URBAN POLICY: SHAPING THE CITY
COURSE # 90-734
HEINZ COLLEGE
SPRING 2016

Instructor: Jane Downing
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Course Time: Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:50 pm
Course Location: Hamburg Hall 1003
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: This course will examine economic forces and public policies that have shaped modern cities and metropolitan areas in the US and other countries. We will explore government policies contributing to metropolitan form as well as policies in community development, affordable housing, workforce development and the environment designed to mitigate those policies. 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 metro areas, but will also address the relationship between the physical nature and the quality of community that develops, focusing on low-income communities. Guest speakers will provide examples of how selected public policies are implemented in Pittsburgh.

Textbooks:
• Richard LeGates and Frederick Stout, Editors. The City Reader (Sixth Edition).

Course Objectives: You will be able to identify policies that have shaped the physical environment of metropolitan areas and understand the impact of those policies on low income populations, the role of NGOs as change agents and the importance of civic engagement in a region’s quality of life.

Assignments and grading: Excerpts from the textbooks and handouts from the instructor contain the required reading for the course. Students will provide reflections on policy issues addressed in the readings for class discussion each week. In Week 3, students will select an urban policy issue to research and provide a written summary of the topic and approach. Week 6, a 15-page essay on the selected policy issue will be due. The essay will include a problem statement with supporting data about why the issue is important; an in-depth description of the selected urban policy; an analysis of its impact on low-income or minority communities. Each student will present a PowerPoint summary of the paper at the last class.
Grading for the course will be based on class participation (20%), weekly written reflections on readings (20%), policy paper (40%) 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, 2016
Week 1


March 22, 2016
Week 2


Reading Assignments:

The City Reader Selections:
Orfield: “Metropolitics and Fiscal Equity,” pgs. 338-356

The Metropolitan Revolution:
“New York: Innovation and the Next Economy,” pgs 17-40

The Urban Development Reader (handout)
Gillham: “What is Sprawl?” pgs 378-398
Lozano: “Density in Communities, or the Most Important Factor in Building Urbanity,” pgs 399-414

March 29, 2016
Week 3


Reading Assignments:

The City Reader Selections:
DeSouza Briggs, *Geography of Opportunity*. (Handouts)

Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality: *Pathways. The Quiet Revolution in Housing Policy*. Articles, pgs. 9-27 (handout)

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE–Topic and Approach for Urban Policy Issue**

April 5, 2016
Week 4
Urban Development. Public sector implementation of economic and housing real estate development policies. Relationship of urban design to quality of development and quality of life. Inner city revitalization. Rightsizing cities vs. growth.

*Reading Assignments:*

Selections from *The City Reader*
Jacobs: “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety,” pgs. 149-153
Whyte: “The Design of Spaces” pgs. 587-595
Project for Public Spaces: “What is Place Making?” pgs. 558-562
Madanipour, “Social Exclusion and Space,” 203-211

*The Metropolitan Revolution*
“The Rise of Innovation Districts,” pgs. 113-143

Steve Rugare and Terry Schwartz, Eds. *Cities Growing Smaller*. (handout)
Schwartz:“The Cleveland Land Lab: Experiments for a City in Transition,” pgs. 73-83

**GUEST SPEAKER: Robert Rubinstein, Interim Executive Director, Urban Redevelopment Authority, City of Pittsburgh**

April 12 2016
Week 5
Community Development/ Civic Engagement. Role of Non-Profits/NGOs in Neighborhood Development. Civic Capacity as an Element in Urban Policy.

*Reading Assignments:*

The City Reader Selections:
- Arnstein: “A Ladder of Citizen Participation,” pgs. 279-292

The Metropolitan Revolution.
- “Houston and El Civics,” pgs. 88-109

Selections from the Urban Sociology Reader (Handout).

GUEST SPEAKER: Presley Gillespie, President & CEO, Neighborhood Allies

April 19, 2016
Week 6

Reading Assignments:
The City Reader Selections:
- Stout: The Automobile, the City and the New Urban Mobilities: pgs. 696-706

The Metropolitan Revolution.
- “Denver: The Four Votes,” pgs. 41-63

Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program. (Handout)
- “Where the Jobs Are: Employer Access to Labor by Transit”

The Sustainable Urban Development Reader (Handouts)

GUEST SPEAKER: Chris Sandvig, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE
April 26, 2016
Week 7

Sustainable Development. Infrastructure. Water Quality and Energy

Reading Assignments

Selections from The City Reader
  Calthorpe: “Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change,” pgs 511-524
  Project for Public Spaces,” Place Making and the Future of Cities, Pgs 629-639

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

May 3, 2016
Week 8

CLASS PRESENTATIONS
BIBLIOGRAPHY


