

URBS 102

Structure of the Urban Region

Instructor: Calvin T. Brown
Spring 2008

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Course Description:

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the local planning process and how it occurs in New York City. We will examine how the local planning process was initiated; how it has evolved through time; and the key stakeholders (individuals who have interests or “stake” in a pending decision) that helped shape this process. We will also examine various levels of local participation (the act of involving the stakeholders in the decision-making process) and what role this participation plays in planning decision in general; and looking at the impacts these decisions have on those who are traditionally excluded from the process (the poor and minorities). Local participation looks different in different places. Some questions to keep in mind as we study local participation are:

- * What person/group makes decisions throughout the process?
- * Where does the final decision power lay?
- * Ultimately, how do these decisions impact those communities traditionally excluded from the planning process?
Do some communities have more power than others?
- * What is the connection between who makes the decisions and who is affected?
- * How do planning decisions affect my community?

We will also explore some influences on the planning process, such as past and current national and local events, and look for ways, if any, of improving the current local planning process.

Additionally, we will examine some of the influences on the structure of the region, i.e zoning and the need for affordable housing.

Guest Lectures

Several guest speakers will give presentations about specific aspects of the urban region. These lectures are designed to give students an idea about how the planning process is implemented in the “real world.” The lectures will allow students to see the difference between the theory and the practical.

Class Assignments:

Individuals Exercises:

3 papers about issues discussed in class. **30 points (each paper is worth 10 points).**

Papers should be:

- Double-spaced and no more than two pages in length,
- One inch margins all around,
- 12 point font size, Time New Roman

Group Exercise:

Final Oral Presentation (**15 points**)

Group presentation should be:

- No more than 20 minutes long
- Every member of the group is expected to speak

Thesis Statement (5 points)

A paragraph will be due that states the thesis of your paper and outlines the supporting facts that will be used.

Final Written Presentation (20 points)

Individual written presentations will be due on the scheduled day for the final examination. These papers should be:

- No more than ten pages long (double-spaced)
- Contain at least ten citations from the literature
- One inch margins all around
- 12 point font size, Times New Roman

Further details about the oral presentation and the final paper will be made available later in the semester.

Please note, attendance and class participation are a part of your overall grade. So, attend class prepared and really to participate.

Attendance	15%
Participation	15%
Oral Presentation	15%
Papers (3)	30%
Final/Thesis	25%
	<hr/>
	100%

I will not grade on a curve. There will be no incompletes.

The papers will be graded not only for substance and content but also on writing skills and grammar. With regard to forms or style of the written assignments, please follow these rules to avoid deduction of points:

1. Avoid use of the first person singular, “I” or the familiar “you.”
2. Avoid the use of colloquialisms i.e.; “a lot of ,” “got to be.”
3. Avoid clichés, i.e., “Life is a bowl of cherries,” “Six in - one hand, a half a dozen in the other,”
4. Avoid contractions i.e., “didn’t,” “couldn’t,” “I’m,” etc.
5. Remember that quotations enclose commas and periods.
6. Underline books, newspapers, and journal titles, i.e, The New York Times, The Song of Solomon.
7. Enclose the title of articles in quotations, i.e., “Resources and Urban Growth.”
8. Use its correctly, which is the possessive form of it; avoid use of it’s completely.
9. Affect (a verb), meaning to influence is different than effect (a noun), meaning result. Papers that do not make the distinction will be penalized.
10. No plastic covers are needed. Please include a cover sheet with your name, date, and assignment number.

URBS. 102

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Syllabus

February 1st

Harris, Leslie M. "The Rulers of Five Points: Blacks, Irish Immigrants, and Amalgamation." In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in NYC. pp 247-263

February 8th

Urban Renewal

Levy, John M. 2000. "Urban Renewal." Contemporary Urban Planning. pp 164-175.

Fainstein, Susan S. 2005. "The Return of Urban Renewal." Harvard Design Magazine. pp 1-5.

Shipp, Sigmund C. 1997. "Winning Some Battles But Losing the War?" in Thomas, June Manning and Ritzdorf, Marsha. Urban Planning and the African American Community: In the Shadows. pp 187-200.

February 15th

War on Poverty

War on Poverty Video

"War on Poverty." www.answers.com/topic/war-on-poverty. pp 1-4.

Sowell, Thomas. 2004. "War on Poverty Revisited." www.capmag.com. pp. 1-2

First Paper Due February 22nd

February 22nd

Federal and Planning

Swope, Christopher. "Phantom of New York." Govern.com. pp 1-7

"An Effective and Inclusive Planning Process." New York New Visions. 2002. pp. 40-42.

February 29th

"Eminent Danger." New York Sun Editorial. 2006. pp 1-2

Confessore, Nicholas. 2006. "Fate of Project in Brooklyn Hinges on Nod of One Man." New York Times. pp1-3.

Harris, William M. and Olmsted, Nancy. "Public Housing in Charlottesville: The Black Experience in a Small Southern City." The Review of Black Political Economy. Vol. 46, Charlottesville, May, 1988. pp 1-8

Santos, Fernanda. "After 27 Years, Yonkers Housing Desegregation Battle Ends Quietly in Manhattan Court." New York Times. May 2007. pp 1-2

Second Paper Due March 7th

March 7th

City and Planning

Jacobs, Andrew. 2006. "Evicted, Newark's Mayor Finds Another Blighted Street." New York Times. pp 1-5.

Angotti, Tom. 2003. "New York City's Big Planning Projects: Avoiding the Public?" Gotham Gazette.com. pp1-3.

Chan, Sewell. "Mayor's Housing Program Reaches the One-Third Mark." New York Times. March 2007. pp 1-2

Bhalla, Caroline, Voicu, Ioan, Meltzer, Rachel, Ellen, Ingrid Gould, and Been, Vicki. 2004. "Data on New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods." State of New York City Housing and Neighborhoods 2004. pp.45-49.

Bhalla, Caroline, Voicu, Ioan, Meltzer, Rachel, Ellen, Ingrid Gould, and Been, Vicki. 2004. "Housing Creation." State of New York City Housing and Neighborhoods 2004. pp.66-70.

March 14th

Hemmens, George C. 1990. "Tugwell in New York: The Perils of Liberal Planning." pp 356-361.

Cardwell, Diane. 2007. "Once at Cotillions, Now Reshaping the Cityscape." New York Times. pp 1-5.

Choose Groups for Oral Presentation

March 21st

No Class

March 28th

Alderman, Derek H., Spina, Steve, Mitchell, Preston. 2008. "A Bumpy Road." Planning: The Magazine of the American Planning Association. pp. 18-21.

Hughes, Keenan. 2008. "Reuse vs. Tear Down." Planning: The Magazine of the American Planning Association. pp. 40-42.

April 4th

Community Development and Planning

Weir, Margaret. "Power, Money, and Politics in Community Development." pp 139-191.

April 11th

Levitus, David. "Planning, Slum Clearance and the Road to Crisis in Newark." pp 1-7.

Gratz, Brandes. "Robert Moses Reconsidered: Blight Is In the Eye of the Beholder." City Limits Weekly. April 2007. pp 1-3

Halle, David. "Who Wears Jane Jacob's Mantle in Today's New York City?" City & Community. September 2006. pp 237-241

Griffith, Mark Winston. "The Black Organizer Blues." Gotham Gazette. pp 1-4

Angotti, Tom. "Zoning Versus Planning in Manhattanville." Gotham Gazette. pp 1-3.

Sichelman, Lew. "Does Low Density Zoning Affect Low Minority Population?" Realty Times. pp 1-2

Shaman, Diana. "In the Region/Long Island; In Eastern Long Beach, It's Residents vs. Developers." New York Times. pp 1-3

Third Paper Due

April 18th

Race and Planning

Reardon, Kenneth M. "The Shifting Landscape of New Orleans." National Housing Institute Online. www.nhi.org/online/issues/145/shiftinglandscape.html
Pp 1-12.

Stoler, Michael. "City Developers Agree: Harlem Has Arrived." www.nysun.com/article/59169 . July 2007 pp 1-3

Discuss requirements for Oral and Final Presentation

April 25th

Spring Break No Class

May 2nd

Race and Planning

Gonzalez, David. "Will Gentrification Spoil the Birthplace of Hip-Hop?" New York Times. May 2007 pp. 1-4

Bagli, Charles V. "After Blocking Tower, Neighbors Recoil at Void in Hell's Kitchen." New York Times. January 2007. pp 1-3.

Thomas, June Manning. "Racial Inequality and Empowerment..." Making the Invisible Visible. pp 197-208

Draft Thesis Statement Due

May 9th / May 16th

Final Oral Presentations Begin
Group Presentations/Final Thesis Statement Due

May 16th Last Class

May 23rd Final Paper Due