

URBAN POLITICAL ECONOMY: Fall 2004

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Urban political economy refers to the way that people occupy and use space. This is a broad topic and we will approach it in several ways. First we will consider how space has been used historically, especially for the location of economic activity and housing in the United States. This will give us a feel for the rhythms and patterns of urban development that constitute a built legacy (or have been destroyed by subsequent development). Second we will examine different theoretical perspectives that make sense of or explain the patterns of urban development and change. There are many such perspectives and we cannot do them all justice in this course. We will draw upon the traditional neoclassical economic perspective that looks at spatial development as the result of individual preferences made under constraints and the way that prices change to reflect tastes and other conditions. We will also rely heavily on broader approaches that might loosely be called “political economy” approaches that are less formal than the modeling typical of neoclassical economics. In addition, we will be asking about the implications of the way space is organized on social life in this course (another broad subject)! This latter consideration will take us in the direction of social theory that asks about meaning, community, and relations of power and politics. This course will entail, therefore, moving among perspectives to get a feel for the interdisciplinary nature of urban studies.

Beyond these general orientations to this course, we will also turn our attention to the current issue of regionalism. Regionalism has been emerging as a central concept in recent research and policy work on urban issues. It entails looking at urban areas as entire regions and thinking about how to plan, design, and confront political and economic problems, on the level of the region. Central to regionalism is how all the parts of a region fit together and this turns our attention to issues of justice in the city – especially segregation by race and class and the tensions associated with gentrification or revitalization of older downtown and urban districts. Our book, *Place Matters* will develop these ideas in particular.

Overall, we will try to blend theory and history, with an eye to what makes for a “good” city – a place that is just, diverse, fair, and exciting to be in.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

J. R. Short, *The Urban Order*, Blackwell, 1997.

D. Hayden, *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000*, Vintage, 2004.

P. Dreier, J. Mollenkopf, T. Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, University Press of Kansas, 2001

The urbanization of modern America : a brief history / Zane L. Miller, Patricia M. Melvin. San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, c1987

“Home from Nowhere”, website on p. 72 of S. Parker.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/96sep/kunstler/kunstler.htm>

We will also read some selections from the following texts:

The Geography of Nowhere, J. Kunstler,
Urban Economics, A. O’Sullivan, McGraw-Hill, 2003.
The City Reader, ed. LeGates and Stout, Routledge, 2nd edition, 2000.

Focus on representative Cities, Los Angeles, London.

Theory of Urban Development and Life.
Neo-classical and the political economy tradition.

Themes:

Redevelopment: Conditions, politics, ethics.

URBAN THEORY:

Selections from Chapter 1 from M. Bouds’ *Urban Social Theory*. Oxford Press, 2003.

Leonie Sandercock on Modernism and Visions for the future.

Mills and Lubeule from JEL on “Inner Cities”, pp. 221 – 245, in Wassmer, ed. *Readings in Urban Economics*. good neoclassical overview.

Krugman, “Space: The Final Frontier”, JEPerspectives, Spring 1998.

London: Hamnett, either chapter or essay. Butler, same. JR Scott profiles n’hood change in London: Section: Along with Fishman?

J. Jacobs, selections from the *The Economy of Cities* on London.

Section on Suburbanization

Section on “inner city” problems

Movements/Policies: redevelopment issues, transfers etc.

Hall on Planning?, Where?

Growth Coalitions and “Visions”:

H. Molotch,

C. Rutheiser, “Making Place in the Nonplace Urban Realm: Notes on the Revitalization of Downtown Atlanta”, in *Theorizing the City*, S. Low, 1999, Rutgers Univ. Press, pp. 317 – 341.

JH Kunstler, *The City in Mind*, chapters on Paris, Atlanta etc.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

This will be a reading and discussion based course in which I will periodically lecture on small and sometimes larger issues. Therefore, you must come to class prepared to discuss the reading assigned that day. Reading requires some strategy. When you encounter difficult reading, and some of this is, I encourage you to try and clarify your questions, identify as clearly as possible what is confusing, as well as to extract key ideas and areas of agreement and disagreement. This will make for lively and more productive time in class.

In addition, you will be asked to do a research project about a specific city (more on that at the end of the syllabus), write two papers and take one exam.

Grading Scheme (if you do not take or write a final)

Research Project on a City:	24%
Two Papers:	24% each
One Exam:	24%
Participation:	4%

Optional Final: You may either propose a paper topic (or expand your city research project) or take a comprehensive final exam. If you choose one of these options, the final will count as 30% of your grade and the other assignments will add up to the other 70% of your grade. Participation will still count as 5% of your grade and the other 65% will be spread among the papers and exam. Three of those will count as 18% of your grade and one will count as 11%. Put another way, you may choose which of the four semester long assignments you wish to have the least weight in your overall grade.

SYLLABUS of Readings and Assignments

I. Introductory Themes and Approaches –August 30.

The Economy and the City: [Themes: Economic Typology of Cities – Merchant, Industrial, Postmod etc. and Econ. coe's of Cities in Sullivan]
TUO: Chapter 1, "Introduction" and Chapter 2, "Cities and Economic Development".
** A. Sullivan, *Urban Economics*, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1-36.

Discussion Questions: what are the assumptions about the nature of cities and urbanization of each author? What are the necessary conditions for urbanization and for urban change? [actors, structures, processes, institutions]

Photos of Amsterdam, Liverpool, London.

TUO: Chapter 4, "The City and the Global Economy" [economic functions of cities in global economy: production, information, merchanting, finance etc. – more typology, background, context.]
C. Hamnett, *Unequal City*. on London here...

Location and Cities

TUO: Chapter 3, "The Urbanization of the Economy" [economy in space, links to Central Place Theory]

Neo-classical analysis of land use Weeks of October 7 – 14.

** O'Sullivan, Chapter 8, "Land Use in the Monocentric City.", pp. 167-196; and Chapter 9. "Land Use in Modern Cities.", pp. 202-222.
** O'Sullivan, Chapter 10, "Land Use Controls and Zoning", pp. 228-249.

The Political Economy Tradition:

TUO: Chapter 5, "The Political Economy of Urbanization", [neoMarxian perspectives, classes, investments, Harvey etc.]
Harvey's classic essay, or Zukin's intro.
PM:

Politics and the City

TUO: Chapter 12, "The Political Arena",
RUT, Chapter 10, Molotch, Logan, "The City as Growth Machine".
[Rabinowitz: point that suburbs escape by becoming separate political entities.]

Housing

TUO: Chapter 9, "The Housing Market"
** O'Sullivan, Chapter 13, "Household Sorting", pp. 323-348.
TUO: Chapter 20, "Conflict and Compromise in the Built Environment: Case Study VII", on Housing in Greater London.

III. Suburbanization: Visions and Structures Week of September 16.

R. Fishman, “Bourgeois Utopias: Visions of Suburbia,” [online] and Chapter 2: On London’s Clapham Sect.

BS: ENTIRE BOOK. Three Classes?

CITY RESEARCH Deadline 1: Empirical Overview DUE FRIDAY September 20

Modernism and the City

** W.J. Kunstler, Chapters 2, “American Space”, and Chapter 3, “Life on the Gridiron”, pp. 17-37.

** L. Sandercock,

** J. Holsten, “The Modernist City and the Death of the Street”, in *Theorizing the City*, S. Low, 1999, Rutgers Univ. Press, pp. 245 – 275.

IV. The Development of the Post-War City: Policy and Segregation Sept 23- Oct 4.

PM, Chapters 1- 2, pp. 1-55.

** WJWilson, “From Institutional to Jobless Ghettos”, pp. 112-121, in *The City Reader*, ed. LeGates, Stout.

PM Chapters 3-5, pp. 56 – 132.

PM, Chapters 3-4, pp. 56-127.

FIRST PAPER DUE: TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 TH , 5PM TOPIC: <i>THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEGREGATION IN US CITIES</i>
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Mid Semester Break: Friday October 7 -10th.

IN CLASS EXAM ON NEOCLASSICAL ANALYSIS: Tuesday Oct 22
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VI. Rethinking Urban Development: Sprawl Week of October 21.

GENTRIFICATION:

S. Zukin, Chapter 7.
T. Butler, selections on types of gentrification.

CASE STUDIES:

Atlanta, Rutheiser, WJ Kunstler, Paris?
Cleveland,
Urban Order.

CITY RESEARCH PROJECT DUE: NOVEMBER 1, 5pm.

VII. *Urban Futures in the United States: Struggles over Space* Weeks of October 29 and Nov. 4 and 11.

PM, Chapter 5-8, pp. 133-260. [CHAPTER 4??]

** I.M. Young, "Residential Segregation and Regional Democracy", pp. 196-235, in *Inclusion and Democracy*, Univ. of Chicago Press, 2000.

** L. Sandercock. Selections from *Cosmopolis*.

SECOND PAPER DUE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 5pm.
Topic: Analysis of Future Visions

VIII. *The Political Economy of Redevelopment I* Week of Nov. 18.

** London Stuff; Butler, *Unequal City*.

Thanksgiving Break: Week of Nov. 25th

IX. *Struggles over Space: The Political Economy of Redevelopment II – Cincinnati and the Dispersion of the Poor* Week of Dec. 2.

**J. Cranley, "Housing Impaction Ordinance", City of Cincinnati. [\[INSERT WEBLINK\]](#)

** T. Dutton, J. Diskin, "A Critique of Mr. Cranley's Ordinance, Working Paper #2, Miami University's Center for Community Engagement. [\[INSERT WEBLINK\]](#)

X. *Postmodernism and the City* Dec 10.

FINAL on Scheduled Day and Time.

NOTE ON CITY RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Your assignment is to provide an overview of a particular city in the United States -- or abroad if you can demonstrate that there is good information about it. Providing an overview will entail gathering data about the overall growth and nature of change in your city over the past century and then providing some analysis of those changes.

There are two deadlines noted on the syllabus. The first is the information (well organized!) and the second is the interpretation of that data and information.

Here is a list of some of the key pieces of information you should include in this first part of the research project:

- a map of your city and environs (one current, and one from the past – if possible). Use internet search to locate maps.
- population change over time — including totals, and distribution in space (that is where have increases and decreases occurred). Use city and census web sites.
- income distribution and changes over time
- race and ethnic distribution of population
- indicators of suburbanization
- key economic sectors of the metro area
- important historical moments in the development of the city: large scale government projects, sharp changes in population or income, industrial decline, etc.
- major public or private investments in recent years (stadiums, infrastructure, corporate offices)

Note: concentrate on developments over the past 25 years or so. Most cities have some information on the internet about themselves and the census has information from the 1990 and 2000 online at census.gov. Provide only a very general overview of developments up to about 1970, and then be more specific. For example, note briefly general trends in population and geographical change from 1900 to 1970 and then be much more specific about income, segregation, etc.

You will need to find ways to measure trends on your own. In fact, this is part of the assignment – be creative in your interpretation of statistics. What do they tell you? Sometimes you can find texts that will give you some specific information about segregation, for example, (such as Massey and Denton's book *American Apartheid*), but you may have surmise what you can from census data online and in the library. Search for information on sprawl and consult Myron Orfield's book *American Metropolitcs* and his website, MARC.org for more. HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) also has data online about cities.

The second piece is the analysis of what you have found in Part I. You will also have a chance to improve the empirical foundation you are working with. In this second piece, draw on any theories we have read about in class to interpret and explain the trends you see. This should be no more than 10 pages.