History and Theory of Urban Spatial Development is a lecture course that explores the rich legacy of urban physical planning and design throughout history and around the globe. It will examine the reification of human values and ideals in the built environment, and the consequent shaping of society and culture by the places we envision, plan, build and inhabit. A broad spectrum of operative forces and agents—economic, cultural, political, religious, technological—will be analyzed to understand their often unanticipated formative impacts on cities and metropolitan regions. Among the themes explored in the class are the early origins of urban form; humanism, utopianism and the quest for the “ideal city”; the dynamics of power versus the grassroots; the struggle between modernity and tradition; the role of transportation and communications technology in shaping settlement patterns; the spatial dynamics of race and class; the impacts of housing policy on the postwar American city; and the urban crisis, “white flight” and the rise of suburbia. The course will end with an analysis of urbanization in contemporary China and the renewal of city life in this age of surging population, peak oil and lightspeed global flows.

CRP5190 meets in Milstein Auditorium on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:55 to 4:10pm.

Readings
It is essential that you do all the readings for this course prior to each class meeting (with exception of the first one), as they will supplement and not simply duplicate the material covered in lectures. The midterm and final exams will draw equally from lectures and readings. With some exceptions, all required readings (and many optional) have been scanned to PDF and made available on the CRP5190 Blackboard site. There are two required texts for the course, from which we will be reading substantial selections toward the end of the semester. These include my own Concrete Dragon: China’s Urban Revolution and What It Means for the World (2008) and Vishaan Chakrabarti’s A Country of Cities: A Manifesto for an Urban America (2013). For those of you who love books and wish to build a library, the books listed
below are classics in the field and well worth acquiring. All are drawn upon in this course:

- Peter Hall, *Cities of Tomorrow* (Basil Blackwell, 1988)
- Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier* (Oxford University Press, 1985)

**Exams and Assignments**

There will be a mid-term examination just before spring break (March 23) and a cumulative final exam during the University exam period in May (date/time to come). Students will also be required to complete two written papers on themes covered in class. Specifics on the assignments will be announced in coming weeks. Grades will be calculated as follows: the mid-term and final exams are each worth 25% of term grade; the papers are each worth 20% of term grade; attendance and participation is worth 10%.

**Instructor and TA Access**

You are encouraged to meet with me and teaching assistant Peter Wissoker (wissoker@lightlink.com) to discuss lectures, readings, assignments or anything else related to urbanism or life. My office hours are Tuesdays 11-4pm, with these exceptions: February 16, April 19, April 26. If this time slot does not fit your schedule, see me after class. My office is 105 W. Sibley Hall; e-mail: tomcamp@cornell.edu; phone: 607-254-8934. Peter's office hours are Tuesdays, 11-1pm in 312 W. Sibley. NEW: If you haven't had enough of me in class, you can check out my blog ([builtbrooklyn.org](http://builtbrooklyn.org)) and/or follow me on Twitter: [@builtbrooklyn](https://twitter.com/builtbrooklyn).

**PAB Learning Objectives**

An MRP core course, CRP5190 covers eight of the Planning Accreditation Board's "primary learning components" as stipulated in the 2103 Self-Study Report Manual and Template. These fall into both the General Planning Knowledge (A1) and Values and Ethics (A3) sections, with most extensive coverage in History of Planning and the Growth and Development of Human Settlements (A1D) and The Future of Cities (A1E). The course also encompasses Global Dimensions of Planning (A1F) and Planning Theory (A1B), especially in terms of physical planning and urban design. It includes substantial material on economic, social and cultural factors affecting urban and regional Growth and Development (A3D), Social Justice and Equity (A3E), Governance and Participation (A3B) and Sustainability (A3C).

**Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity such as plagiarism can result in failure of this course and even expulsion from the University. If you have any questions about attribution, citation, paraphrasing and so-forth, see me or Peter. Please review the University’s Code of Academic Integrity ([linked below](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html)), which requires that any work submitted by a student be his or her own.
SCHEDULE AND READINGS

27 JAN  
Course Introduction

Lewis Mumford, "What is a City?" (1937) reprinted in LeGates and Stout, eds., The City Reader (Routledge, 1996).


Optional

01 FEB  
Sacred Space and Early Urban Form


Optional


03 FEB  
Humanism and the Renaissance City


Optional

08 FEB  
Town Planning in the New World I: Mesoamerica and the Laws of the Indies


Optional
10 FEB

Town Planning in the New World II: New England and the Atlantic Seaboard


Optional


15 FEB

NO CLASS – FEBRUARY BREAK

17 FEB

The Arcadian Myth and Anti-Urbanism in America


Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia (1784): Query XIX.


22 FEB

Power and the Infinite Perspective: St. Petersburg, Washington and Paris


Optional


24 FEB

The Urbanism of Bourgeois Order: London, Vienna and Barcelona


Optional

29 FEB  Machines in the Garden: Manufacturing and the City of Industry


02 MAR  The Progressive Era and the Urban Parks Movement


07 MAR  Utopianism and the Garden City Movement


Optional

09 MAR  World's Fairs and the Imagined Urban Future


Optional

14 MAR  Metropolitan Growth and the Transportation Revolution


Optional

16 MAR **Downtown and the Skyscraper City**


21 MAR **Modernism and the Rational City**


Optional

23 MAR **MID-TERM EXAM**

28 MAR **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

30 MAR **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

04 APR **American Regionalism and the Motoring Revolution**


Optional


11 APR  Suburbanization and the Age of Sprawl


Optional

13 APR  The "Urban Crisis" and the Urban Renewal Era


18 APR  FILM  The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011)

Randall Roberts, "It Was Just Like Beverly Hills," Riverfront Times (June 1-7, 2005).


20 APR  Environmentalism and the Grassroots Planning Revolution


25 APR  
**Fear, Gentrification and the Revanchist City**


27 APR  
**FILM**  
*Flag Wars* (2003)


02 MAY  
**Postmodernity, Globalization and the Generic City**


Optional


04 MAY  
**Smart Cities** (Guest lecturer: Anthony Townsend, Sidewalk Labs/NYU Rudin Center)

09 MAY

**China and the Urbanism of Ambition**


11 MAY

**The Triumph of Urbanism**


**Optional**