

School of Policy, Planning, and Development
University of Southern California

PPD 245: The Urban Context for Policy and Planning
4 units, Spring 2010

Instructors: Professor David Sloane

Time and Classroom: Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00-11:50, RGL 101

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES: We live in an urban world. The number of urban residents worldwide is already more than half, and it is constantly growing. The lives and activities of public policy analysts, planners, government officials, real estate developers, community organizers, and business leaders are shaped by this metropolitan world.

This course examines the twentieth and twenty-first century urban world as the context for policy and planning. We will explore the historical development of the urban world, its spatial and economic structure, its natural and human environments, the demographic and social processes that drive the ongoing transformation of the places we live, and the policies and regulations that mediate our dreams and aspirations.

Students will leave the course with:

- General knowledge of history, economics, politics, and policy-making of the urban world;
- Ability to relate the American urban society to that of the surrounding world;
- A better understanding of the evolving spatial structure of the urban place;
- An expanded comprehension of how race, gender, and class shape urban society.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS: All readings are required and on reserve.

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*.

KM Kruse and TJ Sugrue, eds., *The New Suburban History* (TNSH).

E Birch and S Wachter, *The Shape of the New American City* (SNAC).

Remainder of readings are pdfs on Blackboard

COURSE FORMAT: The course meets twice a week. Attendance and participation are mandatory. I take roll so that I can get to know your names. You should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. The class is intended to be an interactive experience, where we all learn from each other.

OFFICE HOURS: My office is in 313 Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall. My office phone is (213) 740-5768, home phone (310) 577-7907. Please call me at home only after 10:00 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m. My email is dsloane@usc.edu. My office hours will be Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 pm. I am also available by appointment. I look forward to talking with all of you.

DISABILITIES: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP). I encourage you to do it early in the class so we can plan your semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. The DSP phone number is (213) 740-0776.

SYLLABUS REVIEW AND REVISION. During the course of the semester I will regularly review student progress, and may revise the syllabus to meet class needs.

EXPECTATIONS: Your grade will be determined by a combination of participation and the timely and effective completion of written and oral assignments. A person who does not attend class regularly will fail notwithstanding the delivery of written assignments. Your grade will be calculated using the following table.

Minimum	Maximum	Grade
930	1000	A
900	929	A-
875	899	B+
830	874	B
800	829	B-
775	799	C+
730	774	C
700	729	C-
650	699	D
0	649	F

Participation (150 points): Participation is evaluated by involvement in class interactions and in structured discussions around book and specific topics.

Two Short Papers (300 points): The papers are short (4-6 page). The first topic requires that you consider the role of public space in the modern city by choosing a specific space, observe life within it, then discuss what you found using the related readings. The second asks you to draw a map of your neighborhood then use stories from Calvino to discuss it.

Group Presentation (100 points): A week before February 4th, I will break you into groups for you to prepare a presentation on an issue we have been discussing.

Midterm (200 points): The midterm will be split into two sections, identifications and an essay. The exam will cover the lectures, discussions, and readings up to that date.

Final Exam (250 points): The final will have three sections, identifications, a short essay, and a long essay that will cover lectures, discussions, and readings after the midterm.

INTEGRITY: Students should maintain strict adherence to standards of academic integrity, as described in SCampus (<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/>). In particular, the University recommends strict sanctions for plagiarism defined below:

11.11 Plagiarism

A. The submission of material authored by another person but represented as the student's own work, whether that material is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near-verbatim form.

B. The submission of material subjected to editorial revision by another person that results in substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style.

C. Improper acknowledgment of sources in essays or papers.

Note: Culpability is not diminished when plagiarism occurs in drafts that are not the final version. If any material is prepared or submitted by another person on the student's behalf, the student is expected to proofread the results and is responsible for all particulars.

Class Schedule/Assignment Due Dates
DUE DATES ARE FOR THAT CLASS

PART I: Urban World

January 12 An Urban World

We go on a tour through the urban world. An introduction to the course goals and objectives, its structure, five areas of concern, and our mutual responsibilities

Reading: Blackboard: Kostof

January 14 Governing the Industrial City

The industrial city was a crowded, messy place. Reformers were so worried about the physical, economic, social, and political consequences of the mess that they created the foundation for the 20th century city.

Reading: Plunkitt: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5030/>

January 19 Immigrant America, Then and Now

Immigration has been a difficult policy issue for the US since the 1880s. How we have dealt with it over the decades is informative of our policy debates today.

Reading: TNSH: Jones-Correa, 183-204

January 21 Emergence of a Federal Policy

Cities were of little concern to the federal government until the 20th century. The industrial city, though, created such havoc that a policy gradually emerged.

Reading: TNSH: Freund, 11-32 and Wiese, 99-119

January 26 Cars and Highways

In the 1950s, a new city emerged built on speed, credit, and single-family homes.

Reading: TNSH: Self, 144-160 and Siskind, 161-182

January 28 Malls and Disneyland

The emergence of a consumer culture led to a culture of entertainment, with shopping malls and amusement parks the destinations of a new suburban society.

Reading: Blackboard: Findlay

February 2 City in Crisis

The suburbs left the late 20th century city in crisis, confronted with white flight and deindustrialization.

Reading: SNAC: Myers and Pitkin

February 4 Homelessness and Hopelessness in the City

Many homeless people are working people trying to find housing, how do we do that?

Reading: SNAC: Voith and Wachter

February 9 **GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Today we hear from your groups.

Reading: Related to your presentation

PART II Public Space and Social Order

February 11 Public Life and Social Spaces
An urban life is a public life, suggesting public space is critical to the urban condition.
Reading: Sennett: <http://mondediplo.com/2001/02/16cities>
Video: “ Social Life of Small Urban Spaces” By William H. Whyte (1979/1988)

February 16 **MIDTERM**

February 18 Monumental Cities
Cities are places filled with memories and monuments. How do we think about memory and the city?
Reading: Blackboard: Sloane

February 23 Transformations of the Public Realm
The public realm is considered endangered by many commentators. Who cares?
Reading Blackboard: Smithsimon

February 25 Public Order and the Street
The street is America’s primary public space, let’s look at its history and complexity
Reading: Blackboard: Loukaitou-Sideris and Ehrenfeucht

Part III: Today and Tomorrow’s Cities

March 2 Sprawl
Sprawl has emerged as the major planning problem of the 21st century, tied to health, economic, and environmental issues, in the US, and abroad.
Reading: SNAC: Landis; Blackboard: Gordon/Richardson
Video “Understanding Urban Sprawl” (2003)

March 4 Sprawling Over the World
Suburbanization is not an American trend, it is a worldwide reality.
Reading: Blackboard: Orange County, China

March 9 Safe Cities: “Just the Facts Ma’am”
Fear of crime and crime has affected urban policy as cities were viewed as less safe.
Reading: SNAC: Ellen and O’Regan

March 9 PUBLIC SPACE PAPER DUE

March 11 Main Street Blues and Rebirth
Given its difficult problems, how does the city rebound? We discuss some strategies.
Readings: SNAC: Haughwout and Inman: SNAC: Birch (2)

March 16 Spring Break

March 18 Spring Break

March 23 Suburban Blues
So called “inner suburbs” are struggling almost as much as the central cities. Rethinking the suburb, combating sprawl and creating a new urbanism are what some say is needed.
Readings: Kotkin, <http://reason.org/news/show/older-suburbs>

PART IV: Economics and Creativity

March 25 Imagining the City, Past and Future
How does Calvino’s portrayal of the city provide insights into the ways to read the city?
Reading: Calvino, entire book

March 30 Charter Schools and Standardized Tests
No issue is tied as closely to Americans dissatisfaction with the city as education.
Reading: TBA

April 1 Creative and Prosperous Cities
How have scholars imagined the form of the city as a manifestation of its economic activity?
Reading: Molotch and Vicari: <http://uar.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/24/2/188>

April 6 What Role Does Art Play?
When we think of cities we typically think about big assembly plants and banks. However, some argue artist salons and fashion shows are as important as any bank. How do we tell?
Reading: Currid,
<http://www.learcenter.org/pdf/CurridJAPAAutumn2007.pdf>

April 8 Poverty, Work, and Wal-Mart
Wal-Mart is the most important retail store in the US. How does it navigate the stormy world of retailing in a recessionary, post-industrial age?
Reading: SNAC: Massey, Rothwell, Domina

April 13 The New Metropolis
How do city governments cope with a new set of economic and social problems?
Reading: SNAC: Jackson; Goldsmith:
http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cb_5.htm
Video “Building Community in America’s Inner Cities” (1997)

April 13 CALVINO PAPER DUE

April 15 Calvino Maps
Today we will spend some time discussing the ways that you imagined your neighborhoods

April 20 Healthy Cities
In recent years developers, planners, and policymakers have increasingly tried to design and sustain healthy places. What strategies are they using?
Reading: Northridge, Sclar, and Biswas:
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/b755j748t57t631r/fulltext.pdf>

April 22 Urban Food Systems
Food is something we often take for granted. Yet, for many Americans, food is scarce resource, especially healthy foods. What is a urban food system? How do we define it, plan for it, and create policies to sustain it?

Reading: Raja, <http://jpe.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/27/4/469>
Blackboard: Larsen et al,

April 27 Is the Global City the Future?
We started the class by exploring the urban world. What does it mean that a growing number of world residents are living in global cities. What is a global city? Will they continue to grow?

Reading: SNAC: Sassen

April 29 The End
We will discuss the final, plus the future of the city

Reading: SNAC: Nelson; SNAC: Zimmerman

May 11: Final Exam, 11:00-1:00

Blackboard Readings

Kostof, Spiro. Selections, *The City Shaped*.

Findlay, John, "Disneyland: The Happiest Place on Earth," *Magic Lands: Western Cityscapes and American Culture After 1940* (1992): 52-116.

Sloane, David, "Roadside Shrines and Granite Sketches: Diversifying the American Vernacular Landscape of Memory." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, 12 (2005): 64-81.

Smithsimon, Greg, "People in the Streets: The Promise of Democracy in Everyday Public Space."

Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia, and Renia Ehrenfeucht, "Introduction: The Social, Economic, and Political Life of Sidewalks," *Sidewalks: Conflict and Negotiation over Public Space* (2009): 3-14.

Gordon, Peter, and Richardson, Harry. "The Sprawl Debate: Let Markets Plan," *Publius* 31/3: 131-149.