

School of Urban Planning and Development  
University of Southern California

**PPD 533: History of Planning and Urban Form**

2 units, Fall 2011

10:00 to 11:50 AM, RGL 100

Professor David Sloane

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:**

While humans have been planning cities since the beginning of the urban era, only recently has a distinct profession of (city and) urban planning emerged. Understanding the history of a profession is an important component of any professional education. This course provides an overview of planning history, focusing on the twentieth-century and the United States but drawing on examples from around the world.

The course's learning objectives are:

- (1) Acquire an ability to situate the profession in historical context
- (2) Develop one's ability to use scholarly and primary materials related to planning history
- (3) Relate the social processes of planning to the physical form of human settlements
- (4) Refine one's ability to write, work in groups, and verbally articulate opinions in class.

Every course is by definition a series of choices. I have structured the course so we can have regular class discussions in addition to lectures. I have kept the class readings as slim as possible to allow individuals to have time to research their chosen topic. The assignments require you to delve into the history of the profession through the development and accomplishment of a relevant paper topic as well as work with colleagues to analyze and articulate a community's history.

The two-unit courses move very rapidly. You need to focus on the assignments in an orderly and persistence manner or you will not receive a good grade. The instructor will regularly assess progress and solicit student feedback regarding the course. If necessary the syllabus will be revised to make it more suitable.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS: (All readings are required)**

Carl Smith, *Daniel Burnham and the Plan of Chicago*.

Other course readings are on Blackboard. If you have trouble accessing these readings, you need to tell me immediately since a failure to access them is not a reason for not reading them.

I have recommended a few readings that shed important light on individual session topics

**ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each 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.

**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.

**COURSE FORMAT**

This course meets twice a week. The sessions will be a combination of lecture and discussion. My presumption is that each day you will be prepared to discuss that day's readings.

**GRADING**

Your assignments are:

1. Participation (15%) Throughout  
Attendance is mandatory. Anyone who does not attend regularly will be given a failing grade even if they complete the assignments. Participation is an evaluation of how you contribute to class discussions, group projects, and other class activities. The valuable participant is one who helps classmates understand the material.
2. Visualizing Urban Form (20%) September 8  
Locate a space that illuminates the history of planning in Los Angeles. Create a realistic or metaphoric graphic representation of the space. The representation is the product, and should illustrate why you have chosen the space and its importance. You can create a drawing, photographic or video "impression" of it.
3. Preface to a Plan (30%) September 22  
Groups will take a contemporary community plan and rewrite or write an historical preface that examines the community. Many plans have barebones efforts from which you can start. Your job is to improve upon what is there (hint: if you pick a great history that may be hard to improve). You should produce a 4-6 page illustrated brochure the city could share with its residents.
4. Critique a Project (10%) September 22  
Learning to critique a peer's work is a crucial part of developing a professional perspective. No one likes to say critical things about a colleague's work, yet if we don't that work will not get better. All work can be better, and if we can make it better, we succeed at our jobs more effectively.

5. Planning History Paper (25%) October 13  
Complete a 10-15 page paper delving into a person, event, or idea in planning history. This paper should rely on scholarly and professional planning materials.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

My office is in 313 Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall. My office phone is (213) 740-5768. My email is dsloane@usc.edu. I check it way too often, and it connects to my phone so it is the best way to access me. My office hour will be Monday from 3-4. I am also available by appointment. I look forward to meeting with you.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

#### **August 23                      Origins of Professional Planning**

When did urban planning originate, and why? While we can date urban planning's origins to 1909, the story is more complicated than that.

Readings:                      Schultz

#### **August 25                      What is a City? Planning and Form**

Before we delve deeply in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century city, let's consider shifting definitions of city, and how they are related to evolving urban form.

Readings:                      Kostof; Lynch; Plans of Paris, Manhattan, and Chandigarh

#### **August 30                      Chicago: Industrial Cities and the Beginning of Planning**

Daniel Burnham was symbolic of a generation of rural Americans who moved to the city and emerged as professionals and civic leaders amid the development of a new style of city.

Readings:                      Smith; Plan of Chicago; (Recommended: Spain)

#### **September 1                      Plan of Chicago, 1909**

For what area do we plan? What are the values embedded in that plan? Using the 1909 Plan for Chicago, we will discuss scale and purpose

Readings:                      Smith; Plan of Chicago

#### **September 6                      Public Space to Playgrounds and Parks**

One of planning's original concerns remains an example of emerging approaches to planning – the park. We will look at a couple of park plans from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Readings:                      Olmsted (1871); Greensward; Plan for the Santa Monica Park

#### **September 6                      CONSIDERING URBAN FORM DUE**

#### **September 8                      Enforcing the Plan**

During the early years of planning, the profession developed both instruments of vision (plans) and enforcement tools (zoning).

Readings:                      Fischel

#### **September 13                      Regionalism and Federal Policy**

Federal authorities rarely considered cities until the 1930s, then what happened? We consider the development of standards and their impact on urban planning and policy.

Readings:                      Hise; Redlining; (Recommended: Talen)

**September 15                    Big Plans to Renew the City**

Mid-century planners confidently used modern planning and architecture in a massive effort to reshape the city. It didn't work quite as they planned.

Readings:                    Gans; Anderson; Plans for Chavez Ravine and Pruitt Igoe

**September 20                    Recreating American Transportation for a Suburban Age**

The national highway system codified the auto-centric city and created many new development opportunities, current planners find themselves trying to undo some of that earlier success.

Readings:                    Ellis; "Mass Transit Concept Maps"

**September 20                    GROUP PROJECT DUE**

Groups should bring copies for classmates, and post the projects on Blackboard by NOON)

**September 22                    Discussion of the Group Projects**

Individuals will be assigned projects to critique, with the hope we can have a conversation about how history should be incorporated into a plan, and how we help residents understand their community, and thus the role of planning in creating better communities.

**September 22                    GROUP PROJECT CRITIQUES DUE**

**September 27                    Consumers, Commerce, and the City.**

In the 1950s, consumer culture moved to a new plateau, represented by the development of the shopping mall, emergence of credit cards, and rapid expansion of the planned community.

Readings:                    Jackson; Gillette; Hayden;  
Master Plan of Irvine, California (1959)

**September 29                    Balancing Physical and Social Planning**

The consequences of urban renewal propelled a new emphasis on community participation and a focus on the social side of planning, fueling the rise of community development.

Reading:                    Jacobs; Frieden

**October 4                        A Planning Revolution, Counter-Revolution, Reform, or Not?**

What are our current urban models? Are New Urbanism and Smart Growth changing planning, reinforcing its limitations, or simply business as usual?

Reading:                    Rybczynski; Las Vegas City Center

**October 6                        Global Cities, Local Problems**

We are now an urban world. How does that change how we view the planning the city?

Reading:                    Fishman; Master Plan of Curitiba, Brazil (1968)

**October 11                        Challenged by Growing and Shrinking Cities**

Cities today are either struggling with growth, such as those in China, or with contraction, such as in the American industrial belt. Both situations call for innovative and imaginative planning.

Reading:                    Hall

**October 11                        PLANNING PAPER DUE**

## READINGS

1. Schultz, Stanley. "Promoting Public Works." In, S. Schultz, *Constructing the Urban Culture: American Cities and City Planning, 1800-1920* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989), 153-182.
2. Kostof, Spiro. excerpts. In, S. Kostof, *The City Shaped* (Boston: Bulfinch Press, 1991), pp. 29-41.
3. Lynch, Kevin. "Dimensions of Performance." In, K. Lynch, *A Theory of Good Urban Form* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981), 111-120.
4. Plan of Chandigarh: <http://citybeautifulchandigarh.blogspot.com/2008/03/history-rock-garden-one-of-many-scenic.html>
5. Spain, Daphne. "Boston, the Cradle of Redemptive Places." In, D. Spain, *How Women Saved the City* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001), 174-204.
6. Plan of Chicago, 1909: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10537.html>
7. Olmsted, Frederick. "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns" (1871). In, C. E. Beveridge and C. F. Hoffman, eds., *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Vol. 1 Supplementary Series: Writings on Public Parks, Parkways, and Park Systems* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), pp. 171-205.
8. Fischel, William A. "An Economic History of Zoning and a Cure for its Exclusionary Effects," *Urban Studies* (February 2004) 41/2: 317-340.
9. Hise, Greg. "Homebuilding and Industrial Decentralization in Los Angeles: The Roots of the Post-World War II Urban Region." In, MC Sies and C. Silver, *Planning the Twentieth-Century American City* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 240-261.
10. Redlining in Philadelphia, 1937. Accessible at: [cml.upenn.edu/redlining/HOLC\\_1937.html](http://cml.upenn.edu/redlining/HOLC_1937.html)
11. Talen, Emily. "Beyond the Front Porch: Regionalist Ideals in the New Urbanist Movement." *Journal of Planning History* 7/1 (February 2008), pp. 20-47.
12. Gans, Herbert J. "Redevelopment of the West End." In, HJ Gans, *The Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian-Americans* (New York: Free Press, 1962), pp. 281-304.
13. Anderson, Martin. "The Federal Bulldozer." In, J. Q. Wilson, ed., *Urban Renewal: The Record and the Controversy* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1966), pp. 491-508.
14. Ellis, Cliff. "Professional Conflict over Urban Form: The Case for Urban Freeways, 1930-1970." In, MC Sies and C. Silver, *Planning the Twentieth-Century American City* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 262-282.
15. Department of Transportation, "Mass Transit Concept Maps." Accessible at: [http://www.metro.net/about\\_us/library/mrtpcm.htm](http://www.metro.net/about_us/library/mrtpcm.htm)
16. Jackson, Kenneth T. "The Drive-in Culture of Contemporary America." In, K. T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 85), pp. 246-271.
17. Gillette, Howard. "The Evolution of the planned shopping center in suburb and city." *Journal of American Planning Association* 51/4 (1985): 449-460.
18. Hayden, Dolores. "Sitcom Suburbs." In, D. Hayden, *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000* (New York: Vintage Books, 2003), pp. 128-153.
19. Master Plan of Irvine, California (1959): <http://www.goodplanning.org/themasterplan/>
20. Jacobs, Jane. "Downtown is for People." In, Editors of Fortune, *The Exploding Metropolis* (New York: Doubleday, 1958), pp. 140-168.
21. Frieden, Bernard J. "Toward Equality of Urban Opportunity." In, B. Frieden, *Urban Planning and Social Policy* (New York: Basic Books, INC., 1968), pp. 313-334.
22. Rybczynski, Witold. "[Seaside Revisited](#)", Slate (February 2007).
23. Las Vegas City Center: <http://www.citycenter.com/>
24. Fishman, Robert. "Global Suburbs." Accessible at: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sdcamp/up540/Fishmanglobalsuburb.pdf>.
25. Master Plan of Curitiba, Brazil (1968): [http://www.lumes.lu.se/database/alumni/06.08/thesis/Andrea\\_Cinquina.pdf](http://www.lumes.lu.se/database/alumni/06.08/thesis/Andrea_Cinquina.pdf)
26. Hall, Peter. "Future of Cities," *Computers, Environments, and Urban Systems* 23 (1999), pp. 173-185.