

Urban Planning and Policy Development Program, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University

History and Theory of Planning, 34:970:501:01, 3 credits
Monday, 6:10-8:40, Room 253, Civic Square Building, College Avenue Campus

Instructor is Frank J. Popper, Civic Square Building, Room 356, College Avenue Campus, 848-932-2790, fpopper@rci.rutgers.edu or fpopper@princeton.edu. My website is policy.rutgers.edu/faculty/popper.html, where you can find more copies of this syllabus.

Office hours: Monday morning, before or after class, or by appointment. I am usually at Princeton on Wednesday.

Readings: Peter Hall, Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design Since 1880 (preferably fourth edition, 2014); Jane Jacobs, The Economy of Cities (1969); and Anthony Townsend, Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers, and the Quest for a New Utopia (2014), all in paperback at the Barnes & Noble/Rutgers University Bookstore. I will also distribute PDF draft chapters of a book that my wife and I are editing for Transaction Publishers, tentatively titled American Land-Use Planning: A History in Documents. You have my permission to quote from the chapters for this class and other academic work. But as noted in the PDFs, you need my permission to quote from them for other purposes. There may be additional short readings as needed.

This course, intended for MCRP students at any stage of their studies, explores the history and theory of city and regional planning over about the last 150 years. The course's goal is to give you a working knowledge of the field's origins, underpinnings, and possible futures. The course focuses primarily on the United States, but not exclusively. The sessions will mostly consist of presentations by me and then class discussions.

In the reading Hall gives a broad-brush planning history of the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, and elsewhere. My wife and I focus almost entirely on the American case. Jacobs' book, which is not her best-known, offers an original and influential approach to economic development compatible with most planning practice. Townsend analyzes the rise and implications of Big Data in planning. Thus the readings and the course move variously through historical, practical, theoretical, and predictive phases.

The course will have three take-home papers, which will draw on the assigned reading and other sources. But you only need to do two, which you choose, and you don't have to explain your pick to me. You will also do a research paper on any topic that you propose and I approve. 20 percent of your grade comes from each of the two take-home papers and 50 percent from the research paper. The papers must use sources beyond the assigned readings and my class presentations. 10 percent of the grade comes from class participation and general conscientiousness.

For your papers you'll find no shortage of material from which to choose topics and approaches. Hall, for instance, has a 78-page bibliography. I want you to use your imagination to develop adventuresome analytic--not merely descriptive--subjects and treatments. The research paper should be 12-15 pages, not counting notes, references, and graphics. The take-home papers will be about half this length.

To help class communication and cohesion, especially apart from Monday evenings, I've formed a closed Facebook group, "Planning History and Theory, Popper, Spring 2016," which you should join. Please go to the site and ask me to let you in. If you have a good reason not to join, perhaps because you're uncomfortable with Facebook, please let me know, and we'll make other arrangements. But if not, please post to the group and/or react to others' posts at least once a month.

Wikipedia, other encyclopedias, and dictionaries, on-line or off-, are good places to begin research and terrible places to end it. Use them only as jump-off points. Please do not cite them. If you do, I have to assume your work went no deeper or farther and grade it accordingly

I expect all written work to meet graduate-school standards of writing, and I will lower its grade if it does not. If your first language is not English, I may not hold you to this standard.

You should attend all classes and do the reading for them carefully. If you must miss a class, please get in touch with me.

I expect your written work to be original products done for this course only. I, the Bloustein School, and Rutgers take plagiarism and other academic dishonesty seriously. For proof, see the pages on them on the Bloustein and Rutgers sites. See also plagiarism.org. The penalties for academic misconduct range from a failing grade on a paper to expulsion from Rutgers. I've seen students, knowingly or unknowingly, take these risks and get caught. You don't want to be like them, ever.

If you have a question about the standards, please get in touch with me. Rules of thumb: if you think may be doing something academically dishonest, you probably are because your conscience and/or sense of safety is telling you so. To avoid plagiarism, do good, original work.

The American Planning Association's New Jersey chapter holds its annual meeting at the New Brunswick Hyatt, a few blocks from the Bloustein School, on Thursday and primarily Friday, January 28 and 29.

Schedule

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| January 25 | Introduction. |
| February 1 | Beginnings: the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: Hall, Chapters 1-4, and Poppers, Chapters 1-3. |

- February 8 Early strength: the interwar period: Hall, Chapters 5-6, and Poppers, Chapter 4.
- February 15 Consolidation: the early postwar period: Hall, Chapters 7-9, and Poppers, Chapters 5-6.
- February 22 The contemporary period: Hall, Chapters, 10-13, and Poppers, Chapters 7-8. First take-home paper handed out.
- February 29 Take-home paper due at class, which will discuss the approaches you took to it.
- March 7 The advent of planning smartness: Townsend, Preface and Chapters 1-5.
- March 14 No class: spring vacation.
- March 21 Planning smart reconsidered: Townsend, Chapters 6-10 and Epilogue. Second take-home paper handed out.
- March 28 Take-home paper due at class, which will discuss the approaches you took to it.
- April 4 Economic development theory: Jacobs, pp. 3-121.
- April 11 Economic development practice: Jacobs, pp. 122-262. Third take-home paper handed out.
- April 18 Proposal due at class, which will discuss the approaches you took to it.
- April 25 Take-home paper due at class, which will discuss the approaches you took to it.
- May 2 To be decided.
- May 4 Research paper due.

A note on sources

Planning history and theory have a good deal of bibliography that you could use as starting points for your work on the exams and research paper, as well as in other courses. Alternative readings for this course might have been—in a few cases actually have been--Eugenie Birch (ed.), The Urban and Regional Planning Reader (2008), Michael Brooks, Planning Theory for Practitioners (2002), Michael Conzen, The Making of the American Landscape (2008, second edition), Alan Ehrenhalt, The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City (2012), Susan Fainstein and Scott Campbell (eds.), Readings in Urban Theory (third edition, 2011), Robert Fishman (ed.), The American Planning Tradition: Culture and Policy (2000), Alexander Garvin, The American City: What Works, What Doesn't (2002), and The Planning Game: Lessons from

Great Cities (2013), Thomas Harper and Stanley Stein, Dialogical Planning in a Fragmented Society: Critically Liberal, Pragmatic, Incremental (2006), Donald Krueckeberg (ed.), Introduction to Planning History in the United States (1983), Richard LeGates and Frederick Stout (eds.), The City Reader (fifth edition, 2011), John Levy, Contemporary Urban Planning (tenth edition, 2012), Seymour Mandelbaum, Luigi Mazza, and Robert Burchell (eds.), Explorations in Planning Theory (1996), Robert Mason, Collaborative Land Use Management: The Quieter Revolution in Place-Based Planning (2008), Jon Peterson, The Birth of City Planning in the United States, 1840-1917 (2004), John Reps, The Making of Urban America (1965), Jon Teaford, The Metropolitan Revolution: The Rise of Post-Urban America (2006), and Mel Scott, American City Planning Since 1890 (second edition, 1971). An impressive number of these writers have taught at Rutgers or had the Center for Urban Policy Research publish these books.

Nearly every major American city has had a planning/environmental history written about it. This literature shows particular emphases on New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta. (Note the regional balance.) Detroit, with its long-term shrinking population, empty spaces, diminishing services, racial tensions, innovative January 2013 plan, decisive July 2013 bankruptcy, and possible ongoing revival, has drawn a good deal of attention. See, for instance, John Gallagher Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City (2011); George Galster, Driving Detroit: The Quest for Respect in the Motor City (2012), and more generally, Brent Ryan, Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities (2012). There are planning histories of the contemporary suburb—for instance, Robert Fishman, Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia (1987), Ann Forsyth, Reforming Suburbia: The Planned Communities of Irvine, Columbia and The Woodlands (2005), Dolores Hayden, Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000 (2003), Suzanne Keller, Community: Pursuing the Dream, Living the Reality (2003), Kevin Kruse and Thomas Sugrue (eds.), The New Suburban History (2006), and Adam Rome, The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism (2001).

Planning histories of particular suburbs are more likely to appear in the specialized periodicals discussed below or in documents the suburbs' governments produce. Planning histories of rural areas abound, but are rarely described as planning histories—for example, many of the books in the excellent Indiana University Press series on Midwestern History and Culture. Planning histories of particularly significant sites abound—for example, Alexander Garvin, Public Parks: The Key to Livable Communities (2010), Timothy Guilfoyle, Millennium Park: Creating a Chicago Landmark (2006), Joshua David and Robert Hammond, High Line: The Inside Story of New York City's Park in the Sky (2011), Gary Krist, City of Scoundrels: The Twelve Days of Disaster That Gave Birth to Modern Chicago (2012), Sam Roberts, Grand Central: How a Train Station Transformed America (2013), Constance Rosenblum, Boulevard of Dreams: Heady Times, Heartbreak, and Hope along the Grand Concourse (2009), Zachary Schrag, The Great Society Subway: A History of the Washington Metro (2006), Ted Steinberg, Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York (2015), and Catherine Tumber, Small, Gritty, Green: The Promise of America's Smaller Industrial Cities in a Low-Carbon World (2011). A fine planning-history site is library.cornell.edu/Reps/DOCS/homepage.htm. Do not overlook the publications and websites of state, city, and county governments and historical societies.

There are large historical, theoretical, and practical literatures on specific planning issues

such as environmental problems, zoning, regional matters, public health concerns, globalization, gender experiences, African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American and other ethnic and racial issues, and urban, suburban, or rural development. In particular, suburban sprawl has long attracted mindshare in Robert Bruegmann, [Sprawl: A Compact History](#) (2005), Anthony Flint, [This Land: The Battle Over Sprawl and the Future of America](#) (2006), Dolores Hayden, [A Field Guide to Sprawl](#) (2004) and Robert Lang, [Edgeless Cities: Exploring the Elusive Metropolis](#) (2003).

Worthwhile biographical studies include Alice Sparberg Alexiou, [Jane Jacobs: Urban Visionary](#) (2006), Hilary Ballon and Kenneth Jackson (eds.), [Robert Moses and the Modern City, The Transformation of New York](#) (2008), Anthony Flint, [Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City](#) (2009), Roberta Brandes Gratz, [The Battle for Gotham: New York in the Shadow of Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs](#) (2010), Donald Krueckeberg (ed.), [The American Planner: Biographies and Recollections](#) (second edition, 1994), Mark Luccarelli, [Lewis Mumford and the Ecological Region: The Politics of Planning](#) (1995), Anne Matthews, [Where the Buffalo Roam: The Storm over the Revolutionary Plan to Restore America's Great Plains](#) (second edition, 2002), and Witold Rybczynski, [A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century](#) (1999). Disclosure: I and my wife are the subjects of the Matthews book, whose first edition was one of four finalists for the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction.

More far-ranging and often international sources are Shlomo Angel, [Planet of Cities](#) (2012), Daniel Brook, [A History of Future Cities](#) (2013), Paul Goodman and Percival Goodman, [Communitas: Means of Livelihood and Ways of Life](#) (third edition, 1990), Jane Jacobs, [The Death and Life of Great American Cities](#) (1961), James Scott, [Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed](#) (second edition, 1999), and his [The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia](#) (2010).

Any number of specialized periodicals can be useful. Among those with “planning” in their titles are [International Planning Studies](#), [Journal of the American Planning Association](#), [Journal of Planning Education and Research](#) (which Clint Andrews and I co-edit), [Journal of Planning History](#), [Journal of Planning Literature](#), [Planning](#), [Planning Perspectives](#), [Planning Theory](#), [Planning Theory and Practice](#), and [Progress in Planning](#). Then there are, among many others, [American Historical Review](#), [Annals of the Association of American Geographers](#), [Environmental Justice](#), [Environmental History](#), [Housing Policy Debate](#), [Journal of American History](#), [Journal of Geography](#), [Journal of Urban Affairs](#), [Journal of Urbanism](#), [Opolis: An International Journal of Suburban and Metropolitan Studies](#), [Urban Affairs Review](#), and [Urban Geography](#), plus place-specific periodicals (such as [High Country News](#) and [Western Historical Quarterly](#) for the American West) or disciplinary ones (such as those on air pollution, hazardous waste, housing, or environmental economics).

Often the best source to find out fast about an American place is, not so oddly, the biennial [Almanac of American Politics](#), put out by the [National Journal](#). City and regional encyclopedias can be good places to start research, and in the last few years fine ones have appeared on, among other places, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York City, New Jersey, the Great Plains, the Midwest, the Northeast, the South, and the West. Rachel Weber and Randall Crane (eds.), [The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning](#) (2012) is excellent. Jordan Yin, [Urban Planning for Dummies](#) (2012)

is good too, but probably unassignable in graduate school.

A few miscellaneous items I've enjoyed recently are Michelle Alexander, [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) (2010), Elijah Anderson, [The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life](#) (2013), Buzz Bissinger, [A Prayer for the City](#) (1997), Kenny Cupers, [The Social Project: Housing Postwar France](#) (2014), Mike Davis, [Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the US City](#) (2000), Alexander Garvin, [The Planning Game: Lessons from Great Cities](#) (2012), Peter Hall, [Good Cities, Better Lives: How Europe Discovered the Lost Art of Urbanism](#) (2013), Arthur Nelson and Robert Lang, [Megapolitan America: A New Vision for Understanding America's Metropolitan Geography](#) (2012), Doug Sanders, [Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World](#) (2011), Emily Talen, [City Rules: How Regulations Affect Urban Form](#) (2013), J. D. Waldie, [Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir](#) (2004), and Sam Bass Warner and Andrew Whittemore, [American Urban Form: A Representative History](#) (2012).

The nation's best journalist on urban planning is probably Neal Peirce, whose columns and other writings are at [citiscopes.org](#), an excellent site in itself. The [Atlantic Monthly](#) and the [Guardian](#) have good free-standing urban sections on their sites. The American Planning Association (APA), the nation's leading professional association in the field, offers a free membership to all first-year MCRP students. It publishes [Planning](#), a monthly magazine, and the [Journal of the American Planning Association](#), an academic quarterly, plus a variety of specialized publications shown on its website, [planning.org](#). More disclosure: the instructor served two terms on its board. Useful sources are [PlaNetizen.com](#) and [planninghistory.org](#), the latter run by the International Planning History Society.