



## ***PLA6649 Planning and the Green New Deal: A Practicum***

**This course is participating in the GSAPP-wide collaboration entitled Public Works for a Green New Deal**

**Instructors:**            **Douglas Woodward**  
                                  **Ariella Maron**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION & SYLLABUS**

#### **Background**

This course will engage the proposed Green New Deal (H. Res. 109) (the “GND”) from an urban planning perspective, investigating its political bases, technical feasibility, implementation strategy, and planning and land use impacts. The course approach will concentrate on the socio-technical aspects of the GND as opposed to strictly technical responses to climate change, to mirror the focus of the proposed legislation itself.

The country is now absorbed in an important conversation about the content of the green new deal legislation, which lays out a comprehensive vision to meet the twin challenges of climate change and inequality. It addresses the need to achieve carbon neutrality, the federal government’s responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, socioeconomic consequences related to climate change; and the need for a strategic large-scale, focused action based on the original New Deal model but prioritizing the inclusion of frontline and vulnerable communities. It offers high-level strategy areas for nationwide, short- and long-term strategies with global implications. It does not, however, offer specific actions to achieve those strategies, providing an opportunity for discussion on the best ways to move its ideals forward, including the roles and responsibilities for different levels of government and different sectors.

#### **The Role of the Practicum**

As distinct from the studio or seminar, a practicum is the systematic practical

application of previously studied theory. Often the practicum framework acts as a critique of theory and we expect that the possible practical applications of the theories embodied in the GND document will yield a rich body of proposals to analyze and study.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/DELIVERABLES**

The practicum will be a part of a GSAPP-wide collaboration with the working title "Public Works for a Green New Deal." The collaboration will include courses that address the social, technical, economic and political contours of the ambitious—but still largely undefined—Green New Deal proposal. All participating students and faculty will also be asked to attend the "[Designing a Green New Deal](#)" event at the University of Pennsylvania on 13 September 2019, with travel expenses covered. From time to time during the semester there will be opportunities to participate in collateral or connected activities that feature debates about or discussions of aspects of the GND. These are optional for students but strongly recommended as enhancements to the work we will be collaborating on at GSAPP.

Along with active participation in class discussions, there are two main requirements for the course. The first is a short presentation to be shared with the practicum on an aspect of planning implicated in the provision(s) of the bill. We will discuss possible topics at the first session and each student will present to the class at some point during the semester.

The second is a longer research paper (10-15 pages) or presentation on a major planning issue in the bill or related policy that will be due at the end of the term. The topic will be discussed with the instructors. At the end of the term this paper or presentation will form part of the practicum's contribution to the overall Public Works for a Green New Deal GSAPP collaboration, which may be published when all the contributions are collected.

### **Grading**

Grades will be based on:

- Class participation—30%
- Topic presentation to the class—30%
- Final paper—40%

Topics for the final paper should be cleared with the instructors by the last class in September and will be due by 2 December.

## **SCHEDULE**

The class meets on Mondays from 1pm-3pm in 204 Fayerweather. Office hours by arrangement with instructors.

### **Week 1 (09 September 2019) Introduction & Key Concepts**

- Course overview & structure
- Key concepts & definitions
- The “New Deal” Model
- Political Reception of the GND on the Right and the Left

*Readings (generally available on Canvas or as handouts in class—students should read and be familiar with the basic outline of the GND proposal before the first class—posted on Canvas)*

H. Res.109 Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal

Draft H. Res. \_\_\_\_ [Republican Study Committee] Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Green New Deal is antithetical to the principles of free market capitalism and private property rights, is simply a thinly veiled attempt to usher in policies that create a socialist society in America, and is impossible to fully implement

Rattner, Steven. “Yes, We Need a Green New Deal. Just Not the One Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Is Offering.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/20/opinion/green-new-deal-carbon-taxes.html>

### **Week 2 (16 September) The Science of the GND**

- The Scientific Basis of the Green New Deal and Climate Action

#### *Readings*

IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews,

Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)). In Press.

NPCC. 2019. Special Issue: Advancing Tools and Methods for Flexible Adaptation Pathways and Science Policy Integration. C. Rosenzweig and W. Solecki, Eds. *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. ISSN 0077-8923*

### **Week 3 (23 September) The Economics of Climate Change and the Equity Argument**

- Neo-liberalism and Economic & Planning Policy
- Equity as a Major Topic in the GND

#### *Readings*

Klein, Naomi. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*, Chapter 4, Planning and Banning: Slapping the Invisible Hand, Building a Movement, pp 120-160.

Latour, Bruno. *Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climactic Regime*, Sections 1-6, pp 1-21, and Section 12, How to Ensure the Relay Between Social Struggles and Ecological Struggles, pp 56-58.

Boston Green Ribbon Commission. (2019). *Carbon Free Boston Equity Report*. Boston, Massachusetts. Executive Summary and Introduction: pp 6-29.

### **Week 4 (30 September) Technical Feasibility/Implementation Strategies**

- Is the Green New Deal implementable in its current form?
- Technical Issues
- Practical Issues
- Was it designed to be implemented? Strategic approaches.

#### *Readings:*

Kayden, Jerold S. (2014) "Why Implementation Matters," from "Urbanism's Core?" issue of *Harvard Design Magazine* 37, Winter 2014 (on Canvas).

Pustkowski, Raphael, Jesse Scott, and Joseph Tesvic. (2014) "Why implementation matters," McKinsey & Co. reports (on Canvas).

### **Week 5 (07 October) Physical Planning and Land Use Impacts**

- The omission of physical planning mandates from the GND
- Land use assumptions and consequences of the GND
- Forms of incorporation: environmental regulations, zoning, or master planning?

*Guest: Howard Slatkin, Deputy Executive Director for Strategic Planning, Department of City Planning [Date to be confirmed]*

**Week 6 (14 October)      Actions & Trends Across the US**

- Current trends

**Week 7 (28 October)      The New York City Experience (Part 1)**

- Introduction to city government
- Local government powers, authorities, and tools
- How Environmental Review and Control Work in NYC
- Overview of Sustainability and Climate Action Efforts in NYC

Readings:

Selections from the *CEQR Handbook* (available on Canvas)

Organization Charts and Process Diagrams (available on Canvas)

City of New York. (2019). OneNYC 2050: Building a Strong and Fair City. Executive Summary: pp 6-53.

***4-5 November –Election Day Break—No class***

**Week 8 (11 November)      The New York City Experience (Part 2)**

- New York City and the GND—Local analogues
- The cultural and spatial consequences in New York of

disaster planning (e.g, Build-it-back planning, The Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency Project, and community resilience plans for Red Hook and Gowanus neighborhoods)

- The social and economic impacts of climate mitigation in NYC (i.e., decarbonizing the building stock, transitioning to clean energy, achieving zero waste)

### *Readings*

New York City's Roadmap to 80x50, Executive Summary and Introduction (pages 5-20).  
[https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/sustainability/downloads/pdf/publications/New%20York%20City's%20Roadmap%20to%2080%20x%2050\\_20160926\\_FOR%20WEB.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/sustainability/downloads/pdf/publications/New%20York%20City's%20Roadmap%20to%2080%20x%2050_20160926_FOR%20WEB.pdf)

NYC Building Emissions Law Summary, Urban Green Council.  
[https://www.urbangreencouncil.org/sites/default/files/urban\\_green\\_council\\_bilidng\\_emissions\\_law\\_summary\\_v2.pdf](https://www.urbangreencouncil.org/sites/default/files/urban_green_council_bilidng_emissions_law_summary_v2.pdf).

Sisson, Patrick. "Community solar may be the solution to help New York go green: New regulations may be "turning point" for getting renewables on NYC rooftops." Curbed NY: April, 26, 2019. <https://ny.curbed.com/2019/4/26/18513798/solar-power-green-new-deal-governor-cuomo>.

### **Week 9 (18 November) Review of other successful GND-like local/state actions**

- Climate Action Through Equity: Portland and the Portland Clean Energy Fund
- System-scale action to create an equitable future: Boulder preparing for the next phase of climate work
- Beat the Heat: Philadelphia's pilot neighborhood resiliency plan
- Regions matter: Salt Lake City area partnership to support community 100% renewable energy goals.
- New York State's Green New Deal legislation

### **Week 10 (25 November) The Puerto Rican Experience: Reactions to Climate Change and Review of Resiliency Efforts in Vieques and Culebra**

**Presentation and discussion led by Eunji Kang & Alanna Browdy**

#### *Readings*

Presentations on GSAPP projects in Vieques and Culebra (in Canvas).

**THANKSGIVING BREAK W-F 27-29 November**

**Week 11 (2 December) Facilitating paradigm shifts in climate planning.**

Incremental changes within our existing regulatory, economic, political, and social systems will not get us to the objectives of GND nor help to stave off catastrophic climate change. How do we plan for and implement strategies that bring about the necessary transformational shifts?

*Readings:* Naomi Klein, *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*.

**Week 12 (2 December) The Environmental Imaginary: Semiotics of Climate and Climate Control**

*Readings (To Be Assigned)*

**Week 13 (9 December) Summary Document Review—The Final Reports**