CRP 5130: Introduction to Planning Practice and History
Cornell University Department of City and Regional Planning Fall 2017

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:55 – 4:10pm, Sibley Hall 101
Discussion Sections: Disc 201: Wednesday 10:10am – 11:00am, Sibley 318
Disc 202: Thursday 4:30pm – 5:20pm, Sibley 318
Disc 203: Friday 10:10am – 11:00am, Sibley 318
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Office Hours: Thurs 3 – 5pm, or by appt TBD
Sign up on: http://bit.ly/2tqoZUC

Course Objectives

It is the best and worst of times to be an urban planner. Over the past 150 years, planning has helped make possible the concentration of over half of humanity in cities. In 2017, UN-Habitat unveiled a “New Urban Agenda”, exhorting nations around the world to adopt planning principles to improve the sustainability, equity, and economic conditions of cities. Yet, even as planning resolved challenges of over-crowding and unsanitary living condition, at least in U.S. cities, it has created new problems of segregation, sprawl, displacement, and abandonment that have at times worsened the lives of the poor and marginalized. As June Manning Thomas writes (1994), “If we determine that a major purpose for urban planning is to improve the lives of people in cities and urban areas … then the current state of U.S. cities should elicit deep concern.” The diffuse and far-ranging scope of the field of urban planning is both its strength as a profession in bringing together what Eugenie Birch calls “the interplay of ideas, societal trends, and development of authority”, but also a challenge in defining planning, its core theories and concerns, and “recommended” strategies for action. Some in the field, like Professor Tom Campanella (2012) in this department, suggest that American planning has experienced a loss in “disciplinary identity”, “professional agency”, and “speculative courage and vision”. How then are new planning students to make sense of what planning is, their role and potential in shaping the urban environment, and their relationship to others in their cohort and profession?

The aim of this course is to provide a guided survey of historic and contemporary planning practice to help students begin to develop their own conceptual map of the field, and critically engage with planning concepts and debates. First, it aims to help students become conversant in the shared language and knowledge of key moments and actors in the history of planning. The values, policies, strategies, and technologies change, but many of the preoccupations of today are the same as those a hundred years ago. How have planners tried to solve core urban problems before, and with what results? Second, the course articulates a basic framework of planning from which student can continue to “hang” new information about the field. What is a “city”? Why is this the urban age? What is “planning” and who are “planners”? What are some of the epistemological traditions and tensions within planning practice? Third, it provides an opportunity to compare American planning practice with that of other countries, Global North and South. Selected case comparisons force the class to ask, what can we learn from American planning approaches? How much of U.S. planning is context determined? What can be transferred elsewhere, and what can U.S. planners learn from elsewhere? Finally, the course provides examples of how real planners have dealt with planning dilemmas and acted to achieve a better future in the face of conflict and limited resources.
Intended Learning Outcomes

The national accreditation system that reviews professional planning programs requires that each course make clear three kinds of pedagogic objectives: those relating to "general planning knowledge," "planning skills," and "values and ethics."

This course will introduce you to the following kinds of Planning Knowledge:

- Theory of why this is the urban age and the implications for conflicts over development
- Classic and alternative genealogies of U.S. planning history from the mid-1800s to the present
- Primary pathways – regulation, finance, and process – through which planners shape cities' development, and debates over these pathways

Give you a chance to practice the following Planning Skills:

- Collaboration skills by working in different small groups
- Communication skills, including the ability to evaluate different forms of writing, write for the general public, and present in front of an audience
- Critical analysis skills by dissecting plans, planning discourse, and planning projects

And push you to develop your personal Planning Values and Ethics through:

- Exposure to debates about governance, participation, and social justice
- Seeing how practitioners have tackled difficult planning dilemmas
- Learning how the values of planners shape their planning strategies
- Deciding what to do in response to case studies of planning challenges

In addition to the accreditation goals, this course should help you appreciate more keenly, and approach more astutely, issues of interconnectedness, multiple forms of knowledge, legitimacy and precedent, as well as consider the dangers of professional arrogance and gullibility.

Assignments

To help you achieve these learning outcomes, you are required to complete the following.

Participation in Class and Section (20% of grade). You are expected to attend all classes and discussion sections, read the required readings, and participate in class. Over the course of the semester, you are expected to help introduce and explain the readings in one section and serve as lead discussants in three sections. You will be randomly assigned to sessions after the first section. Attendance will be taken in both lecture and section. Two absences will be excused; after that, you will need to explain your absences to the TA to avoid grade deductions.

Attend an Ithaca Planning Board Meeting (5%). At some point during the semester, attend a planning board meeting. These are held at first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in the Common Council Chambers, 3rd Floor of the Ithaca City Hall, 108 E. Green Street. Times are subject to change. Find schedules and agendas at [http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/planning-board](http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/planning-board). Write a one page reflection on how this informed your understanding of the planning’s regulatory, economic, or participatory processes, and what struck or surprised you.

Survey of Contemporary Planning Discourse (Due 9/27, 25% of grade). Identify an area of planning that interests you (spatial analysis, health impacts of land use, food justice, etc.) and explore the online blogs/forums that engage these issues. Identify a pool of 10 and then select one that you find to be the most important sources of information, the most influential, and/or the most interesting and thoughtful. Write a 1000-word essay that discusses: What are the chief concerns of the discussions in the 10 sites you found? Then for the 1 site you selected: What epistemological or ideological stances are implicit among author(s) of this blog? What kinds of information do they mobilize and how? What kinds of writing styles do they adopt? We will then
compile your individual findings into a class “map” of planning blogosphere in class (10/4). Additional guidance will be provided in September.

**Group Presentation of a U.S. or International Case (10/4, 10/25, or 11/13, 20% of grade).** The course has three “Global Dialogue” sessions that situate U.S. planning strategies of regulation, finance, and process in relation to those in other countries. Working in groups of four, you will select an example from the United States or another country and make a 10-minute presentation (a) describing it, (b) its assumptions and context, (c) strengths, and (d) limitations. Each global dialogue session will feature four plan presentations, followed by class discussion. To help strengthen students’ presentation skills, the presentations will be video-recorded. You should watch your group’s presentation, then meet with the instructor along with the rest of your group to review presentation styles and skills, areas of strength, and potential for improvement. A list of potential cases will be provided. Students need to form their groups, select a case, and select a presentation date by 9/13.

**Final Essay: Blog Entry and ‘Real World’ Submission (Draft due 11/20, final due 12/6, 30% of grade).** Identify a plan/program in your area of interest and write a 1500-word blog/essay that dissects and evaluates it and makes a clear argument in light of the themes of the course. You may analyze it along the lines of Raphael’s Fischler’s chapter. Write it as if you were planning to submit it to a blog/forum of your choice, which may or may not be the one you analyzed in your essay. Select a topic by 10/18, and submit a draft by 11/13. You will get feedback on the draft entry through peer reviews in section that week, as well as instructor feedback after Thanksgiving. Additional guidance will be provided after fall break.

**Readings**
All readings will be available on the password protected Blackboard course website, as well as through course reserve. The following book is on course reserve, but I highly recommend that you purchase a copy of it because I have assigned a number of readings from it that, for copyright reasons, cannot be made available digitally.


**Written Work**
The Knight Institute for Writing provides seminars and other assistance with writing, including a walk-in service in the evenings on four locations across campus. See bit.ly/2h6nsgQ

**Academic Accommodation**
If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, please provide us with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services (sds.cornell.edu). You are expected to give two weeks notice of the need for accommodations.

**Academic Misconduct**
Please remember that plagiarism is a serious offence that can result in expulsion from the University. Never 1) turn in an assignment that you did not write yourself, 2) turn in an assignment for this class that you previously turned in for another class. Cornell’s Code of Academic Integrity and Acknowledging the Work of Others is found in the *Policy Notebook for the Cornell Community* at bit.ly/2u2TAj.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<td>W August 23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>M August 28</td>
<td>Conflict Basis of Urbanization: What is a city? Why is this the urban age?</td>
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<td>W August 30</td>
<td>Conflict Basis of Urbanization: Who are urban planners? What is the role of planning in capitalist urbanization?</td>
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<td>M September 4</td>
<td>Labor Day, No Class</td>
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<td>W September 6</td>
<td>History of Planning Interventions: Classical History I: Utopian to Industrialization</td>
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<td>M September 11</td>
<td>History of Planning Interventions: Classical History II: From Modernist to Populist Planning</td>
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<td>W September 13</td>
<td>History of Planning Interventions: Counter History I: Feminist and Multicultural Critiques (select group cases)</td>
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<td>History of Planning Interventions: Counter History II: Postcolonial Critique from the Global South</td>
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<td>W September 20</td>
<td>History of Planning Interventions: Planning Ethics, Equity and Justice (blog mapping essay due)</td>
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<td>M September 25</td>
<td>History of Planning Interventions: Mapping Contemporary Planning Discourse</td>
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<td>W September 27</td>
<td>Module 1: Planning through Regulation: Regulating Spatial Development: Code to the City</td>
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<td>M October 2</td>
<td>Module 1: Planning through Regulation: How effectively do changes to zoning regulations address new urban challenges? Faculty Dialogue with George Frantz and David West (invited)</td>
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<td>Module 1: Planning through Regulation: International Approaches to Land Use Policy (student presentations)</td>
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<td>M October 9</td>
<td>Module 1: Planning through Regulation: Fall Break, No Class</td>
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<td>W October 11</td>
<td>Module 1: Planning through Regulation: Planner in Profile: Jason Haremza, Senior Planner, City of Rochester</td>
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<td>M October 16</td>
<td>Module 1: Planning through Regulation: Class Exercise: The Future of Portland Oregon’s Growth Boundary</td>
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<td>W October 18</td>
<td>Module 2: Planning through Finance: Financing Spatial Development: Fiscalization of Land Use (blog topics due)</td>
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<td>M October 23</td>
<td>Module 2: Planning through Finance: Planner in Profile: Scott Whitham, Whitham Planning and Design (invited)</td>
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<td>W October 25</td>
<td>Module 2: Planning through Finance: How do municipalities get markets to deliver public goods and services? Faculty Dialogue with Mildred Warner and Suzanne Charles</td>
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<td>M October 30</td>
<td>Module 2: Planning through Finance: International Approaches to Financing Local Services (student presentations)</td>
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<td>W November 1</td>
<td>Module 2: Planning through Finance: Class Exercise: The Future of Affordable Housing at Chicago’s Cabrini Green</td>
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<td>M November 6</td>
<td>Module 3: Planning through Process: Planning Spatial Development: Modes of Public Engagement</td>
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<td>Module 3: Planning through Process: How do designers view the participatory planning process? Faculty Dialogue with Tom Campanella and Neema Kudva (draft blog due)</td>
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<td>W November 15</td>
<td>Module 3: Planning through Process: International Approaches to Planning Processes (student presentations)</td>
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<td>M November 20</td>
<td>Module 3: Planning through Process: Planner in Profile: Kirby Edmonds, TFC Associates</td>
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<td>W November 22</td>
<td>Module 3: Planning through Process: Thanksgiving, No Class</td>
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<td>M November 27</td>
<td>Review and Synthesis: Planning the Future Metropolis</td>
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<td>W November 29</td>
<td>Review and Synthesis: Revisiting the Role of Planners and Planning</td>
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<td>W December 6</td>
<td>Review and Synthesis: Final blog due</td>
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READING LIST
Subject to modification. Blackboard will be the most up to date

Wednesday 8/23 – Introduction


THEORIES OF URBANIZATION

Monday 8/28 – What is a city? Why is this the urban age?


Wednesday 8/30 – Who are urban planners? What is the role of planning in capitalist urbanization?


Recommended


Monday 9/4 – Labor Day, no class
Wednesday 9/6 – Classical History I: Utopian Responses to Industrialization


Recommended: 15 min video about the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago: bit.ly/2h5E3S6

Additional resources of interest


“Make Big Plans” – an online exhibit for the centennial of the Chicago Plan (Newberry Library) http://burnhamplan100.lib.uchicago.edu/newberryexhibit/index.shtml


Monday 9/11 – Classical History II: From Modernist to Populist Planning


Additional resources of interest


Wednesday 9/13 – Counter History I: Feminist and Multicultural Critiques


Dolores Hayden. (2005). “What would a non-sexist city be like? Speculations on housing, urban design


Additional resources of interest


Monday 9/18 – Counter History II: Postcolonial Critiques from the Global South


Additional resources of interest


Wednesday 9/20 – Planning Ethics, Equity and Justice


Additional resources of interest

Skim:


Monday 9/25 – Mapping Contemporary Planning Discourse, no reading

MODULE 1 – PLANNING THROUGH REGULATION

Wednesday 9/27 – Regulating Spatial Development: Code to the City


Recommended


Monday 10/2 – How effectively do changes to zoning regulations address new urban challenges? Faculty Dialogue with David West (invited) and George Frantz


Wednesday 10/4 – Global Models of Land Use Policy (student presentations, no readings)

Monday 10/9 – Fall Break / Indigenous People’s Day, no class

Wednesday 10/11 – Planners in Profile: Jason Haremza, City of Rochester

“Community-Based Planning and Revitalization in Lincoln City, Oregon: A Profile of Al Zelinka.” Sarah Pressprich, CRP 5130, Fall 2007 (revised 2011).

Additional readings TBD

Monday 10/16 – In Class Exercise: Case: Portland Growth Management


■ MODULE 2 – PLANNING THROUGH FINANCE

Wednesday 10/18 – Financing Local Development: Fiscalization of Land Use


Additional resources of interest


Anthony Flint. 2016. Financing the Future, TED Talk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvjQbhhPY_E


Monday 10/23 – Planner in Profile: Scott Whitham, Whitham Planning and Design
Readings TBD

Wednesday 10/25 – How do cities get markets to produce public goods and services? Faculty dialogue with Mildred Warner and Suzanne Charles


Additional readings TBD

Monday 10/30 – International Approaches to Financing Local Public Services and Impacts on Planning (student presentations, no readings)

Wednesday November 1 – In Class Exercise: The Future of Affordable Housing at Chicago’s Cabrini Green

Lawrence Vale (2013). “Staving Off Collapse: Mediated Violence and the Beginning of Cabrini’s End” and “Bringing the Gold Coast to the Slum: Cabrini-Green’s Redevelopment and the Litigation of


(Video): “Telling Our Story: Resident Perspectives on the Plan for Transformation”


■ MODULE 3 – PLANNING THROUGH PROCESS

Monday 11/6 – Planning Spatial Development: Modes of Public Engagement
Judith Innes and David Booher, pp. 1-10 and 118-140 in “Chapter 1: Thinking Differently for an Age of Complexity” and “Chapter 5: Dialogue as a Community of Inquiry,” in Planning with Complexity: An Introduction to Collaborative Rationality for Public Policy (New York: Routledge, 2010).

Additional resources of interest

Wednesday 11/8 – In-Class Exercise: A Multi-Party Decision Making Exercise with John Forester

**Monday 11/13 – How do designers view the participatory planning process? Faculty Dialogue with Tom Campanella and Neema Kudva**

Readings TBD

**Wednesday 11/15 – International Approaches to Planning Processes (student presentations)**


**Monday 11/20 – Planners in Profile: Kirby Edwards, Chair, Ithaca Comprehensive Plan Process**

*Recommended reading*


*Optional profiles:*


“After 30 Years of Fighting, Aesthetics Provides a Solution to “One Bridge or Two, and How?” A Profile of Mike Hughes,” by J. Forester. 2014. CRP, Cornell.

**Wednesday 11/22 – Thanksgiving, No Class**

■ REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS

**Monday 11/27 – Planning the Future Metropolis**


Anthony Flint, Housing the Coming Billions in Cities, TED Talk Feb. 15, 2013 (Le Corbusier’s plans as a blueprint for the future). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67Gn6HuQ0cc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67Gn6HuQ0cc)


Additional resources of interest


Wednesday 11/29 – Revisiting the Role of Planners and Planning


