SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This course gives an overview of the planning and urban design professions, and the social choices and public policies that shape the physical environment. Historical movements and current practices are presented, from park planning and tenement reform to new urbanism and growth management. Group projects explore real sites and recommend design solutions.

The course has three objectives:
• To offer an understanding of the physical environment, both natural and built, through the principles and practice of planning and design.
• To provide planning concepts and tools with which students can actively participate in the shaping and management of the environment.
• To present projects and case studies that illustrate how the environment is both a determinant and a product of public policy.

Readings

There is one required book to purchase at the Tufts Bookstore:
• *The Urban Design Reader*, Larice and Macdonald (editors), Routledge, 2007
and
• one reader available at Gnomon Copy on Boston Avenue.

Requirements

Two individual papers, two group design exercises, one group urban planning project, and three field trips on Saturday mornings. The design exercises and the group project require time spent outside the classroom. Each class has an exercise component devoted to hands-on planning tasks, presentations, or group project time.

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# UEP 205 Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Introduction: the planning profession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Urban design and planning history</td>
<td>Paper #1 assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exercise 1A – Issues Map</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>New town planning, urban design and architecture</td>
<td>Group project options given</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exercise 1B – Student presentations of Issues Maps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Production systems: program, design and the development process</td>
<td>Paper #1 due</td>
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<td>Exercise 2A – Housing Site Design</td>
<td>Groups assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>Elements of the public realm: streets, public spaces, plants</td>
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<td>Exercise 2B – Student presentations of site designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td><strong>Field trip</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 9</td>
<td>Boston history: from trading port to industrial city</td>
<td>Comments on Paper #1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exercise period – Group project work</td>
<td>Paper #2 assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>Park planning and housing reform</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No exercise period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td><strong>Boston bus tour</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>Urban renewal and transportation planning</td>
<td>Paper #2 due</td>
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<td>Exercise period – Group project work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td><strong>Mid-term group projects presentations</strong></td>
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<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>New Urbanism: old rules, new applications</td>
<td>Comments on Paper #2</td>
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<td>Exercise period – Group project work</td>
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<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>Smart Growth: policies and achievements</td>
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<td>Guest speaker: Mass Smart Growth Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td><strong>Field trip</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Green Urbanism: LEED for Neighborhood Development</td>
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<td>Exercise period – Group project work</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td><strong>Student presentations</strong></td>
<td>Draft reports due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 4</td>
<td><strong>Student Presentations</strong></td>
<td>Comments on Draft Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Guest speaker presentation:</td>
<td>Final Reports Due</td>
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<td>Boston’s Urban Greenway</td>
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READING LIST AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLASSES

1 Sept 4  Introduction: the planning profession
Readings distributed in class


2 Sept 11 Urban design and planning history

In The Urban Design Reader:

Bacon, Edmund “Upsurge of the Renaissance”, pp. 9-16

Sitte, Camillo “The Meager and Unimaginative Character of Modern City Plans” and “Artistic Limitations of Modern City Planning”, pp. 28-34

Mumford, Lewis “The Garden City and Modern Planning”, pp. 43-53

Le Corbusier “The Pack-Donkey’s Way and Man’s Way” and “A Contemporary City” pp. 66-75

Paper #1 assigned, due Sept 25
Exercise 1A: Issues Map exercise assigned, due Sept 16

3 Sept 18 New town planning, urban design and architecture


Exercise 1B Student presentations of Issues Maps
Group project options given
4 Sept 25  Production systems of the environment: program, design and the development process

   Ch 2  The Art of Site Planning, pp. 1-12
   Ch 5  Design, pp.127-143

   Introduction: Pioneers, Frontiers and the Twenty-first Century, pp. xix-xxiii
   Ch 1  The Search for the Future Inside Ourselves, pp. 1-15
   Ch 12 The Words. Glossary of a New Frontier, pp. 441-459
   Ch 13 The Laws. How We Live, pp. 461-471

   Introduction: The Sex of Cities, pp. ix –xxiii

in *The Urban design Reader*:


Paper #1 due
Exercise 2A: Site Planning exercise assigned, due Sept 30
Group projects assigned, draft reports due Dec 2

5 Oct 2  Elements of the public realm


In *The Urban Design Reader*:

Jacobs, Jane “Author’s Introduction” and “The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact”, pp. 80-92


Cooper Marcus, Clare and Carolyn Farncis “Urban Plazas”, pp. 371-375

Jacobs, Allan “Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning”, pp. 387-390

Metro (The Greater Portland Regional Government) “Green Streets”, pp. 405-424

Exercise 2B: Student presentations of Site Designs

6 Sat, Oct 4  Field trip

7 Oct 9  Boston history: from trading port to industrial city

Lynch. *A Theory of Good City Form.*
The 19th century transformation of Boston, pp. 25-35

Comments on Paper #1
Paper #2 assigned, due Oct 21

8 Oct 16  **The park planning movement and housing reform**

Olmsted, Frederick Law “Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns” in *The Urban Design Reader*, pp. 28-34

Zaitzevsky, Cynthia. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System.*
Ch 3  The Boston Park Movement, pp. 33-47


Oberlander, Peter and Eva Newbrun “Catherine Bauer: Ahead of her Time “ *Planning*, May 1995

Recommended (not in reader):

Vale, Lawrence. *From the Puritans to the Projects. Public Housing and Public Neighbors.*
Ch 5: The Boston Housing Authority Since 1980: The Puritans Return, pp. 347-392

9 Sat, Oct 18  **Boston Bus Tour**

10 Oct 23  **Urban Renewal and transportation planning**

Ch 13  Redevelopment of the West End, pp. 281-304

Recommended:

Ch 7  Collins, Logue and the “New Boston”, pp. 157-192

Ch 12  Transportation Planning, pp. 194-213


in *The Urban Design Reader:*
Cervero, Robert “Drawing Lessons and Debunking Myths”, pp. 425-434
Paper #2 due

11 Oct 30  Mid-term group project presentations

12 Nov 6  New urbanism: old rules, new applications


Scary Places, pp. 9-15 in *The Urban Design Reader:

Gillham, Oliver “What is Sprawl?” pp.287-307

CNU (Congress of the New Urbanism) “Charter of the New urbanism”, pp. 308-311

Lozano, Eduardo “Density in Communities, or the Most Important Factor in Building Urbanity” pp.312-327

Frey, Hildebrand “Compact, Decentralized or What? The Sustainable City Debate”, pp. 328-344

Comments on Paper #2

13 Nov 13  Smart Growth: policies and achievements


Introduction, pp. 1-8


Ch 2  Growth Management Approaches and Techniques, pp. 15-53


Ch 4  Regional Design: Local Codes as Cause and Cure of Sprawl pp. 63-75


Getting There. Building Healthy Cities, pp. 209-214

Guest speaker: Mass Smart growth Alliance

14 Sat, Nov 15  Field trip
15 Nov 20  Green Urbanism: LEED for Neighborhood Development
Readings will be distributed at previous class

16 Wed, Dec 3 Student presentations
Draft reports due

17 Dec 4  Student Presentations
Comments on draft reports

18 Dec 11 Guest speaker presentation: Boston’s Urban Greenway
Final Reports due