

Urban Planning and Policy Development Program, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University

History and Theory of Planning, 34:970:501, Fall 2007, 3 credits

Tuesday, 1:10-3:50, Civic Square Building, Room 112, College Avenue Campus

Instructor is Frank J. Popper, Civic Square Building, Room 535, College Avenue Campus, 732-932-4009, X689, fpopper@rci.rutgers.edu or fpopper@princeton.edu. Instructor's website is policy.rutgers.edu/faculty/popper.html, where more copies of this syllabus are available.

Office hours for instructor: Monday and Tuesday, both 10-12, or by appointment.

Texts: Peter Hall, [Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century](#) (third edition, 2002); Robert J. Mason, [Collaborative Land Use Management: The Quieter Revolution in Place-Based Planning](#) (2007); and Witold Rybczynski, [Last Harvest: How a Cornfield Became New Daleville: Real Estate Development in America from George Washington to the Builders of the Twenty-First Century, and Why We Live in Houses Anyway](#) (2007). The Hall and Rybczynski books are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore in New Brunswick, as the Mason one will be after its publication date, October 15.

This course, intended primarily for MCRP students at any stage of their studies, explores the history and theory of city and regional planning over about the last century and a half. The course focuses primarily on the United States, but not exclusively. The course sessions will consist of presentations by the instructor and then class discussion. Student will do three take-home exams drawing on the assigned reading and other sources, plus a research paper at the end of the course.

Of the assigned books, Hall takes the approach of exploring what happened and why in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France and elsewhere. Rybczynski investigates the results in a particular New Urbanist case in Pennsylvania near Harrisburg. Mason looks at the reasons why U.S. planning has taken its course over the last generation and where it is likely to go in the future. Thus the course moves variously through historical, theoretical, practical and predictive turns. The instructor may assign additional short readings, mostly from newspapers, academic journals or the Web, as needed.

The last assignment for the course allows the student to use any of these tacks, or a combination of them, in producing a research paper, which may be on any topic relevant to the course that the instructor approves. There will be no shortage of material from which to choose topics or approaches, and the instructor wants students to use their imaginations to develop adventuresome analytic (not solely descriptive) subjects and treatments. The paper should be 10-12 pages, not counting notes, references and graphics.

The instructor expects the exams and research papers to be original products written for this course only. He—and the Bloustein School and Rutgers in general—take plagiarism and other

forms of academic dishonesty VERY seriously. For proof, see the pages on the subject in the Bloustein School catalogue. The penalties for misconduct range from a failing grade on a paper or exam to expulsion from Rutgers. If the student has questions on such matters, he/she should consult the instructor. But as a rule of thumb, if you think may be doing something academically dishonest, you probably are. On a related subject, Wikipedia and other encyclopedias, on-line or off-, are good places to begin research and terrible places to end it. Use them as jump-off points. Don't cite them.

Twenty percent of the student's grade comes from each of the three take-home exams, and thirty percent comes from the research paper. The exams and paper must use sources beyond the texts, the instructor's class presentations, and those mentioned in the note on sources below. Ten percent of the grade comes from class participation and general conscientiousness, including getting work in on time.

All written work for the course should be typed double-spaced. The instructor wants all such work to meet graduate-school standards of writing and will lower the grade of any that does not. The instructor expects students to attend all classes and do the reading for them carefully.

Schedule

September 4	No class: orientation for all MCRP students.
September 11	Introduction and late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century planning: Hall, Chapters 1-4.
September 18	Interwar planning: Hall, Chapters 5-6.
September 25	Early postwar planning: Hall, Chapters 7-9.
October 2	Contemporary planning: Hall, Chapters 10-13. First take-home exam handed out.
October 9	Exam due.
October 16	Developer initiative: Rybczynski, Part 1.
October 23	Planner response: Rybczynski, Part 2.
October 30	Land-use synthesis: Rybczynski, Part 3. Second take-home exam handed out.
November 6	Exam due.
November 13	The historical context of the recent revolution: Mason, Chapters 1-3.

November 20	No class: Thanksgiving vacation.
November 27	The revolution applied: Mason, Chapters 4-6.
December 4	The revolution's future: Mason, Chapters 7-9. Third take-home exam handed out.
December 12	Exam due.
December 18	Research paper due in instructor's office at noon.

A note on sources

There are many sources on the history and theory of planning that you might use as starting points for your work on the exams and research paper, as well as in other courses. Alternative readings for this course might have been Eugenie Birch (ed.), The Urban and Regional Planning Reader (2006); Michael Brooks, Planning Theory for Practitioners (2002); Scott Campbell and Susan Fainstein (eds.), Readings in Planning Theory (second edition, 2003); Susan Fainstein and Scott Campbell (eds.), Readings in Urban Theory (second edition, 2002); Robert Fishman (ed.), The American Planning Tradition: Culture and Policy (2002); Thomas Harper and Stanley Stein, Dialogical Planning in a Fragmented Society: Critically Liberal, Pragmatic, Incremental (2006); Donald Krueckeberg (ed.), Introduction to Planning History in the United States (1983); Seymour Mandelbaum, Luigi Mazza and Robert Burchell (eds.), Explorations in Planning Theory (1996); Jon Peterson, The Birth of City Planning in the United States, 1840-1917 (2004); or even Mel Scott, American City Planning Since 1890 (second edition, 1971). An impressive number of these possible texts come from academics with Rutgers connections.

There are book-length planning histories of nearly every major American city, with particular emphases on New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta. (Note the regional balance.) There are planning histories of the contemporary suburb—for instance, Robert Fishman, Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia (1987); Ann Forsyth, Reforming Suburbia: The Planned Communities of Irvine, Columbia and The Woodlands (2005); Suzanne Keller, Community: Pursuing the Dream, Living the Reality (2003); Kevin Kruse and Thomas Sugrue (eds.), The New Suburban History (2006); and Adam Rome, The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism (2001).

Planning histories of particular suburbs are more likely to appear in the specialized periodicals discussed below or in documents the suburbs' governments produce. Planning histories of rural areas abound, but are rarely described as planning histories—for example, many of the books in the excellent Indiana University Press series on Midwestern History and Culture. Planning histories of particular significant sites abound—for example, Timothy Guilfoyle, Millennium Park: Creating a Chicago Landmark (2006).

A fine site on the history of planning is library.cornell.edu/Reps/DOCS/homepage.htm. An equally good one on the American conservation movement from about 1850 to 1920 is memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/conshome.html. Do not overlook the publications and Websites of state, city and county governments and historical societies. Also, do not ignore the 75-page list of references in the Hall text.

There are large historical, theoretical and practical literatures on specific planning issues such as environmental problems, zoning, regional matters, public health concerns, globalization, gender experiences, Native, African and Hispanic American and other ethnic and racial problems, and urban, suburban or rural development. In particular, sprawl is attracting growing amounts of mindshare in such books as Robert Bruegmann, *Sprawl: A Compact History* (2005); Anthony Flint, *This Land: The Battle Over Sprawl and the Future of America* (2006); Dolores Hayden, *A Field Guide to Sprawl* (2004); and Robert Lang, *Edgeless Cities: Exploring the Elusive Metropolis* (2003).

Worthwhile biographical studies include Alice Sparberg Alexiou, *Jane Jacobs: Urban Visionary* (2006); Donald Krueckeberg (ed.), *The American Planner: Biographies and Recollections* (second edition, 1994); Mark Luccarelli, *Lewis Mumford and the Ecological Region: The Politics of Planning* (1995); Anne Matthews, *Where the Buffalo Roam: Restoring America's Great Plains* (second edition, 2002); and Witold Rybczynski, *A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century* (1999). (Full disclosure: the instructor and his wife are the subjects of the Matthews book, one of four finalists for the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction.)

Any number of specialized periodicals can be useful. Among those with the word “planning” in their titles are *International Planning Studies*; *Journal of the American Planning Association*; *Journal of Planning Education and Research*; *Journal of Planning History*; *Journal of Planning Literature*; *Planning*; *Planning Perspectives*; *Planning Theory*; *Planning Theory and Practice*; and *Progress in Planning*. Then there are, among many others, *American Historical Review*; *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*; *Housing Policy Debate* (disclosure: the instructor is on its editorial board); *Journal of American History*; *Journal of Geography* (ditto); *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Journal of Urbanism*; *Opolis: An International Journal of Suburban and Metropolitan Studies*; *Urban Affairs Review*; and *Urban Geography*, plus place-specific periodicals (such as *High Country News* and *Western Historical Quarterly* for the American West) or disciplinary ones (such as those on air pollution, hazardous waste, housing or environmental economics).

Google News is often helpful for finding smaller newspapers or exploring unusual issues. The nation's leading journalist whose work focuses on urban planning is probably Neal Peirce, whose syndicated columns and other writings are at citistates.com. Interesting new planning blogs are planningresearch.blogspot.com/ and [lawprofessors.typepad.com/land use/](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/landuse/), and more seem likely.

The American Planning Association, the nation's leading professional association in the field, offers a free membership to all first-year MCRP students. It publishes *Planning*, a monthly magazine, and *Journal of the American Planning Association*, an academic quarterly, plus a variety of technical publications that appear on APA's website, planning.org. (More disclosure: the

instructor served two terms on APA's board.) An interesting academic-planning listserv is PlaNNet.listserv@buffalo.edu. Interesting websites are PlaNNetizen.com and planninghistory.org, the latter run by the International Planning History Society, but new sites and listserves continually emerge. The New Jersey APA Chapter's annual conference is in New Brunswick, Friday, November 2, at the Hyatt Hotel.