

### SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This course offers a hands-on design experience in group projects on the redevelopment of urban sites. The lecture component gives an overview of the planning and urban design professions, and the 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.

The course has three objectives:

- To develop students' urban design and planning skills through projects.
- To provide planning concepts and tools with which students can actively participate in shaping and managing the environment.
- To discuss case studies that illustrate how planning involves the physical environment, the political process, and public policy.

### *Readings*

Readings for each class are posted on the course's Trunk site, including, as resource for group projects: *Planning and Urban Design Standards*. Frederick Steiner and Kent Butler (eds), John Wiley & Sons, 2007.

Several of the readings are taken from:

*The Urban Design Reader*. Michael Larice and Elizabeth MacDonald (eds). Routledge, 2006

### *Requirements*

Two individual papers, two group design exercises, one group urban planning project, and two field trips on Saturdays. The design exercises and the group project require time spent outside the classroom. Each class has a lecture portion followed by an exercise period devoted to hands-on planning tasks, presentations, or group project time.

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## UEP 205 SCHEDULE

	LECTURES	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Sept 5 Introduction: the planning profession and a brief history of American urban planning	
2	Sept 12 Origins of urban design and town planning Exercise 1A – Housing Site Design	Paper #1 given
3	Sept 19 The modern movement Exercise 1B – Student presentations of site designs	
4	Sat, Sept 22 Field Trip	
5	Sept 26 Group Project Sites presented, explained, chosen Exercise 2A – Issues Map	Paper #1 due Groups assigned
6	Oct 3 Production systems: program, design and the development process Exercise 2B – Student presentations of Issues Maps	
7	Oct 10 Boston history: trading port, industrial city, park planning, housing reform, urban renewal, transportation programs No exercise period	Comments on Paper #1 Paper #2 given
8	Sat, Oct 13 <b>Boston Bus Tour</b>	
9	Oct 17 Elements of the public realm: streets, public spaces, plants Exercise period – SketchUp tutorial	
10	Oct 24 Planning and Development tools: zoning, density, FAR, net to gross ratio Exercise period – Group project work	Paper #2 due
11	Oct 31 Transportation planning and current issues Exercise period – Group project work	
12	Nov 7 New Urbanism: old rules, new applications Green Urbanism: LEED for Neighborhood Development Exercise period – Group project work	Comments on Paper #2
13	Nov 14 Smart Growth: policies and achievements Exercise period – Group project work	
14	Nov 28 Guest presentation	Draft Reports due
15	Wed, Dec 5 <b>Student presentations</b>	Comments on Draft Reports
16	Thurs, Dec 6 <b>Student Presentations</b>	Comments on Draft Reports
	Fri, Dec 14	Final Reports Due

1 Sept 5 **Introduction: the planning profession and a brief overview of American urban planning**

**Rodwin**, Lloyd and Bishwapriya Sanyal (eds). *The Profession of City Planning. Changes, Images and Challenges: 1950 – 2000*. CUPR, Rutgers University, 2000.

Part IV The Public Image and the Leadership Role of the Profession, pp. 207-223

**Talen**, Emily. *Urban Design Reclaimed*. APA Planners Press, 2009. Introduction, pp. 1-8

**Lynch**, Kevin. 'The Image of the Environment' and 'The City Image and Its Elements' from *The Image of the City*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1960, in Larice and Macdonald (eds) *The Urban Design Reader*, Routledge – Taylor & Francis Group, 2007, pp. 155-165.

2 Sept 12 **Origins of urban design and town planning**

**Calthorpe**, Peter. "A Short History of Twentieth Century New Towns" in Sim Van der Ryn and Peter Calthorpe, *Sustainable Communities. A New Design Synthesis for Cities, Suburbs and Towns*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1986. pp. 189-234

**Lynch**, Kevin. *A Theory of Good City Form*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981.

Ch 16 City Models and City Design, pp. 277-286

**Mumford**, Lewis "The Garden City and Modern Planning", pp. 43-53 in *The Urban Design Reader*

- Paper #1 assigned, due Sept 29
- Exercise 1A: Housing Site Design, due next class

3 Sept 19 **The modern movement**

**Wolfe**, Thomas. *From Bauhaus to Our House*, New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 1981.

I The Silver Prince, pp. 9-35

II Utopia Limited, pp. 37-43

III The White Gods, pp. 45-65

- Exercise 1B: Student presentations of housing site designs

4 Sat, Sept 22 **Field Trip** to site used in housing site plan exercise, and group project sites

5 Sept 26 **Project sites** presented by Brad Rawson. Students chose 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice. Groups assigned.

**Draft reports due November 28**

- Paper #1 due
- Exercise 2A: Issues Map exercise assigned, due next class

6 Oct 3 **Production systems** of the environment: program, design and the development process

**Lynch**, Kevin and Gary Hack. *Site Planning* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981.

Ch 2 The Art of Site Planning, pp. 1-12

Ch 5 Design, pp.127-143

**Garreau**, Joel. *Edge City. Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Doubleday Anchor Books, 1991.

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

- Exercise 2A: Student presentations of Issues Maps of their group projects

7 Oct 10 **Boston history:** trading port, industrial city, park planning, housing reform, urban renewal and transportation programs

**Spirn**, Anne Whinston. *The Granite Garden. Urban Nature and Human Design*. New York: Basic Books, 1984.

Boston: A Natural Environment Transformed, pp. 14-29.

**Lynch**. *A Theory of Good City Form*.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century transformation of Boston, pp. 25-35

**Zaitzevsky**, Cynthia. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System*.

Ch 3 The Boston Park Movement, pp. 33-47

**Birch**, Eugenie Ladner. "Woman-Made America: The Case of Early Public Housing Policy." In *The American Planner*, Donald Krueckeberg (ed), Methuen, 1983. pp. 149-173

**Gans**, Herbert. *The Urban Villagers (1958)*. New York: The Free Press, 1962.

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

**Vale**, Lawrence. *From the Puritans to the Projects. Public Housing and Public Neighbors*. Harvard University Press, 2000.

Ch 5: The Boston Housing Authority Since 1980: The Puritans Return, pp. 347-381

- No exercise period
- Comments on Paper #1 back to students
- Paper #2 given, due Oct 27

8 Sat, Oct 13 **Boston Bus Tour** – meet at 97 Talbot Ave

9 Oct 17 **Elements of the public realm:** streets, public spaces, open spaces, landscaping

**Banerjee**, Tridib "The Future of Public Space: Beyond Invented Street and Reinvented Places" in *Journal of the American Planning Association* 67:1 (Winter 2001) pp. 9-24

from *The Urban Design Reader*:

**Jacobs**, Jane "Author's Introduction" and "The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact", pp. 80-92

**Whyte**, William H. "Introduction," "The Life of Plazas," "Sitting Spaces," and "Sun, Wind, Trees, and Water," pp. 348-364 in *The Urban Design Reader*

**Jacobs**, Allan "Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning", pp. 387-390

10 Oct 24 **Planning and development tools: zoning, density, FAR, net to gross ratio**

**Marshall**, Alex. *How Cities Work. Suburbs, Sprawl, and the Roads Not Taken*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.  
Getting There. Building Healthy Cities, pp. 209-214

Other materials distributed in class.

- Exercise period: group project work
- Paper #2 due

11 Oct 31 **Transportation planning and current issues**

from *The Urban Design Reader*:

**Cervero**, Robert "Drawing Lessons and Debunking Myths", pp. 425-434 from *The Transit Metropolis: A Global Inquiry*. Island Press, 1998.

*Planning*. Special Issue on Transportation. May/June 2012

Power to the Pedalers  
What's Next for Rail?  
Smart Parking Revisited  
New York City's Very Big Digs  
My Car, Your Car... Your Car, My Car  
Density Dare

- Exercise period: group project work

12 Nov 7 **New urbanism: old rules, new applications. Green planning; LEED for Neighborhood Development**

**Kunstler**, James Howard. *The Geography of Nowhere. The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. New York: Touchstone, 1994.  
Scary Places, pp. 9-15

from *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

**Hildebrand**, Frey "Compact, Decentralized, or What? The Sustainable City Debate" pp. 328-343

**LEED** for Neighborhood Development: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=148>

- Exercise period: group project work
- Comments on Paper #2 back to students

13 Nov 14 **Smart Growth: policies and achievements**

Massachusetts Office for Commonwealth Development. Ten principles of Smart Growth, 2006.

“Growth Management”, pp. 377-381 in Frederick Steiner and Kent Butler (eds) *Planning and Urban Design Principles*, John Wiley and Sons, 2007.

**DeGrove**, John. *Planning Policy and Politics: Smart Growth and the States*. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA, 2005.  
Introduction, pp. 1-8

**Barnett**, Jonathan. *Planning for a New Century. The Regional Agenda*. Island Press, 2001.  
Ch 4 Regional Design: Local Codes as Cause and Cure of Sprawl pp. 63-75

- Exercise period: group project work

Nov 21 Thanksgiving period (no classes)

14 Nov 28 Guest presentation

- Draft reports due

15 Wed, Dec 5

**Student presentations**

- Comments on draft reports back to students

16 Thurs, Dec 6

**Student Presentations**

- Comments on draft reports back to students

Fri, Dec 14

**Guest speaker presentation:** contemporary large-scale plan

- Final Reports due