Culture Regions

- Urban culture regions
- Cultural diffusion in the city
- The cultural ecology of the city
- Cultural integration and models of the city
- Urban landscapes
Six processes at work in the city

- Concentration — differential distribution of population and economic activities in a city, and the manner in which they have focused on the center of the city
- Decentralization — the location of activity away from the central city
- Segregation — the sorting out of population groups according to conscious preferences for associating with one group or another through bias and prejudice
Six processes at work in the city

- **Specialization** — similar to segregation only refers to the economic sector
- **Invasion** — traditionally, a process through which a new activity or social group enters an area
- **Succession** — a new use or social group gradually replaces the former occupants
- The following models were constructed to examine single cities and do not necessarily apply to metropolitan coalescences so common in today’s world
Concentric zone model

- Developed in 1925 by Ernest W. Burgess
- A model with five zones.
1 CBD (central business district)
2 Transition zone
3 Blue-collar residential
4 Middle-income residential
5 Commuter residential
Concentric zone model

- A model with five zones.
  - Zone 1
    - The central business district (CBD)
    - Distinct pattern of income levels out to the commuters’ zone
    - Extension of trolley lines had a lot to do with this pattern)
Concentric zone model

A model with five zones.

- Zone 2
  - Characterized by mixed pattern of industrial and residential land use
  - Rooming houses, small apartments, and tenements attract the lowest income segment
  - Often includes slums and skid rows, many ethnic ghettos began here
  - Usually called the transition zone
Concentric zone model

- A model with five zones.
  - Zone 3
    - The “workingmen’s quarters”
    - Solid blue-collar, located close to factories of zones 1 and 2
    - More stable than the transition zone around the CBD
    - Often characterized by ethnic neighborhoods — blocks of immigrants who broke free from the ghettos
    - Spreading outward because of pressure from transition zone and because blue-collar workers demanded better housing
Concentric zone model

- A model with five zones.
  - Zone 4
    - Middle class area of “better housing”
    - Established city dwellers, many of whom moved outward with the first streetcar network
    - Commute to work in the CBD
Concentric zone model

- A model with five zones.
  - Zone 5
    - Consists of higher-income families clustered together in older suburbs
    - Located either on the farthest extension of the trolley or commuter railroad lines
    - Spacious lots and large houses
    - From here the rich pressed outward to avoid congestion and social heterogeneity caused by expansion of zone 4
Concentric zone model

1. Theory represented the American city in a new stage of development
   - Before the 1870s, cities such as New York had mixed neighborhoods where merchants’ stores and sweatshop factories were intermingled with mansions and hovels
   - Rich and poor, immigrant and native-born, rubbed shoulders in the same neighborhoods
In Chicago, Burgess’s home town, the great fire of 1871 leveled the core
- The result of rebuilding was a more explicit social patterning
- Chicago became a segregated city with a concentric pattern
- This was the city Burgess used for his model
- The actual map of the residential area does not exactly match his simplified concentric zones
Concentric zone model

Critics of the model

- Pointed out even though portions of each zone did exist, rarely were they linked to totally surround the city
- Burgess countered there were distinct barriers, such as old industrial centers, preventing the completion of the arc
- Others felt Burgess, as a sociologist, overemphasized residential patterns and did not give proper credit to other land uses
Homer Hoyt, an economist, presented his sector model in 1939. Maintained high-rent districts were instrumental in shaping land-use structure of the city. Because these areas were reinforced by transportation routes, the pattern of their development was one of sectors or wedges.
Sector model

Hoyt suggested high-rent sector would expand according to four factors

- Moves from its point of origin near the CBD, along established routes of travel, toward another nucleus of high-rent buildings
- Will progress toward high ground or along waterfronts, when these areas are not used for industry
- Will move along the route of fastest transportation
- Will move toward open space
 Sector model

1. As high-rent sectors develop, areas between them are filled in
   - Middle-rent areas move directly next to them, drawing on their prestige
   - Low-rent areas fill remaining areas
   - Moving away from major routes of travel, rents go from high to low

1. There are distinct patterns in today’s cities that echo Hoyt’s model

1. He had the advantage of writing later than Burgess — in the age of the automobile
Today, major transportation arteries are generally freeways

- Surrounding areas are often low-rent districts
- Contrary to Hoyt’s theory
- Freeways were imposed on existing urban pattern
- Often built through low-rent areas where land was cheaper and political opposition was less
Multiple nuclei model

- Suggested by Chauncey Harris and Edward Ullman in 1945
- Maintained a city developed with equal intensity around various points
- The CBD was not the sole generator of change
Multiple nuclei model

- Equal weight must be given to:
  - An old community on city outskirts around which new suburbs clustered
  - An industrial district that grew from an original waterfront location
  - Low-income area that began because of some social stigma attached to site
Multiple nuclei model

Rooted their model in four geographic principles

- Certain activities require highly specialized facilities
  - Accessible transportation for a factory
  - Large areas of open land for a housing tract
- Certain activities cluster because they profit from mutual association
- Certain activities repel each other and will not be found in the same area
- Certain activities could not make a profit if they paid the high rent of the most desirable locations
Multiple nuclei model

- More than any other model takes into account the varied factors of decentralization in the structure of the North American city.
- Many criticize the concentric zone and sector theories as being rather deterministic because they emphasize one single factor.
- Multiple nuclei theory encompasses a larger spectrum of economic and social possibilities.
- Most urban scholars feel Harris and Ullman succeeded in trying to integrate the disparate element of culture into workable model.
Feminist critiques

1. Most criticisms of above models focus on their inability to account for all the complexities of urban forms.

2. All three models assume urban patterns are shaped by economic trade-offs between:
   - Desire to live in suburban neighborhood appropriate to one’s economic status
   - Need to live close to the city center for employment opportunities
Feminist critiques

- Models assume only one person is a wage worker — the male head
- Ignore dual-income families and households headed by single women
- Women contend with a larger array of factors in making locational decisions
  - Distances to child care and school facilities
  - Other important services important for different members of a family
- Traditional models that assume a spatial separation of workplace and home are no longer appropriate
Feminist critiques

- Results of a study of activity patterns of working parents
  - Women living in a city have access to wider array of employment opportunities
  - Better able to combine domestic and wage labor than women in suburbs
  - Many middle class women choose a gentrified inner-city location to live
    - Hope this area will offer amenities of suburbs—good schools and safety
    - Accommodate their activity patterns
  - Other research has shown some businesses locate offices in suburbs because they rely on labor of highly educated, middle class women spatially constrained by domestic work
Feminist critiques

- Most women seek employment closer to home than men even those without small children
- Criticism of models by women
  - Most families require two real wage earners
  - Models tend to reflect an urban structure that isolates women who do not participate in the urban labor market
  - Raises problems of timing and organization for those who combine waged and domestic labor
  - Created by men who shared certain assumptions about how cities operate, and represent a partial view of urban life
Feminist critiques

- Other theories incorporated alternative perspective of female scholars
  - Studies using mostly female students, focused on “race,” ethnicity, class, and housing in Chicago
  - Emphasized role of landlords in shaping discrimination in the housing market

- Study by urban historian Raymond Mohl
  - Follows the making of black ghettos in Miami between 1940 and 1960
  - Reveals role of public policy decisions, landlordism, and discrimination