

Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers University

HISTORY AND THEORY OF PLANNING
FALL 2010
34:970:501

Class time/Location: Tuesday 1:10-3:50pm, Civic Square Building, Rm. 113

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INTRODUCTION

One of the hallmarks of the successful establishment of professional fields and expertise is the capacity and proclivity of a profession's members toward self reflection and study. This course aims to introduce students of city and regional planning to precisely such an evaluative exercise by studying the evolution of city and regional planning practice and thought in modern history through the lens of some of the major enduring questions in the profession.

A special note: this course is a GRADUATE SEMINAR. In short, I expect a number of you may be familiar with some of the major events in planning history already, especially if you have studied urban history or planning as an undergraduate. If you have not studied such history before, you can familiarize yourself with some of the key markers in US planning history (at least) at the following link:

<http://plannersreference.com/planning-timeline/>

Please note that the readings and topics in this course generally **do not follow a neat timeline, and most definitely are not limited to the U.S. planning experience.** Instead, I hope to engage you in a thoughtful debate about how planning history and planning debates in different contexts have been interpreted, what the relevant critiques therein are, and how planning as a practice has been theorized. Class time will consist of a lecture providing a larger theoretical and historical background to the readings assigned as well as time for group discussion and projects. The seminar also aims to help students practice exploring the challenges of communicating complex ideas and competing histories. To this end, all students will be assigned to work in groups on presenting a planning narrative of 7 major cities across the globe.

Students should also note that the history and theory of planning is a core segment of the certification exam from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). See the following website for more information:

<http://www.planning.org/certification/>

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be knowledgeable about major debates in planning history and theory. In particular, they will be prepared with the resources to answer the following basic questions:

1. Why the planning profession emerged as it did in recent history?
2. How is or should planning be practiced?
3. Who plans and why does this matter?
4. What is planned and who are plans for (or not for)?
5. What impact do plans have (if any)?

COURSE EXPECTATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

As graduate students who have chosen to specifically enroll in and pay for the Masters in City and Regional Planning, my basic assumption is that you want to be here, engage, and learn. Ensure that I am not mistaken about you by adhering to the following fundamental rules of the game:

1. Readings for each class meeting are assigned below and students are expected to have completed all the readings listed before each respective class meets.
2. Class attendance and participation in discussion is required.
3. There will be no time extensions granted for assignments.
4. Plagiarism or cheating in any manner is not tolerated and will result in a grade of **0 (zero)** for the assignment in question. Please see the following website on academic integrity from the University:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml#I>

Familiarize yourself with this document, as ANY violations of this code will be handled as per University policy.

If you have questions as per my expectations of your work for this class, let me know in advance of due dates for assignments. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand assignments with ample time for completion and follow directions for work due.

Grade composition and assignments:

50% - Five reflection papers (10% each)

30% - Case study in planning Group presentation (15% substantive research, 15% group cohesion, communication, and execution of presentation)

20% - Class participation (attendance and discussion)

- A) **Five reflection papers. 50%.** The reflections papers are due in before the beginning of the class meeting – **2-3 pages, single-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12pts.** Please post your papers electronically on SAKAI – do not email them to me directly. What are reflection papers? They are your chance to present a critical commentary (critical in the sense that you have digested and thought about the readings – not necessarily a “critique”) on the arguments presented in the readings. Please avoid “I” statements in your reflection papers. These are academic reflections, not editorial articles. Provide substantive arguments based on a close reading of the texts and your capacity to identify strengths and weaknesses of the planning history or theory readings assigned. Please note the following due date schedule:
- a. Sept. 14th: Reflection Paper 1 on week 1 or 2’s readings
 - b. Sept. 28th: Reflection Paper 2 on week 3 or 4’s readings
 - c. Oct. 19th: Reflection Paper 3 on week 6 or 7’s readings
 - d. Nov. 2nd: Reflection Paper 4 on week 8 or 9’s readings
 - e. Dec. 7th: Reflection Paper 5 on week 11, 12, or 14’s readings
- B) **Group presentations. 30%.** The class will form groups of five students each and present on the planning history and current planning challenges in one of the following cities: Detroit, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Philadelphia, Mumbai, Amsterdam, Portland. Groups can use class readings and discussions to inform their presentations, but **MUST** access and utilize other (academic) resources on planning experiences. Each student in the group presenting will be expected to participate and speak in the presentation. The groups will be expected to present visual evidence (i.e., photos, graphs) in a 25-minute power point presentation and answer questions after the presentation as per their presentation of the city’s planning history and current directions in planning at that site. In short, groups should think of the assignment as an opportunity to tell their audience about why planning or planners have or have not worked well in a particular city’s history, and on what issues planners there are focused today. *Note:* in discussing particular planning and planners, the individuals cited need not have been or be self-described planners by official profession, but simply individuals who significantly influence/d planning practice and/or thought – for better or worse – in the city in question.
- C) **Participation in class. 20%.** Students are expected to actively engage in **all** weekly discussions, sharing reactions to weekly readings and bringing in relevant questions to class based on readings assigned and other interesting current news. **Mathematically, you cannot get an A in this class if you do not attend class AND participate in discussions.**
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READINGS

All readings are available electronically on the class Sakai site. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the course Sakai page. Please note that communication with the class outside of our class meeting time will typically be via email – as such, it is your responsibility to check your inboxes for messages pertaining to this class via Sakai.

NOTE – The readings are often long and quite dense – but (always!) interesting and informative. YOU SHOULD ENSURE YOU HAVE ALLOTTED ENOUGH TIME TO COMPLETE THE ASSIGNED READINGS BEFORE CLASS. In fact, allot enough time to read the readings TWICE – to ensure you understand and get through the assignment.

Week 1

Is planning a utopian endeavor?

- P. Hall - *Garden Cities: The City in the Garden*
- J. Peterson - *The City Beautiful Movement*
- D. Kelbaugh - *The New Urbanism*
- D. Bennett – *City of Dreams*
- P. Khanna – *Beyond City Limits*

Week 2 – REFLECTION PAPER 1 DUE (Weeks 1 or 2)

Who plans the city? – Private, public, and partnership (?) planning

- R. Wrigley - *The Plan of Chicago*
- P. Davidoff - *Advocacy Planning – Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning*
- J. Forester - *Planning in the Face of Conflict*
- Payne, J. - *Paradox of Progress: Mount Laurel*
- C. Lindblom - *The Science of Muddling Through*

Week 3

Case Study in Planning: Group Presentation – 1st ½ hour: **Detroit**

What is planning's "scale"?

- A. Bertaud, *The Spatial Organization of Cities: Deliberate Outcome or Unforeseen Consequence?*
- L. Lawhon *The Neighborhood Unit: Physical Design or Physical Determinism?*
- J. Friedmann *Reflections on Place and Place-making in the Cities of China*
- A. Meyers *Invisible Cities: Lewis Mumford, Thomas Adams, and the Invention of the Regional City, 1925-1929*

Week 4 – REFLECTION PAPER 2 DUE (Weeks 3 or 4)

Who governs the city and how?

R. Dahl – *Who governs?* A history of New Haven - Chapters 8 and 10

G. Domhoff - *Who Really Ruled in Dahl's New Haven?* (e-resource:

http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/local/new_haven.html

J. Arputham - *People-centered development*

H. Molotch - *The City as a Growth Machine*

Week 5 – Case studies in Planning: Group Presentations

Group Presentations (1st hour) – **Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg**

2nd Half: International film and discussion – *Manda Bala*

Discussion: What role does planning have in creating/maintaining the conflicts presented in film?

Week 6 – FIELD TRIP TO RADBURN (To be scheduled)

Radburn and the Suburbs

D. Hayden – *Building Suburbia*: Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8

E. Birch, “Radburn and the American Planning Movement: The Persistence of an Idea,” *Journal of the American Planning Association* 46(4) (1980): 424-439.

C. Lee and B. Stabin-Nesmith, “The Continuing Value of a Planned Community: Radburn in the Evolution of Suburban Development,” *Journal of Urban Design*, 6(2) (2001): 151-184

Week 7 – REFLECTION PAPER 3 DUE (Weeks 6 or 7)

How has planning shaped society and vice versa?

F. Engels - *The housing question*

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/housing-question/index.htm>

J. Hardoy & D. Satterthwaite - *The Colonial Legacy*

R. Fishman - *Bourgeois Utopias*: Chapters 1 and 5

J. M. Thomas – *Racial Inequality and Empowerment: Necessary Theoretical Constructs for Understanding US Planning History*

Week 8

Does everyone have a right to live in the city? Who do we plan for?

S. Wirka - *The City Social Movement*

Wallace & Wallace – *A Plague on Our Houses* – Chapters 1 and 2

M. Davis – *Planet of Slums*

B. Toland - *Struggling cities examine ways to accommodate smaller populations*

V. Watson - *Deep Difference: Diversity, Planning and Ethics*

Week 9 – REFLECTION PAPER 4 DUE (Weeks 8 or 9)

How “democratic” is or can planning be? Guest speaker

P. Marris – *On Rationality and Democracy*

P. Healey – *The Communicative Turn*

M. Warner – *Publics and Counterpublics*

S. Arnstein - *Ladder of Citizen Participation*

Week 10 Case Studies in Planning Group Presentations

Group presentations (1st hour) – **Philadelphia and Mumbai**

2nd Hour: Domestic film: *Brick City – documentary on Newark*

Discussion: Can the urban planning profession hope to have a role in Newark's future?

Week 11

What economic future for the city?

R. Klosterman – *Arguments for and against planning*

M. Castells – *Space of Flows*

S. Sassen – *A New Urban Regime?*

M. Porter - *Regions and the New Economics of Competition*

Week 12

Can we really plan better cities? How?

O. Yiftachel - *Planning and Social Control – Exploring the 'Dark Side'*

S. Wheeler - *Planning Sustainable and Livable Lives*

S. Fainstein - *Equity and the Just City – New Directions in Planning Theory*

A. Roy - *Why India Cannot Plan Cities*

Week 13 Case Studies in Planning Group Presentations

Group presentations (1st hour) – **Amsterdam and Portland**

2nd Hour: Video short on China and film – *The Garden*

Discussion: Planning, accountability, and sustainable development

Week 14 – REFLECTION PAPER 5 DUE (weeks 11, 12, or 14)

Planning through Exchange: Could a “Planners without Borders” work?

R. Beauregard *Writing Transnational Histories*

J. Scott, "The High Modernist City: An Experiment and a Critique." In *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Conditions Have Failed*.

D. Spain, *Octavia Hill's Philosophy of Housing Reform: From British Roots to American Soil*

A. Appadurai *Deep Democracy*

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS OF PLANNING

Overview Books

In addition to the readings above available on Sakai, it is worth the investment to purchase one or two compilations or edited texts cited above. Many planners of this generation are particularly familiar with these texts as sort of general reference guides on planning thought and practice in history, particularly in the United States and in Europe. These include, but are not limited to:

Peter Hall's *Cities of Tomorrow*

Campbell and Fainstein's *Readings in Planning Theory*

Fainstein and Campbell's *Readings in Urban Theory*

Krueckeberg's *Introduction to Planning History in the United States*

LeGates and Stout's *The City Reader*

These texts are readily available on amazon.com or can be ordered through various other sites.

Academic and professional journals of interest include:

Journal of the American Planning Association;
Journal of Planning Education and Research;
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research;
International Planning Studies;
Journal of Planning History;
Journal of Planning Literature;
Planning;
Planning Perspectives
Environment and Urbanization;
World Development
Community Development Journal
Environment and Planning A (spatial reorganization/restructuring)
Environment and Planning B (planning and design)
Environment and Planning C (government and policy)
Environment and Planning D (society and space)
Journal of Urban Affairs;
Journal of Urbanism;
Planning Theory;
Planning Theory and Practice;
Progress in Planning.
Economy and Society
American Historical Review;
Annals of the Association of American Geographers;
Housing Policy Debate;
Journal of American History;
Journal of Geography;
Urban Affairs Review;
Urban Geography

Websites of interest include:

www.planning.org
www.plannersnetwork.org
www.PlaNetizen.com
www.planninghistory.org
<http://planning-research.com/>