URBAN POLICY: SHAPING THE CITY
COURSE # 90-734
HEINZ SCHOOL  2010

Instructor: Jane Downing

Course Description:
This course will examine forces and policies that have shaped modern urban form and the historic development of cities, concentrating on late 19th and 20th century American city development. We will explore a series of post World War II government and private sector policies which have led to current urban and regional patterns as well as policies in community development, affordable housing, workforce development and transportation designed to mitigate those patterns. We will conclude with a discussion of policies to support sustainable urban growth. The course will concentrate on the physical, geographical and built aspects of cities, but will also address the relationship between the physical nature of cities and the quality of community that develops, with a specific focus on low-income communities. Guest speakers will provide examples of how public policies are implemented in the Pittsburgh area.

Textbooks:
- Xavier de Souza Briggs, Editor. The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America.

Course Objectives:
You will learn to describe key issues in the historic development of American cities; discuss the role public and private sector policies have played in shaping modern urban form; analyze a range of urban policy options from different disciplinary perspectives as well as your own experiences living in cities; analyze positive and negative impacts of urban policies on low income populations; and refine ability to think about the future by proposing and justifying policies you think would be beneficial in urban areas.

Assignments and grading:
Excerpts from the textbooks and handouts from the instructor contain the required reading for the course. Students will provide reflections on the readings for class discussion each week at the end of class. Students will select an urban policy issue to research. Week 3 a two paragraph summary of the topic and approach to the urban policy issue is due. Week 6, a 15-page essay on the selected policy issue will be due. The essay will include a background section (including why the issue is important); a description of the specific policy issue; analysis of how the policy affects low income or minority communities; and policy options for further change. Students will present a PowerPoint summary of the paper at the last class.
Grading for the course will be based on class participation (25%), weekly written reflections on readings (25%), policy paper (30%) and the final presentation (20%). I will assign a 0 if assignments are not turned in, papers are plagiarized or developed for another course. I expect each student to complete written assignments on his/her own.

March 15, 2010
Week 1

Course Introduction: Expectations. Setting the context for studying cities. What is meant by urban policy? Class generated list of current urban policy issues. Origins of cities from 3,000 BC through the 19th century. Consequences of industrialization: reform movements directed toward the industrial conditions that reshaped cities. American values that shape city development.

Reading Assignments: (Optional)
The City Reader Selections:
Childe: “The Urban Revolution,” pgs 35-42
Kitto: “The Polis,” pgs 43-48
“First Person Accounts of Great Cities of the Medieval and Early Modern World,” pgs 49-57
Mumford: “What is a City?” pgs 92-96
Wirth: “Urbanism as a Way of Life,” pgs 97-104

March 22, 2010
Week 2

Suburbanization/Metropolitanism. Establishment of the planning profession. Public policies as a legitimate government activity. From 19th century to sprawl.

Reading Assignments:
The City Reader Selections:
Calthorpe: “Designing the Region,” pgs 331-336
Jackson: “The Drive In Culture of Contemporary America,” pgs 67-76
Jackson: “The Almost Perfect Town,” pgs 164-171
John Levy. Contemporary Urban Planning. (handouts)
“The History of Planning: Part II,” pgs 52-63
“The Legal Basis of Planning,” pgs 64-81
“The Tools of Land Use Planning,” pgs 117-145
The Brookings Institution, Urban Metropolitan Policy Program. (handout)
“Metro Policy: Shaping a New Federal Partnership for a Metropolitan Nation”
GUEST SPEAKERS: Justin Miller, Joy Abbott, Darin Palilla, Pittsburgh City Planning Department

March 29, 2010  
Week 3

Community Development/ Civic Engagement. Planning and developing communities. Role of non-profits in neighborhood development. Civic capacity as an element in urban policy.

Reading Assignments:  
Selections from The City Reader  
Putnam: “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital” pgs 105-113  
Davidoff: “Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning” pgs 338-398  

James DeFelippis and Susan Saegert, editors. The Community Development Reader. (Handouts)  
Norman J. Glickman and Lisa Servon: “More than Bricks and Sticks: Five Components of Community Development Corporation Capacity,” pgs 46-61  
William M. Rohe, Rachel G. Bratt and Protip Biswas: “Learning from Adversity: the CDC School of Hard Knocks,” pgs 62-66

Guest Speaker: Ellen Kight. President, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE  
Due–Topic and Approach for Urban Policy Issue  
April 5, 2010  
Week 4


Reading Assignments:  
Selections from The City Reader  
Porter: “The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City” pg 277-289  
Whyte: “The Design of Spaces” pgs 429-436  

DeFilippis and Saegert, The Community Development Reader. (handout)  
Alice O’Connor. “Swimming Against the Tide: A Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities.”  
John Levy. Contemporary Urban Planning. (handout)  
“Urban Design,” pgs 146-175
Steve Rugare and Terry Schwartz, Editors. Cities Growing Smaller.
Terry Schwartz, “The Cleveland Land Lab: Experiments for a City in Transition,” pgs 73-83

GUEST SPEAKER: Ernie Hogan, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Corporation; Former Director of Development, East Liberty Development Inc.

April 12, 2010
Week 5
Geography of opportunity. Factors affecting housing choice. Overview of federal housing policy.

Reading Assignments
DeSouza Briggs, Geography of Opportunity.
Chapter 1. Introduction
Chapter 3. “Can We Live Together? Racial Preferences and Neighborhood Outcomes.”
Chapter 6. “Expanding Housing Choice and Integrating Neighborhoods: the Moving To Opportunity Experiment.”

John M. Levy. Urban America. (handout)
“Housing: An Overview,” pgs 159-180

April 19, 2010
Week 6

Reading Assignments (handouts):

“Transportation Planning,” pgs 195-214
Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program.
“A Bridge to Somewhere: Rethinking American Transportation for the 21st Century.”

GUEST SPEAKER: Dara Ware Allen, Executive Director, YouthWorks Inc. Pittsburgh Public Schools Board Member

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

April 26, 2010
Week 7

Equitable Development. Realities of regional planning. Sustainable Development.

Reading Assignments
Selections from The City Reader
Mollenkopf: “How to Study Urban Political Power” pgs 235-243
Downs: “The Need for a New Vision for the Development of Large U.S. Metropolitan Areas” pgs 256-266
Wheeler: “Planning Sustainable and Livable Cities” pgs 486-496

Chapter 10. “Connecting Smart Growth, Housing Affordability and Racial Equity,” Rolf Pendall et al.

Steve Rugare and Terry Schwartz, eds. Cities Growing Smaller.
Karina Pallagst. “ Shrinking Cities: Planning Challenges from an International Perspective,” pgs 7-15

May 3, 2010
Week 8

CLASS PRESENTATIONS