

## URBAN POLICY

Political Science 228  
Haverford College

Spring 2006

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(and by appointment)

### Course Description

Several decades of deindustrialization and suburbanization during the mid- to late-twentieth century have left many of America's urban areas in dire straits. The loss of jobs and residents has depleted the tax base and forced local officials to cut back on public services, thus causing a further decline in the quality of life. Social and economic problems have proliferated.

Yet the news is not entirely bleak for the nation's urban centers. Some cities, both large and small, have responded to debilitating societal trends by enacting and implementing public policies that have made their cities more attractive places to live, work, and play. At the same time, other cities have continued to struggle. This course attempts to learn from the recent experiences of various cities in order to identify effective strategies for urban revitalization. We will examine policy initiatives in the key areas of economic development, housing and community development, welfare, education, crime, transportation, environmental protection, and growth management to assess what works and what does not work. The course concludes by speculating on the future prospects of American cities.

### Course Requirements

Field Trip to Philadelphia	no grade
Class Participation	20%
2 Short Papers (5 pages)	40%
1 Long Paper (10-12 pages)	40%

Note: Papers submitted after the assigned due date will be penalized by one third of a grade (e.g. B+ to B) each day they are late.

### Readings

Robert A. Beauregard, *Voices of Decline: The Postwar Fate of U.S. Cities*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Routledge, 2003).

Edward G. Goetz, *Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor in Urban America* (Urban Institute, 2003).

Jennifer L. Hochschild and Nathan Scovronick, *The American Dream and the Public Schools* (Oxford University Press, 2003).

Gregory D. Squires, ed., *Urban Sprawl: Causes, Consequences and Policy Responses* (Urban Institute Press, 2002).

All other assigned readings will be available on Blackboard.

## Newspapers and Journals

Students are expected to read at least one daily newspaper such as *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or *The Wall Street Journal* on a regular basis and be able to draw upon material in these newspapers in class discussions. Moreover, you should acquaint yourself with some of the major scholarly journals that focus on urban policy: *Urban Affairs Review*, *the Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Housing Policy Debate*, and the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Other useful magazines are targeted to urban practitioners and policy makers such as *Governing* and *Planning*.

## Web Sites

Interesting web sites related to urban policy include the following:

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (<http://www.hud.gov>) and (<http://www.huduser.org>)
- Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy (<http://www.brook.edu/dybdocroot/es/urban/urban.htm>)
- Community Organizing and Development (<http://comm-org.utoledo.edu>)
- Center for Neighborhood Technology (<http://www.cnt.org>)
- National Housing Institute (<http://www.nhi.org>)
- Planners Network (<http://www.plannersnetwork.org>)
- Civic Practices Network (<http://www.cpn.org>)
- Citistates (<http://citistates.com>)
- Moving Ideas Network (<http://www.movingideas.org>)

## Topics and Readings

Weeks 1-2

- I. Introduction to Course
- II. The Urban Context
  - A. Historical Overview
    - Robert A. Beauregard, *Voices of Decline*, Chs. 1-5
  - B. Constraints on Policy Making
    - Robert A. Beauregard, *Voices of Decline*, Chs. 6-10
    - Paul E. Peterson, "The Interests of the Limited City," excerpt from *City Limits*
    - Clarence N. Stone, "Urban Regimes: A Research Perspective" excerpt from *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988*
    - Morton and Lucia White, "The American Intellectual versus the American City" in *American Urban History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., ed. Alexander B. Callow

Weeks 3-4

III. Economic Development

A. Downtown Business Districts

Larry R. Ford, "The Evolution of the American Downtown, 1850-2000," in *America's New Downtowns: Revitalization or Reinvention?*

Richard C. Hula, "The Two Baltimores" in *Leadership and Urban Regeneration*, eds. Dennis R. Judd and Michael Parkinson

Natalie Cohen, "Business Location Decision-Making and the Cities: Bringing Companies Back," Brookings Institution, April 2000

Carl Abbott, "Centers and Edges: Reshaping Downtown Portland" in *The Portland Edge: Challenges and Successes in Growing Communities*, ed. Connie P. Ozawa

Dennis R. Judd, "Constructing the Tourist Bubble" in *The Tourist City*, eds. Dennis R. Judd and Susan S. Fainstein

Richard Florida, "The Power of Place" in *The Rise of the Creative Class*

B. Neighborhoods

William Julius Wilson, "Societal Changes and Vulnerable Neighborhoods," in *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*

Joel Rast, "Rethinking Industrial Decline: The Chicago Printing and Apparel Industries," *Remaking Chicago: The Political Origins of Urban Industrial Change*

Michael Porter, "New Strategies for Inner-City Economic Development," *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 1997

Bennett Harrison and Amy K. Glasmeier, "Why Business Alone Won't Redevelop the Inner City: A Friendly Critique of Michael Porter's Approach to Urban Revitalization," *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 1997

Carolyn Adams, "The Meds and Eds in Urban Economic Development," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, December 2003

Clarence Stone and Donn Worgs, "Poverty and the Workforce Challenge," in *Workforce Development Politics: Civic Capacity and Performance*, ed. Robert P. Giloth

**FIELD TRIP TO CENTER CITY PHILADELPHIA (Saturday, February 11)**

Weeks 5-7

IV. Housing and Community Development

A. Deconcentrating the Poor

Alice O'Connor, "Swimming against the Tide: A Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities" in *Urban Problems and Community Development*, eds. Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens

Edward Goetz, *Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor in Urban America*, Chs. 1-6

B. Rebuilding the Inner City

- Edward Goetz, *Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor in Urban America*, Chs. 7-9
- Sara E. Stoutland, "Community Development Corporations: Mission, Strategy, and Accomplishments" in *Urban Problems and Community Development*, eds. Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens
- Dan Immergluck, "Building Power, Losing Power: The Rise and Fall of a Prominent Community Economic Development Coalition," *Economic Development Quarterly*, August 2005
- Alex Schwartz, "New York City and Subsidized Housing: Impacts and Lessons of the City's \$5 Billion Capital Budget Housing Plan," *Housing Policy Debate*, vol. 10, no. 4 (1999)
- Film in class: "Northeast Passage: The Inner City and the American Dream"

**FIELD TRIP TO WEST PHILADELPHIA (OPTIONAL)**

C. Bringing the Middle-Class Back In

- David P. Varady and Jeffrey A. Raffel, "The Importance of Attracting Middle-Class Homeowners of Cities" in *Selling Cities: Attracting Homebuyers Through Schools and Housing Programs*
- Mitchell L. Moss, "Reinventing the Central City as a Place to Live and Work," *Housing Policy Debate*, vol. 8, no. 2 (1997)
- John J. Betancur, "The Politics of Gentrification: The Case of West Town in Chicago," *Urban Affairs Review*, vol. 37, no. 6 (2002)
- Judith Rodin, "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban University: New Roles for Practice and Research," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Summer 2005
- Rob Gurwitt, "Betting on the Bulldozer," *Governing*, July 2002

**FIRST PAPER DUE**

Week 8

**SPRING BREAK**

Week 9

V. Poverty and Welfare

- Douglas S. Massey, "The New Geography of Inequality in Urban America" in *Race, Poverty, and Domestic Policy*, ed. C. Michael Henry
- Jeffrey Lehman and Sheldon Danziger, "Turning Our Backs on the New Deal: The End of Welfare in 1996" in *Race, Poverty, and Domestic Policy*, ed. C. Michael Henry
- Douglas J. Besharov and Peter Germanis, "Welfare Reform and the Caseload Decline" in *Family and Child Well-Being after Welfare Reform*, ed. Douglas J. Besharov
- Rebecca M. Blank, "Fighting Poverty: Lessons from Recent U.S. History" in *Race, Poverty, and Domestic Policy*, ed. C. Michael Henry
- Sharon Hays, "Enforcing the Work Ethic" in *Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform*

Weeks 10-11

VI. Education

A. Equity

Jennifer L. Hochschild and Nathan Scovronick, *The American Dream and the Public Schools*, Chs. 1-3

B. Excellence and Choice

Jennifer L. Hochschild and Nathan Scovronick, *The American Dream and the Public Schools*, Chs. 4-6

Week 12

VII. Law Enforcement

Henry Ruth and Kevin R. Reitz, "Crime and Punishment: A Brief American History" in *The Challenge of Crime: Rethinking Our Response*

John Eck and Edward Maguire, "Have Changes in Policing Reduced Violent Crime? An Assessment of the Evidence" in *The Crime Drop in America*, eds. Alfred Blumstein and Joel Wallman

Jeffrey Fagan, "Crime, Law, and the Community: Dynamics of Incarceration in New York City" in *The Future of Imprisonment*, ed. Michael Tonry

Wesley G. Skogan and Tracey L. Meares, "Lawful Policing" in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, vol. 593, May 2004

**SECOND PAPER DUE**

Week 13

VIII. Transportation and the Environment

James Q. Wilson, "Cars and Their Enemies," *Commentary*, July 1997

Michael Bernick and Robert Cervero, "Transit Villages and the Contemporary Metropolis," in *Transit Villages in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Joan Fitzgerald and Nancy Green Leigh, "The Brownfield Redevelopment Challenge" in *Economic Revitalization: Cases and Strategies for Cities and Suburbs*

David J. Cieslewicz, "The Environmental Impacts of Sprawl" (Ch. 2, S)

Film in class: "Road to the Future"

Week 14

IX. Growth Management

Gregory D. Squires, "Urban Sprawl and the Uneven Development of Metropolitan America" (Ch. 1, S)

Paul A. Jargowsky, "Sprawl, Concentration of Poverty, and Urban Inequality" (Ch. 3, S)

H.V. Savitch, "Encourage, Then Hope: Washington and the Sprawl Machine" (Ch. 6, S)

Charles Jaret, "Suburban Expansion in Atlanta: 'The City without Limits' Faces Some" (Ch. 7, S)

Carl Abbott, "Planning a Sustainable City: The Promise and Performance of Portland's Urban Growth Boundary" (Ch. 8, S)

James R. Cohen, "Maryland's 'Smart Growth': Using Incentives to Combat Sprawl," (Ch. 11, S)

Week 15

X. The Future of Cities

Joel Kotkin, "Digital Geography" in *The New Geography: How the Digital Revolution Is Reshaping the American Landscape*

Robert Fishman, "The American Metropolis at Century's End: Past and Future Influences," *Housing Policy Debate*, vol. 11, no. 1 (2000)

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, "Metropolicies for the Twenty-First Century," in *Place Matters: Metropolitica for the Twenty-First Century*

**THIRD PAPER DUE AT END OF EXAM PERIOD**