UEP252 : Course Overview

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UEP 0252-01: Cities in Space, Place, and Time

The full course web site, including the schedule of readings and assignments can be accessed online at https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/x/hrXR

Tufts University, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning

Fall 2008
Instructors: Barbara Parmenter and Justin Hollander

Teaching Assistant: Nella Young

Classes meet at Pearson 104

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30PM-5:45PM

Course calendar - click here

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the history of cities and metropolitan regions focusing specifically on the actions of planners and policy-makers and how these actions shape our world. The focus will be on the US, but the course will include comparisons to other systems. Urban planners and policy-makers shape the places in which we live. In this endeavor they are joined by many others, including private developers, elected officials, community activists, engineers, architects, members of the real estate, finance, and insurance industries, and advocates of environmental protection. All of these can in a broad sense be considered to be constituents of the "place-making" professions. But more than others, planners and policy-makers practice conscious long-term place-making and place-shaping every day and routinely confront the complexities, opportunities, and frustrations of creating and enhancing healthy, viable communities. The urban and metropolitan fabrics within which the place-makers work have in turn been shaped by a confluence of past decisions intertwined with historical events, economic and technological trends, cultural shifts, and changing natural resource availability. It is critical that planners and policy-makers understand these historical dynamics at play in their own communities and in the world at large, to appreciate how past decisions and theories of action affect current options, and to comprehend in turn the impact of current policies on physical, social and economic landscapes of the future. The course will examine the evolution of metropolitan place-making by focusing on the interplay between institutional actors - governments, business leaders, and community leaders - and the contexts of work, family, transport, communications, energy, environmental transformations, and economic conditions. Race, class, gender, immigration, and culture change will serve as cross-cutting themes throughout the readings, lectures, and discussions.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students will broadly understand within an historical context:

- The growth of industrial and post-industrial cities, suburbs, and metropolitan 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 in turn shaped communities
- The struggle for control of political and economic resources between competing groups and centers of power at the local and metropolitan level
- How this struggle to control resources, and particularly land, housing, and jobs, shaped the development of federal, state, and local government powers and direct and indirect government investments
- The nature of class, racial and ethnic conflicts underlying community competition over resources and how these shaped and were shaped by planning/policy responses
Building on this historical context, students will critically explore:

- The development of urban policy and planning as professional endeavors focused on shaping urban communities and the shifting foci of these professions in relation to larger events and trends
- The changing theoretical and cultural frameworks used by planners
- The evolution of the strategic interests served by planning and policy-making over time
- Major planning/policy initiatives and debates of the 20th and early 21st centuries and how these inform current thinking and actions

**Competencies & Skills** This course will help students in building towards a common set of competencies and skills we are building throughout the M.A. in urban and environmental policy and planning program. Knowledge (1) The History, Structure & Function of Urban Settlements; (2) The Relationship Between the 'Market' and the 'Polis' in Economics, Policy and Planning; (3) Understanding the role(s) of Government, Governance, Citizenship and the Role of NGOs; (4) The History, Theory and Processes of both Policy Making and Planning together with Implementation Procedures & Practices; (5) The Administrative, Legal and Political aspects of Policy and Plan-Making; Skills (1) Critical thinking skills (2) Written, Oral & Graphic Communication Skills; (3) Skills in the Synthesis & Application of Policy and Planning Content-Based Knowledge From Theory into Practice;

**Course Grade** The course grade will be based on the following:

Class Participation (20%)

Journal (30%)

Two papers and a final essay (50%)

**Class Participation** A substantial percentage of each student’s grade will be based upon the extent and quality of their participation in group activities and discussions during class. Attendance in class is a prerequisite for active participation; therefore unexcused absences will result in a low class participation grade.

**Journal** To aid in providing space for students to think about and reflect on the course readings, lectures, and discussions, each student will maintain a weekly journal. For each week, students are to write 1-2 pages (double-spaced) reflecting on the readings and lectures covered in that week. This does not need to be polished writing. This is a thinking exercise and there is no required structure or format. Mid-way through the semester, an electronic version of the journal should be posted onto the course wiki site. On the last day of class, the entire journal is due and should be posted onto the wiki. The journal will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If you would like more guidance, please contact either instructor.

**Policy on Academic Integrity for Graduate Students** Read Tufts University's policy on academic integrity for graduate and undergraduate students at: http://uss.tufts.edu/dosa/publications/. Please read this carefully! You should pay particular attention to how to cite, quote, and paraphrase information, and understand copyright and fair use. If you have any questions, feel free to talk with the instructors.

**Style Guidelines** All written work must be produced consistent with the style guidelines of one of the two major style guides used at UEP, The Chicago Manual of Style or the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Both provide clear guidance for citing and referencing other works. Such a skill is essential to avoid unintentional plagiarism. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own copy of either manual (the most recent editions are best, but not essential).

**Required Text and Coursepacket**

  The Sugrue book can be found at the Tufts Bookstore and is also on 8-hour/overnight reserve at Tisch Library.
- Course Reader - can be purchased at Gnomon Copy on Boston Avenue, Medford
  Note that all readings in the course packet can be found either in books that are on reserve at Tisch Library or available online through Tisch Library E-Journals and/or Electronic Databases.
- The Chicago Manual of Style and the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association can be obtained in nearly any bookstore, on or off-line.