8): Resources and Services Provided by External Public Sources
Lab Session 12 (April 8): Quiz #3 & Model Interpretations
Lecture 22 (April 10): Access to Care
COURSE ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY

Week 13: Module #3: How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Lecture 23 (April 15): How to Define and Assess "Success"
Lab Session 13 (April 15): Model Interpretations
No Class on April 17: Easter Break

Week 14: Module #3: How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Lecture 24 (April 22): Evaluation of Existing Solutions
Lab Session 14 (April 22): Fieldwork in Downtown LA
Lecture 25 (April 24): Oral Presentations of Fieldwork Projects
FIELDWORK JOURNAL DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY

Week 15: Bringing it All Together and Looking Forward
Lecture 26 (April 29): Evaluation of Existing Solutions
Lab Session 15 (April 29): Final Questions & Time for Modeling Project Completion
Lecture 27 (May 1): In-Class Reflection
FINAL FIELDWORK PROJECTS DUE ON MAY 1ST
Ecology of Homelessness - Course Assignment #1

Instructions
This assignment should be completed with your assigned partner. One assignment with both partners’ names on it should be uploaded as a PDF to the course website. Click on the Course Assignment link and then click on “Course Assignment #1” in order to upload your assignment.

You will be graded according to the rubric posted under “Evaluation Rubric”. Please be sure to integrate the relevant lecture content and assigned readings/videos into your responses. There is no page minimum...we are looking for thoughtful answers that demonstrate an understanding of the material and an ability to integrate lecture content into the thought process.

Questions

1. How does an ecological approach to the challenge of homelessness illuminate or confound our understanding of the plight?

2. How do people who are homeless interact with nature?

3. How might those interactions differ from those people who have permanent and safe housing?

4. Are homeless people "closer to nature"? If so, how does this shape our understanding of nature in the modern metropolis?

5. The following questions are with reference to the New Yorker article and the two videos on The Tower of David (in the required reading folder for February 11th).

   a. Create a table and list the determinants (using the four categories of society/policy, community, interpersonal, individual) that led to the inhabitation of the Tower of David.
   b. List the stakeholders and each stakeholder’s value/vested interest in the Tower of David.
   c. Are there any public health concerns associated with the Tower of David? Why or why not?

6. Imagine that you and your partner have suddenly become homeless. You have no money, credit cards, or job. You haven’t finished your college degree yet. You have no family or friends that can provide you with shelter or resources. What are your top 10 needs (list in order of your priority and explain why they qualify as needs) and how will you satisfy those needs? What are some barriers that you will encounter?

You and your partner might need to collect info before you answer this question. For example, if you say that you will use the bathroom at Burger King on Lincoln for your personal hygiene needs, then you should go check out that particular Burger King to see if they have a lock on the bathroom that requires that you see the cashier for a key or token (this is a barrier).

7. What are the health-related pros and cons of being a member of a historically migratory culture/community versus being a member of a stationary culture/community?

8. From the reading, “Program to End Homelessness Among Veterans Reaches a Milestone in Arizona,” model as comprehensively as possible homelessness amongst veterans as a system of causes, effects and enacted or suggested solutions.

9. How would this model look differently if the population was:

   a. Middle-aged White males?
   b. Adolescent Black females?

10. Please read the article on “Batting Homelessness in New York City”. How would the model that you generated look differently if homelessness was being modeled in:

    c. Miami, FL?
    d. New York, NY?
## Skid Row Community Directory of Services

**A. Los Angeles Disability Insurance Office**

Disability Insurance Office (323) 720-2027

- **Services:** Disability insurance claims, appeals, and resources.
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**B. Fast Vehicles Registration Services, LLC**

Vehicle registration and verification services, license plates, and transfers.

- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Saturday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**C. Downtown Work Source Center**

WorkSource centers provide job search assistance and career development.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**D. U.S. Social Security Administration**

Social Security Offices.

- **Address:** 456 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**E. Los Angeles Community Action Network**

提供社区服务, 组织, 和咨询服务.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**F. Chrysalis**

Chrysalis offers services for addiction and mental health.

- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**G. Open Door Health Center**

Open Door Health Center offers primary care and mental health services.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**H. Skid Row Housing Trust**

Trust provides transitional housing and support services for individuals.

- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**I. Access Center (Volunteers of America)**

Provides vocational training and job placement services.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**J. St. Vincent's Cardinal Manning Center (Shelter House)**

Shelter House provides overnight shelter and supportive services.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**K. Los Angeles Christian Health Services**

Provides primary care and mental health services.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**L. Ann Dooze Center for Women**

Center for Women provides support and resources for women.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**M. Los Angeles Mission**

Provides food, clothing, and shelter services.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**N. SRO Housing Rental Office**

Rentals for SRO housing units.

- **Address:** 567 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Contact:** (323) 123-4567
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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**Legend:**

- **I Shelter Housing**
- **Medical/ Dental**
- **Community Services**
- **Transportation**
- **Education**
- **Entertainment**
- **Shopping**
- **Food**
- **Veteran Services**
- **Substance Abuse Services**

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**Los Angeles County Information**

- **Health and Human Services**
  - **Contact:** 213-222-1237
- **Domestic Violence Hotlines**
  - **Contact:** 213-222-1237

**Addiction Hotlines**

- **AA:** (800) 952-3872
- **CA:** (310) 216-8444
- **NA:** (888) 672-9318

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*Compiled by: Students of Loyola Marymount University*
Ecology of Homelessness - Course Assignment #1

Due at midnight on 2/13/2014

Instructions
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   b. Adolescent Black females?

10. Please read the article on “Batting Homelessness in New York City”. How would the model that you generated look differently if homelessness was being modeled in:
   c. Miami, FL?
   d. New York, NY?
NEW COURSE FOR SPRING 2014!
“The Ecology of Homelessness” (4 units)
Tues/Thurs Lecture @ 1:35pm-2:50pm & Tuesday Lab @ 3-5:50pm
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In order to understand homelessness, we will go beyond stereotypes using
the interdisciplinary tools of Ecology, Public Health, Mathematics and
Education. Students of Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Urban Studies
are especially encouraged to enroll!

If interested in enrolling, please contact Dr. Heather Tarleton
(Heather.Tarleton@lmu.edu)

Why Does Homelessness Exist?
Understand homelessness as a complex systems problem (social, political,
economic, land use, human migration).

How Do We Understand Homelessness?
Contrast the human experience in urban cities with nomadic and non-human
populations, describe the physical and social burdens experienced by the homeless.

How Do We Create Successful Solutions to Homelessness?
Identify what it means to solve the problem versus tolerating the problem.