UEP 0252-01: Cities in Space, Place, and Time
Instructors: Barbara Parmenter, Christine Cousineau
Mon/Wed 4:30-5:45
Halligan Hall, Room 111A

For the full schedule, readings, and assignments see the course web site: http://tinyurl.com/uep252

Course Description
This course will introduce students to the history of US cities and metropolitan regions focusing specifically on the actions of planners and policy-makers and how these actions physically shaped communities and influenced the way we live and work. The focus will be on the US, but students are encouraged to bring in any experience they have with cities in other regions of the world. Because race, ethnicity, class, and immigration/migration issues have been so central to the evolution of our cities and towns, we will pay particular attention to these.

Course Objectives
This course has both knowledge and skills components. These knowledge and skills are important for professional practice in which planners and policy makers are frequently asked to document the historical context for proposed plans and decisions, and to quickly come up to speed on community issues, concerns, and past activities. In addition, to be a conscientious and visionary practitioner, professionals should strive to have a deep and comprehensive historical understanding of communities and issues within their complex spatial, cultural, demographic, environmental, and socio-economic contexts.

Knowledge objectives
• At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to knowledgeably discuss and document:
  • Major trends, events, plans, and policies that have led to changes in US urban and metropolitan growth and decline over the last 120 years and how these have impacted and been influenced by the different communities within these urban regions
  • The dynamic nature of increasingly global economic and technological changes that have shaped cities and metropolitan regions over the last two centuries
  • The massive movements of people in response to these changes and how these migrations have in turn shaped communities
  • The factors that have led to changes in metropolitan population numbers, spatial distribution, and socio-economic composition (race, ethnicity, income, and occupation) within a given metropolitan region
  • The struggle for control of political and economic resources between competing groups and centers of power at the local and metropolitan levels
  • How this struggle to control resources, particularly land, housing, and jobs, shaped the development of cities and their metropolitan regions
  • The nature of class, racial and ethnic conflicts underlying community competition over resources and how these shaped and were shaped by planning/policy responses
  • The evolution of planning as a profession in the US and the major influences/turning points of this evolution
  • The influence of past policy debates and practices on the contemporary metropolitan landscape and on current policy debates and methods

Skills objectives
Upon conclusion of this course students will be able to:
• Locate and map US historical census data
• Locate and use historical maps and/or aerial photography to compare with current city/metropolitan development
• Use geospatial digital tools to present maps and other information in spatial-historical context (e.g., with Google Earth)
• Access past government planning and policy documents in the student's field of interest, to be able to analyze these within their historical context

Course Grade
The course grade will be based on the following:
• Analyzing an early plan/policy document (20 points)
• Book assessment (20 points)
• Reflective essay (20 points)
• Online discussion of readings (40 points)

Required Text
The Teaford book can be found at the Tufts Bookstore and is also on 3-hour reserve at Tisch Library. UEP also has a couple copies at Brown House and the White House.