

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

Land-Use Planning Seminar, 34:970:655, Fall 2009, 3 credits

Tuesday, 1:10-3:50, Room 173, Civic Square Building, College Avenue Campus (except for first meeting on Friday, September 4)

Taught by Frank J. Popper, Room 535, Civic Square Building, College Avenue Campus, 732-932-4009, X689, fpopper@rci.rutgers.edu, fpopper@princeton.edu

Office hours: Tuesday morning, 9-12, plus before or after class

Readings: Elizabeth Currid, “The Warhol Economy: How Fashion, Art, and Music Drive New York City” (2007), Christopher Duerksen, C. Gregory Dale and Donald Elliott, “The Citizen’s Guide to Planning” (fourth edition, 2009) and Peter Huber, “Hard Green: Saving the Environment from the Environmentalists—A Conservative Manifesto” (1998). All are available, in paperback where possible, at the Rutgers/Barnes & Noble Bookstore. For October 27 and November 3 the assignment is a Lincoln Institute report online. There may be other, shorter reading assignments as needed.

This course explores advanced topics in land-use planning. The early part of the course focuses on topics that interest me. The later part focuses on students’ preparation of research papers on ones that interest them.

Each student does an original research paper of 20-25 total double-spaced pages on a topic that he/she suggests and I approve. The paper goes through a four-stage process: a proposal, a first draft, a class presentation and a final draft. This course offers a chance for students to do papers on topics they have always wanted to explore, and I encourage students to do adventurous papers. All disciplines and points of view are welcome. One goal of the course is that students do papers that are potentially publishable and/or professionally useful. Another is that students learn the academic and professional literature and methods of land-use planning. Yet another is that they learn to help each other do these tasks.

In the early part of the semester each student will be responsible for a summary and critique of selected parts of the reading and then leading the discussion about them. He/she will distribute an outline of what he/she has to say at least a day before the class. The point here is not only to recap the reading, but also to raise questions it stimulates and challenge/support its arguments.

The final draft of the research paper counts for half the student’s grade. The class presentation counts for a quarter. So do class participation and general conscientiousness, including getting work in on time.

I expect that the paper will meet advanced graduate-school standards of writing and will lower the grade of any that does not. I expect students to attend all classes, do the reading for them carefully and be prepared to discuss it. The class is relatively small and conversational, so the amount of student preparation will quickly become clear and affect the student's grade.

I expect students to know, understand and live up to the Rutgers standards of academic integrity explained at academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/students. If you have questions about them, please ask me. A rule of thumb: if you think you may be violating them, you probably are.

Schedule

- September 4 Introduction. Note: a Friday class.
- September 8 No class: only Monday classes.
- September 15 Currid, pp. IX-XI and 1-86.
- September 22 Currid, pp. 86-211.
- September 29 Huber, pp. XI-XXXI and 3-83.
- October 6 Huber, pp. 87-204. Proposals due.
- October 13 Duerksen *et al.*, Introduction and Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-76.
- October 20 Duerksen *et al.*, Chapters 5-8 and Conclusion, pp. 77-215.
- October 27 Lincoln Institute report on state-level smart growth, through Chapter 9, lincolninst.edu/pubs/smart-growth-policies.aspx.
- November 3 Lincoln Institute report on state-level smart growth, Chapters 10-18, lincolninst.edu/pubs/smart-growth-policies.aspx.
- November 10 First drafts of papers due.
- November 17 Individual meetings in instructor's office on first drafts.
- November 24 Student presentations.
- December 1 Student presentations.
- December 8 To be announced.

December 15 Term paper due in instructor's office at noon.

A note on sources

Sources on US land-use planning and land history abound. Other readings for this course might have been Richard Kluger, "Seizing Destiny: How America Grew From Sea to Shining Sea" (2007), Anne Mackin, "Americans and Their Land: A House Built on Abundance" (2006), Daniel Mathews and James Jackson, "America from the Air: A Guide to the Landscape Along Your Route" (2007), Chris Magoc, "So Glorious A Landscape: Nature and the Environment in American History and Culture" (2001), John Opie, "Nature's Nation: An Environmental History of the United States" (1998), Ted Steinberg, "Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History" (revised edition, 2009) or Louis Warren, "American Environmental History" (2003).

A comparable abundance exists for large cities—for instance, interesting land histories of Chicago (by William Cronon), Las Vegas (Hal Rothman), Los Angeles (Mike Davis), Pittsburgh (Joel Tarr) and Portland, Oregon (Carl Abbott), among many other cities and authors. Local blogs, on cities or other places and issues, are sometimes vividly invaluable and other times a complete waste of time. If you have questions about them, ask me.

Regional and state land histories are sometimes available—for instance, John Rennie Short, "Liquid City: Megalopolis and the Contemporary Northeast" (2007), Donald Worster, "Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s" (second edition, 2004) and Carolyn Merchant (ed.), "Green Versus Gold: Sources in California's Environmental History" (1998).

The literature on suburban land-use planning is swelling—for instance, Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williams, "Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs" (2008), Dolores Hayden, "Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000" (2003), Paul Knox, "Metroburbia, USA" (2008), and Kevin Kruse and Thomas Sugrue (eds.), "The New Suburban History" (2006). Then there are cultural studies of the suburbs such as Paul Robbins, "Lawn People: How Grasses, Weeds and Chemicals Make Us Who We Are" (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).

All states, most large cities, many regions and some counties and neighborhoods have been the subjects of serious historical investigation, although not always from a land or planning perspective. Visit their websites or the Rutgers library for more information. Do not overlook the publications and websites of state, city, county and neighborhood historical societies and museums. Local newspapers can often be enormously helpful.

There are large literatures on specific issues of land or planning history such as ecological restoration, energy practices, ethical/religious perspectives, environmental justice, the environmental sides of science and engineering, the federal public lands, gender experiences, Native, African and Hispanic American concerns and other ethnic ones, natural resource economics, particular animals, plants and industries, population pressure, regulation and its effects, and urban and suburban development. Many land-use and planning figures have been subjects of recent book-length studies: for starters, Rachel Carson, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Lois Gibbs, Jane Jacobs, Robert Moses, John Muir, Lewis Mumford, Gifford Pinchot, John Wesley Powell, Theodore Roosevelt (specifically in his conservation work), Wallace Stegner, Frederick Jackson Turner, and the instructor and his wife.

There is a vast literature on cherished places: the Everglades, Central Park, the Mississippi and other rivers, the New Jersey Pinelands, the California coast, the Northern and Northwest forests, the Southwest deserts, numerous small towns, and on and on. Any number of specialized periodicals can be useful. Look, for instance, at the *American Historical Review*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Environmental History*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Journal of Urban History*, *Natural Resources Journal*, *Planning*, and *Urban Affairs Review*, plus regional periodicals (such as *High County News*, *Journal of the West*, *Pacific Historical Quarterly* or *Western Historical Quarterly for the West*) or disciplinary ones (such as those on air pollution, forestry, hazardous waste, housing, farming, mining or wilderness).

Specialized encyclopedias are often good places to start research, but one must always go further. Since 1990 encyclopedias have appeared on, among other places, the Great Plains, the Midwest, the Northeast, the South, the West, New Jersey, New York State, Cleveland, Los Angeles and New York City. Also useful are Carolyn Merchant, “*The Columbia Guide to American Environmental History*” (2002) and Shepard Krech III, J.R. McNeill and Carolyn Merchant (eds.), “*Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*” (2003). Wikipedia and other encyclopedias, online and off-, are good places to begin research and terrible places to end them. Use them as starting points. Please don’t cite them.