

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MILWAUKEE
School of Architecture and Urban Planning
Department of Urban Planning

Planning History
Urb Plan 692
Spring 2006
Online

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Knowing planning history is essential for any modern professional planner. Understanding how planning laws, policies, and practices originated and evolved over time provides an important backdrop for understanding the planning controversies and conundrums of our own time. This course will show how the planning profession has changed with changing urban circumstances—sometimes for the better and sometime for the worse. The course touches on all aspects of planning history, from housing policies to urban design, from zoning to environmental planning.

Course Objectives

This course will introduce you to the history of urban planning so that you will be able to:

- Understand major themes in U.S. planning history;
- Identify landmark events, legal decisions, and people that have shaped both the planning profession and American cities;
- Understand the influence of social trends, changing technology, and evolving ideas on the way planning is practiced and the problems that planners have addressed;
- Appreciate the impact that urban planning has on people—both good and bad.

Course Readings and Materials

Required Reading.

Planning History Lessons on CD (see D2L or email from Nancy Frank for details on obtaining the CD), which provides the basic text for the course.

Jon Peterson, *The Birth of City Planning in the United States: 1840-1917*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. ISBN: 0801872103.

June Manning Thomas and Marsha Ritzdorf, *Urban Planning and the African American Community*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997. ISBN: 0803972342.

Supplementary Reading (you will be required to read and report on one of the following books for the Book Report Assignment).

Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck, *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. New York: North Point Press, 2001. ISBN 0865476063.

Mindy Fullilove, *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, and What We Can Do About It*. New York: One World/Ballantine, 2004. ISBN 0345454227.

Joel Garreau, *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Anchor Press, 1992. ISBN 0385424345.

Paul S. Grogan and Tony Proscio, *Comeback Cities: A Blueprint for Urban Neighborhood Revival*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2001. ISBN 0813368138.

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Vintage (reissue edition), 1992. ISBN 067974195X.

James Howard Kunstler, *Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994. ISBN 0671888250.

Course Format

Although this is an online course, we will be working through the material together at the same rate. You may, of course, read ahead; however, you will need to engage with the faculty and other students each week on the material and activities required for that week.

The course will be managed entirely through D2L and email, as needed.

Weekly Schedule

Week of	Topics and Readings Due	CD Lessons
Jan 23	The Origins of Urban Planning: Pre-1800s to Mid-Nineteenth Century	1-3
Jan 30	1840 – 1900: Sanitary Reform and Landscape Values <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peterson, Chapter 2	4
Feb 6	1900-1920: Laissez-Faire Gives Way—The First	5

Comprehensive Plans

- Peterson, Chapter 3

◆ **Planning Landmark assignment details to be posted to D2L this week**

Feb 13	1900-1920: “Garden Cities” and the “City Beautiful Movement” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peterson, Chapters 5-6	6
Feb 20	1900-1920: City Beautiful Meets City Dangerous <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peterson, Chapters 7-8	7
Feb 27	1900-1920: Landmarks in Planning Law and Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peterson, Chapters 11-12• Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 23-31• Something on New York City zoning code• Landmark Paper Due ◆ Midterm exam details to be posted on D2L	8
March 6	1900-1920: End of an Era and Summary of Main Themes and Accomplishments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peterson, Chapters 13-15	9
March 13	Midterm Exam ◆ Book Report details to be posted on D2L.	
March 20	Spring Break	
March 27	1920-1950: The “City Efficient” and the Rise of Suburbia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 32-42, 281-282	10-12
April 3	1920-1950: The Depression and the Activist Agenda	13-15
April 10	1920-1950: Seeds of the Post-World War II Era in Planning	16-18
April 17	1950-1970: Federal Influences, Civil Rights, and the Domination of the Automobile <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 187-200• Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 143-163• So and Getzels, pp. 66-71• So and Getzels, pp. 365-368	19-20

April 24	1950-1970: Federal Influences, Civil Rights, and the Domination of the Automobile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 58-74 ◆ Final Exam details to be posted on D2L.	21-22
May 1	1970 to the present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So and Getzels, pp. 288-299 • Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 93-108 • Book Report Due 	23-24
May 8	1970 to the present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerckens in So and Getzels, pp. 55-59, 119-121 • Thomas and Ritzdorf, pp. 220-236 	

Final Exam Due

Course Requirements

Discussion Forum Participation

Discussion on D2L is a critical element in this course. Your participation will be assessed in terms of the following:

- Integration of information and ideas expressed in the assigned reading for the current week;
- Integration of information and ideas expressed in the assigned reading from the weeks prior to the current week of the course;
- Integration of ideas and information presented by other students and faculty through course discussions;
- Responding to the ideas of other students and faculty.

Students who demonstrate that they are fully engaged in the course materials and discussions will receive higher scores than those who appear to be only going through the motions.

Discussions will not be graded on the length of the contribution. We encourage students to be direct and get to the point as quickly as possible.

Planning Landmark Assignment

Details about this assignment will be posted on D2L during the week of February 6. This will be a one-page paper focused on some artifact of urban planning history—a place that has some attributes that connect it to a specific era or event within the history of planning. For example, you might select a neighborhood that has a street layout that

connects it (ideologically) to a specific era or and set of ideas about how residential areas should be laid out. You might identify a place at any scale from a single building to an entire district within a city or a project that may have extended over a very broad area (e.g., Tennessee Valley Authority). The only restriction is that this landmark or artifact must be one that is not discussed in the readings. Since this assignment is due early in the semester, you should plan to select a place that was created prior to 1920.

Midterm Exam

The exam will be a combination of short answer and longer essay questions.

Book Report

Each student will elect to read and report on one of the following books relating to the history of urban planning in the post-World War II period. You will want to get the book and start reading early in the semester, since each of these books is fairly long.

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck, *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. North Point Press, 2001.

James Howard Kunstler, *Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*

Joel Garreau, *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*. Anchor Press, 1992.

Paul S. Grogan and Tony Proscio, *Comeback Cities: A Blueprint for Urban Neighborhood Revival*. Westview Press, 2001.

You will prepare an 8-10 page paper that includes the following:

- A one-page abstract that describes the author's main points;
- An imaginary interview with the author (6-8 pages) that explores the author's understanding of the events that created the issues, problems, and realities on the ground in the postwar period covered in the book. The interview questions and answers should demonstrate your understanding of the book's main purpose and ideas and link those ideas to the planning history that you learned throughout the course.
- A timeline that graphically depicts the **key events** in urban planning history that are discussed in the book.

Final Exam

The exam will be a combination of short answer and longer essay questions. It will be comprehensive, meaning that it will cover all of the material from throughout the semester, including information presented by other students or by the faculty on D2L.

Grading Scale

Discussion Forum Participation	25 percent
Planning Landmark Assignment	10 percent
Midterm Exam	20 percent
Book Report	20 percent
Final Exam	25 percent
Total	100 percent