**Chapter 15: Population And Urbanization: Living on Spaceship Earth**

**This American Life**

**Recommended Readings**

Rachel Carson, Edward O. Wilson, and Linda Lear, Silent Spring (2002 Special Edition)   
Carson et al. note that the same problems she first drew attention to in 1962 (the use of pesticides that seeped into the food supply) still exist.

Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck, Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream The author argues that as the structure of suburbs has changed they have actually become less functional in ways that disproportionately disadvantage women, children, and the elderly.

Paul Ehrlich and David Brower, The Population BombIn this classic piece, the authors predicted a Malthusian future based upon surging population growth.

Douglas S. Massey, New Faces in New Places: The Changing Geography of American ImmigrationIn this book, Massey explores the recent phenomenon of immigrants settling into small-town America, rather than just gateway cities. He explains the ways that small town residents are reacting to their new neighbors and the implications for the economy and family life.

Thomas Sieverts, Cities Without Cities: Between Place and World, Space and Time, Town and CountrySieverts investigates the rise of the “meta-city” (multiple cities linked by transportation routes). He concludes that individuals feel less of a connection to their own communities as a result of the geographic changes they've undergone.

William Julius Wilson, When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban PoorWilson investigates aspects of the inner city (e.g., the rise of fatherless families, gang violence, and drugs), which many blame on the “culture of poverty.” Wilson concludes that structural factors (a lack of jobs and high levels of social inequality), rather than individual factors have led to many of the problems of the inner city.

Sharon Zukin, *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*

Using New York as case study, Zukin shows the influence of authenticity on a city. Efforts to maintain authenticity influence housing costs, racial and ethnic make-ups of neighborhoods, and consumption patterns.

Lance Freeman, *There Goes the Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up*

Freeman interviews residents of three New York City neighborhoods to explore their beliefs about gentrification. Freeman uncovers that residents see positives and negatives in gentrification and the process can be neither sees as solely a social problem or a welcome solution to urban poverty.

Thomas L. Friedman, *Hot, Flat and Crowded 2.0: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America*

An update to his original work, Friedman argues that the growth of a global middle class has created a driving need for a green movement that focuses on sustainability. This Green movement, he suggests will bolster the American and the global economy.

Massey, Douglas. *Strangers in a Strange Land*

This classic book focuses on three central factors—the physical environment, social relations at the micro level, and social organization at the macro level—with Professor Massey arguing that humans are genetically programmed to be physiologically, psychologically, and socially adapted to life in small groups and to organic natural environments. Despite this, most humans live in dense urban environments. “As biological organisms,” Massey writes, “we are indeed strangers in a strange land.”

Langdon, Philip. *A Better Place to Live: Reshaping the American Suburb*

Philip Langdon crisscrossed the country to see how suburbs are being built and to interview designers, developers, planners, and residents. Training his eye on houses, streets, parks, gathering places, stores, employment and transportation, Langdon shows how these elements can generate frustration and isolation or, under better circumstances, contribute to a more congenial way of life. Langdon shows how suburbs could be designed much differently than they are today - with networks of walkable streets, neighborhood stores and gathering places, compact town centers, and more varied and affordable housing.