

# Course Syllabus

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**Course Intention:** To understand, appreciate and work with planning's intellectual history.

**Course Rationale:** **As an intellectual discipline planning sits at the intersection where ideas about spatiality and physicality overlap ideas about social organization; the "*planning intersection*."** We will examine aspects of this intersection. Our exploration is challenging because the ideas about space, society and urbanism that inhabit the planning intersection are in a constant state of flux. The passage of time changes both the literal and figurative physical reality of urban space and our conceptions of it. Via the study of the narratives that other scholars constructed about the planning intersection we seek to gain insight into the future directions of the urban condition and the ability of planning to effectively address the equity and sustainability concerns that are now urgent global imperatives.

How did the ideas of planning theory and the narratives of its history develop? How did they intersect with one another? In what ways do they influence our contemporary understanding of the planning intersection? What methods did the writers use to reach the conclusions they reached? What concerns did they make background for their work and what did they choose to display in the foreground? Which ideological positions were the writers promoting and which were they discouraging? These are the questions around which the critical work of this course will revolve.

## Course Requirements:

- 1) Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings, and come to seminar each week prepared to participate in and lead class discussions.
- 2) Produce 3 high-quality literature review essays. (Details below).
- 3) Produce one term paper (Details below)

## Grading:

Class Participation 20%

Literature review essays 60% (20% each)

Term Paper 20%

## Literature Review Essay Details:

The 3 literature reviews should critically compare, contrast and analyze materials covered. The questions above should serve as organizing themes for the reviews. **PLEASE NOTE HOWEVER:** These questions are not an ironclad template. Instead they should help to guide you in organizing your response to the material reviewed. *Review essays should be approximately 10 double spaced pages in length plus bibliography. Due dates 3/1 (Critical planning history), 3/22 (Neoliberalism and the Welfare State), 4/19 (Contemporary Planning History)*

## Term Paper Details:

As you develop your understanding of the construction of planning history in our readings and discussion, you are expected to be constructing a history narrative relevant to **your individual dissertation work**. This will be done through the writing of a term paper due to me no later than 5:00 PM **May 5<sup>th</sup>**. I will be available through out the semester to confer on your paper topics and

your progress on the paper. You should be checking in with me as needed. NOTE: At the **March 8th** class session each of you will prepare a 5-minute presentation on your plan for the term paper and turn in an annotated bibliography. At the **April 26<sup>th</sup>** class, there will be a 10-minute presentation of the penultimate draft of the term paper.

Types of paper:

- 1) **Period Paper:** A basic descriptive analysis of the socio-political and economic context of the time period and the specific place in which your dissertation is likely to be situated.
- 2) **Policy-Planning Paper:** A history of the particular policy or plan or planning approach that is likely to be central to your dissertation.

*Final Papers should be no more than 15 double spaced pages, plus bibliographic materials.*

## Overview of Planning History (2 Weeks)

Peter Hall's *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design Since 1880* (4th Ed.) is our standard work. Our goal is to ensure that we have a common base of factual history for the variations we will read over the next 12 weeks.

Week 1 (Jan. 18) Hall Chapters 1 to 7

Week 2 (Jan 25) Hall Chapters 8 to 13

## Critical History (3 Weeks)

The theme over the next three weeks will be looking at the work of four influential writers who shaped 20th century thinking about the planning condition

Week 3 (Feb 1) Percival Goodman and Paul Goodman's *Communitas: Ways of Livelihood and Means of Life* and Marshall Berman's *All That is Solid Melts Into Air* serve as the basis for this weeks discussion

Week 4 (Feb 8) Jane Jacobs *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* is the focal point for our discussion this week. In addition we will also read Lewis Mumford's 1961 *New Yorker* review of the book plus a recent reappraisal of the work also from the *New Yorker*

Week 5 (Feb 15) *The Lewis Mumford Reader* (Sections II, III, IV) For this week we more fully explore the writings of Mumford. He and Jacobs at some level should have been on the same page but clearly they were not.

## Neoliberalism and the Welfare State (2 Weeks)

The goal of these two weeks is to set the stage for the contemporary histories that follow after the spring break. The first week we explore the push and pull between the macroeconomic ideas that underpinned the Keynesian social democratic state that emerged in the years after WWII and the push back from the neoliberal state that has emerged since. The importance of these sessions for this course rests on the impact these shifts had on more recent narratives of planning history. In the first session we explore the larger macroeconomic intellectual debate that encompasses the terms of engagement for urban planning. In the second week we explore the ways in which this has played out in terms of urban planning. We do this in part via a review article on the work of Edward Glaeser and in part by looking at the notions of urban policy at the height of the New Deal.

Week 6 (Feb 22) Offer & Soderberg, *The Nobel Factor: The Prize in Economics, Social Democracy and the Market Turn*(Introduction to book) Piketty, *Capital in the 21st Century* (Introduction) Rogers *Age of Fracture* Chapters 2 & 3.

Week 7 (Mar 1) Peck, “Economic Rationality meets Celebrity Urbanology” National Resources Committee and “Our Cities: Their Role in the National Economy,” Report of the Urbanism Committee

### Mid-term Recap (1 Week)

Week 8 (Mar 8) Mid term recap session

### Contemporary Planning History (3 Weeks)

Week 9 (Mar 22) Wakeman *Practicing Utopia: An Intellectual History of the New Town Movement*

Week 10 (Mar 29) Talen *New Urbanism and American Planning: The Conflict of Cultures*

Week 11 (Apr 5) Hirt *Zoned in the USA: The Origins and Implications of American Land-Use Regulation*

### Selected Topics in Planning History (2 Weeks)

Week 12 (Apr 12) Zoning New York City Makielski, S.J. (1966) *The politics of zoning: the New York experience*, Bressi, Todd (1993), *Planning and Zoning New York City*, New York City Department of City Planning *The Zoning Handbook*(2011 or 2016) Sclar, (2016) “Castles in the Air” Working paper

Week 13 (Apr 19) Interstate highways through cities Schaefer and Sclar, Access for ALL Lupu, et. al. Rites of Way

### Final Presentations (1 Week)

Week 14 (Apr 26) Term presentations