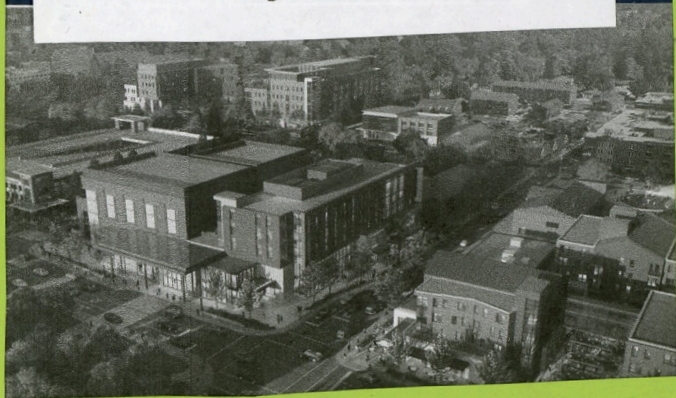


Urban Anthropology

An Immersive Learning Class
Spring 2025

The Village Revitalization



What is urban anthropology?



Urban anthropology tries to capture the complex social and cultural lives that people develop in cities and documents how they negotiate heterogeneous, unequal and constantly changing urban landscapes.

(Jaffe and DeKoning 2023, 5)

What is a city?

A city has size, density, and population heterogeneity, "a relatively large, dense, and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous people" (Wirth 1938, 8).

FUN?

**COLONIAL
CONTINUUMS**

Place and Bodies

**BULLDOZER
POLITICS**

**UNDOCUMENTED
INTERNATIONAL**



More recently, scholars have begun to think of cities less as places and more as processes, global and local, that include a variety of flows (people, goods, ideas) and assemblages.

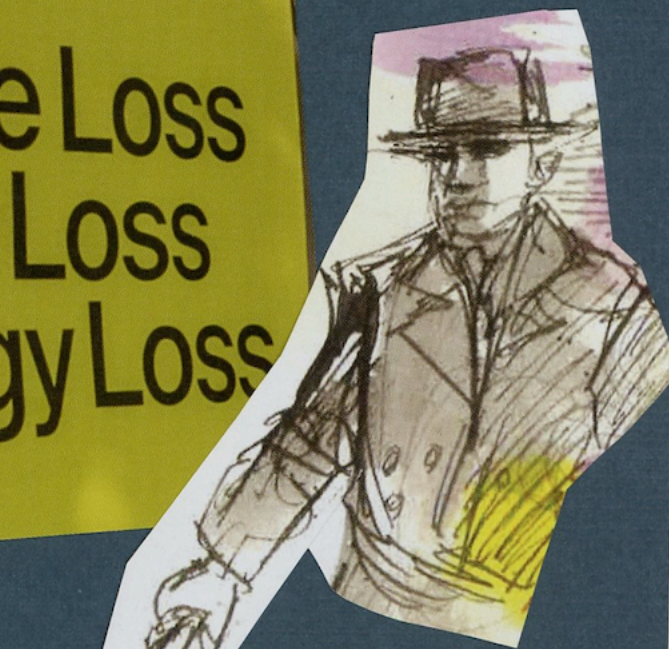


Who has the most power
in shaping the city?

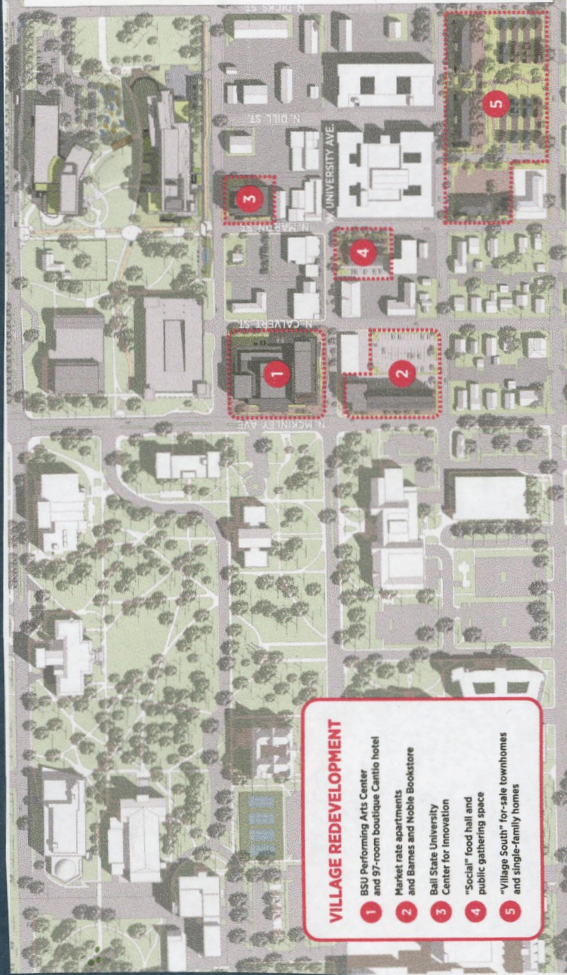
Home Loss
Job Loss
Energy Loss



girl
power!



What is the purpose of higher education?



Research questions

Muncie has moved from "jars and cars" to "meds and eds." How does that change urban life?

Is Ball State a "UniverCity?"

Davarian Brown (2021) uses "**UniverCities**" to describe the complex and often problematic relationship between higher education institutions and the urban environments they inhabit, raising questions about equity, community impact, and the changing role of universities in contemporary society.

Key terms

ethnography
Ball State University
gentrification
higher education
belonging
Urban Anthropology
The Village Revitalization
Muncie
mixed used district
urban economic development
town/gown
right to the city
urban commons
neoliberalism
University place space

What makes universities
good for our cities?

What next?

WHO?

used The Village in the past?

We'll look at **historical archives** and talk to people about their time in The Village. Ask us about our Village photo "scanning parties"!

uses The Village now?

We're doing a **survey** and **interviewing** key stakeholders about what they like to do in The Village and what they would like to see in the revitalized Village.

will feel included in The Revitalized Village?
(And who won't and why?)



Share your thoughts about The Village Revitalization.
Take our survey!



Questions? Contact Jen Erickson
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