

Community Development, Planning, and Politics (UEP 261)

Tufts University

Spring 2013

Monday 1:30 – 4:00pm

Anderson 313

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This course utilizes theoretical literature, case studies, and guest practitioners to explore the relationship between community development, planning, and politics. The sessions provide an introduction and overview of community development-related issues in different U.S. cities: historical factors that are important for understanding how urban spaces look like, today; examination of federal policies that have molded and continue to impact neighborhoods; and, ongoing debates about strategies for local economic development and neighborhood revitalization. The literature reflects issues in cities and neighborhoods across the nation but the focus is Boston and Massachusetts.

The 13 sessions are organized into two sections: Part One: Contexts for Understanding Community Development; and, Part Two: Urban Inequalities and Community Development. In addition to providing students with opportunities to gain knowledge about specific policy areas related to community development, the course reflects a number of competencies deemed important by UEP: *roles of government, and governance; history, theory, processes of policymaking and implementation; and administrative, legal, and political aspects of policy.*

There are three specific course objectives:

- to provide a contextual overview of community development in U.S. cities;
- to provide an opportunity for exploration of specific neighborhood issues or the work of organizations involved with neighborhood revitalization;
- to introduce students to *guest practitioners* involved with community development in Boston; guests will visit the class at various times in order to help connect course literature/discussions to specific community development issues; they will share their own insights about the politics of planning and community development.

Course requirements include:

- 1) class participation and presentations, and small group discussions, based on assigned readings;
- 2) completion of a 18 - 21 page writing assignment (details will be discussed in class);
- 3) participation in a short outside-classroom session (details will be discussed in class);

Some of the required readings are provided in the course reading packet; I will email the required selections (marked with an '*').

Please note that this is an 'interactive-oriented' and class discussion course, and utilizes guest practitioners from outside Tufts; thus, the use of pc/mac notebooks, ipads, etc, are very distracting -- please refrain from using in class. This would be much appreciated!

Part One: Contexts for Understanding Community Development

Session 1 (1/23/Wed): Introduction

Review of course objectives and requirements. What is community development? What are some key issues, or themes, that are associated with community development and planning?

Read: S. Zielenbach, "Role of Institutional Actors in Revitalizing Neighborhoods" in *The Art of Revitalization* (Garland Publishing, 2000) (packet)

O. Kirkpatrick, "The Two Logics of Community Development: Neighborhoods, Markets, and Community Development Corporations" *Politics and Society*, vol. 35, no.2 (June 2007) *

Sessions 2 (1/28/Mon): Demographic Contexts

What are major demographic developments molding neighborhoods and community development? How is immigration impacting local communities in urban settings?

Read: W. Frey, et al., *Getting Current: Recent Demographic Trends in Metropolitan America*, (Washington DC: Metropolitan Policy Program and Brookings Institute, 2009) *

A.C. Nelson, "The New Urbanity: Rise of a New America" *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 626 (November 2009) *

C. Fernandez, *Community Development in Dynamic Urban Neighborhoods...* Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (October 2003) (packet)

Session 3 (2/4): Historical Context and Emergence of "Inner Cities" in U.S. Society

What kinds of historical factors led to residential and economic patterns evident in contemporary urban places? What was the role of race in determining what neighborhoods and cities look like today? How did communities of color attain current institutional or economic configurations? How did these same communities challenge social, economic, and spatial inequality?

Read: G. Osofsky, *Harlem: Making of a Ghetto* (Oxford Univ Press, 1966), 105-123; 189-201 (packet)

T. Sugrue, "Homeowners' Rights..." in *Origins of Urban Crisis: Race & Inequality in Detroit*, (Princeton University Press, 1996) (packet)

M. Thompson Fullilove, "Root Shock: Consequences of African American Dispossession" *Journal of Urban Health*, Vol. 78, No. 1 (March 2001) *

S. Chen, *Reconstructing the Chinese Experience in Lowell, Massachusetts 1875-1970s*, Institute for Asian-American Studies, UMASS Boston (2003) *

Sanchez, G., *Becoming Mexican-American... Los Angeles 1900-1945* (Oxford University Press, 1993), 227-252 (packet)

Optional: W.E. Pritchett, "The Public Menace of Blight: Urban Renewal and the Private uses of Eminent Domain" *Yale Law and Policy Review*, vol. 21:1 (2003) *

Session 4 (2/11): Economic Contexts

What are key features of the economic context impacting local urban communities? What is neighborhood distress? How is the current foreclosure crisis impacting neighborhoods? And what kinds of strategies should be utilized to respond to this continuing crisis?

Read: *Our Cities: Their Role in the National Economy*, (Excerpts) National Resources Committee (June 1937) (packet)

D.G. Bocian, et al., *Foreclosures by Race and Ethnicity: Demographics of a Crisis*, Center for Responsible Lending (June 2010) *

N. Smith, P. Caris, and, E. Wyly, "The "Camden Syndrome" and the Menace of Suburban Decline: Residential Disinvestment and Its Discontents in Camden County, New Jersey", *Urban Affairs Review*, vol. 36, no. 4 (July 2002) *

L. Wacquant, "Scrutinizing the Street: Poverty, Morality, and the Pitfalls of Urban Ethnography" *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 107(6), (2002) *

Session 5 (2/25): U.S. Federal Context and Neighborhood Distress

How have various national administrations approached community development and urban revitalization? What are some of the major characteristics of federal / state policy and strategies in this area?

Read: A. O'Connor, "Swimming against the Tide: Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities" in Ferguson/Dickens, *Urban Problems and Community Development* (Washington DC: The Brookings Institute, 1999) (packet)

J. Manning-Thomas, "Model Cities Revisited..." in Manning-Thomas and Ritzdorf, *Urban Planning and the African American Community: In the Shadows* (Sage, 1997) (packet)

Optional: M. Kane, et al., *Federal Policy Ideas for Community Revitalization*, Northeast-Midwest Institute, Washington D.C. (April 2006) *

Session 6 (3/4): Community Development Corporations

What are community development corporations and what is their role in responding to neighborhood distress? What are challenges facing CDCs and other nonprofits in urban neighborhoods? How should the work and impact of these sectors be evaluated, or assessed? How does race, ethnicity, and class issues mix with local politics to mold or limit the work of community development corporations?

Read: Shaw and Spence, "Race and Representation in Detroit's Community Development Coalitions" in J. Jennings, *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 594 (July 2004) *

D. Immergluck, "Building Power, Losing Power: Rise and Fall of a Prominent Community Economic Development Coalition" *Economic Development Quarterly* Vol. 19, No. 3 (August 2005) *

G.A. Dymsky, "Financing Community Development in U.S.: Comparison of 'War on Poverty' and 1990s-Era Policy Approaches" *Review of Black Political Economy*, vol. 36 (2009) *

Part Two: Urban Inequalities and Community Development

Session 7 (3/11): Dispersal Strategies and De-concentration of Poverty

What kinds of strategies have been proposed as response to spatial inequality and poverty? Should mobility and voucher strategies, or 'new population-attraction' initiatives, or ideas like the de-concentration of poverty or mixed-income housing be prioritized over other ideas for neighborhood revitalization? What is meant by the re-emerging concept, 'place-based' urban revitalization?

Read: O. Fiss, "What Should be Done for Those Left Behind" *Boston Review* (Summer 2000) (packet)

D. Imbroscio, "Challenging the Dispersal Consensus in American Housing Research" *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 30, No.2 (2008) *

E.G. Goetz, "Politics of Poverty Concentration and Housing Demolition" *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 22, no.2 (2000) *

S. Steinberg, "The Myth of Concentrated Poverty" in G.D. Squires and C. Hartman, *The Integration Debate* (Routledge, 2010) *

Session 8 (3/25): HOPE VI and Demonstration Disposition Program

What are national strategies aimed at the utilization of housing for neighborhood revitalization? What are the key characteristics of Hope VI and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program? What are critiques of these major programs? What are alternative strategies and approaches?

Read: *Harvard Law Review*: "When Hope Falls Short: HOPE VI, Accountability, and the Privatization of Public Housing", Vol. 116, No.5 (March 2003) *

B.J. Miller, "The Struggle Over Redevelopment at Cabrini Green, 1989-2004" *Journal of Urban History*, Vol. 34, No.6 (September 2008) *

J. Jennings and M. Colon, "Demonstration Disposition Program in Boston..." *National Political Science Review* (February 2005) (packet)

Optional: J.W. Pardee and K.F. Gotham, "HOPE VI, Section 8, and Contradictions of Low-Income Housing Policy, *Journal of Poverty* Vol.9, 2 (2005) *

D. P. Duryea, "Gendering the Gentrification of Public Housing: Hope VI's Disparate Impact on Lowest-Income African American Women" *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*, Vol. XIII, No. 3 (Fall 2006) *

Session 9 (4/1): Framing Urban Visions - Social Capital, Culture, and Regime Interest Theory

What is social capital? How has it been conceptualized as a commodity for local economic development? How is it applied to analyze poverty in local communities? How do interests holding wealth and power approach culture as a commodity in pushing particular visions for cities?

Read: D. Mitchell, "The Annihilation of Space by Law" in *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space* (2003) (packet)

A. Davila, "Empowered Culture?...Selling of El Barrio" in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 594 (July 2004) *

L.A. Saito, "From Blighted to Historic: Race, Economic Development and Historic Preservation in San Diego, California" *Urban Affairs Review*, vol.45, no.2 (November 2009) *

Optional: C.C. Bohl, "New Urbanism and the City: Implications for Distressed...Neighborhoods" *Housing Policy Debate*, vol. 11 no. 4 (2000) *

N. Kraus, "Significance of race in urban politics: limitations of regime theory" *Race and Society* Vol 7, (2004) *

Session 10 (4/8): Community Organizing as Tool for Neighborhood Revitalization

What is community organizing, and how can it be utilized as a tool for community development? Is this a viable tool in the face of globalization and increasing concentration of wealth, and inequality? Are there success stories about residents in low-income neighborhoods improving the quality of life and living conditions?

Read: Fraser, et al., "Construction of Local and Limits of Contemporary Community Building..." *Urban Affairs Review* Vol. 38, No. 3 (January 2003) *

M. Gandy, "Between Borinquen and the Barrio: Environmental Justice and NYC's Puerto Rican Community, 1969-1972" *Antipode* (2002) *

L. Lowe and D. Brugge, "Grassroots Organizing in Boston Chinatown" in S. Ostrander and K. Portney (ed.) *Acting Civically: From Urban Neighborhoods to Higher Education* (Tufts University Press, 2007) (packet)

E.M. Bright, "Boston: An Empowered, Supported Neighborhood" in *Reviving America's Forgotten Neighborhoods* (2003) (packet)

R. Lopez, et al., Boston Schoolyard Initiative: ...Rebuilding Urban Play Spaces" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* (June 2008) *

Optional: Z. Lai, et al., "The Lessons of the Parcel C Struggle: Reflections on Community Lawyering" *Asian Pacific American Law Journal*, vol. 6, 1 (Spring 2000) *

J. Jennings, "Urban Planning, Community Participation and the Roxbury Master Plan..." in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 594, (July 2004) *

Session 11 (4/22): Local Economic Development and Community Development

What kinds of economic development strategies should be pursued by local government? And how is such related or responsive to neighborhood distress? What is the place of small or neighborhood-based businesses in a city's overall economic development framework? How are these decisions made, and who participates in decision-making? What should be the basis of evaluating or assessing the impact of economic development strategies and initiatives?

Read: L.A. Reese and D. Fassenfest, "Introduction" in *Critical Evaluations of Economic Development Policies* (Wayne State University Press, 2004) (packet)

M. Porter, "An Economic Strategy for America's Inner Cities: Addressing the Controversy," *Review of Black Political Economy*, vol. 24, no 2-3 (1995) (packet)

J. Jennings, "The Empowerment Zone in Boston, Massachusetts 2000 – 2009: Lessons Learned for Neighborhood Revitalization," *Review of Black Political Economy*, vol. 38, no. 1 (2011) *

Optional: M. Sable, "Impact of the biotechnology industry on local economic development in Boston and San Diego" *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 74 (2007) *

Session 12/13 (4/29): Community Organizing and Urban Public Schools

Public schools in low-income urban areas are attracting the attention of community organizers, why? What are implications of neighborhood schools for community organizing in places like Boston?

Read: W. Garcia, *Case Study of Community Engagement and Collaboration: LEAP Academy in Camden, NJ*, Paper (2012) *

M. Renee and S. Mcalister, *The Strengths and Challenges of Community Organizing as an Education Reform Strategy: What the Research Says*, Nellie Mae Education Foundation and Annenberg Institute for School Reform (January 2011) *

C. Chung, "Connecting Public Schools with Community" *Communities and Banking* (Winter 2005) *

Optional: Galen El-Askari, et al., "The Health Neighborhoods Project: A Local Health Department's Role in Catalyzing Community Development" *Health Education and Behavior*, Vol. 25 (2), (April 1998) *

Terry Wrigley, "Schools and poverty: questioning the Effectiveness and Improvement paradigms" *Improving Schools*, vol. 9, no. 3 (November 2006) *