

## URBAN POLICY

Political Science 228  
Haverford College

Spring 2019

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Hours: Th 9-11  
(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 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, education, law enforcement, transportation, sustainable development, and recreation to assess what works and what does not work. The course concludes by speculating on the future prospects of American cities.

### Course Requirements

Field Trips to Philadelphia	no grade
Center City (Saturday, February 10)	
West Philadelphia (March 24 or 25)	
Class Participation	30%
First take-home exam	20%
Second take-home exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Note: Exams 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 J. Chaskin and Mark L. Joseph, *Integrating the Inner City: The Promise and Perils of Mixed-Income Public Housing Transformation* (University of Chicago Press 2015)  
Richard D. Kahlenberg and Halley Potter, *A Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education* (Teachers College Press 2014)

All other assigned readings will be available on Moodle.

## Newspaper Reading

Our academic analysis of public policies designed to revitalize American cities will be enhanced if we simultaneously follow the reporting of relevant news in the media. To that end, 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. More specifically, you should choose one policy issue that is of particular interest to you and assemble, over the course of the semester, a portfolio of five to ten articles pertaining to that issue. Each student will make a brief presentation to the class (about 5 minutes) highlighting some aspect of the policy issue that you feel is most interesting and germane to the class; your presentation will be given during the week of the semester in which your policy issue is most relevant.

## Journals and Web Sites

In addition to monitoring newspaper reporting about urban policy, you should acquaint yourself with some of the major scholarly journals that focus on the condition of cities: *Urban Affairs Review*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Economic Development Quarterly* and *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Other useful magazines are targeted to urban practitioners and policy makers such as *Governing* and *Planning*. All of these publications will be helpful in preparing your research paper.

An abundance of web sites related to urban policy might also be worth consulting. Prominent ones include:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (<http://www.hud.gov>) and  
(<http://www.huduser.org>)

U.S. Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Brookings Institution: Metropolitan Policy Program

([www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/](http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/))

Planetizen ([www.planetizen.com](http://www.planetizen.com))

The Cyberhood ([www.thecyberhood.net](http://www.thecyberhood.net))

Shelterforce ([www.shelterforce.org](http://www.shelterforce.org))

National Urban League ([www.nul.iamempowered.com](http://www.nul.iamempowered.com))

Economic Policy Institute ([www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org))

National Housing Institute (<http://www.nhi.org>)

International City/County Management Association ([www.icma.org](http://www.icma.org))

American Planning Association ([www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org))

National Civic League ([www.ncl.org](http://www.ncl.org))

Right to the City.Org ([www.righttothecity.org](http://www.righttothecity.org))

Poverty & Race Research Action Council ([www.prrac.org](http://www.prrac.org))

PICO National Network ([www.piconetwork.org](http://www.piconetwork.org))

Urban Institute ([www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org))

The Atlantic: CityLab ([www.citylab.com](http://www.citylab.com))

National Coalition for the Homeless ([www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org))

National Low Income Housing Coalition ([www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org))

## Topics and Readings

### Week 1

- I. Introduction to Course
- II. The Urban Context

Edward Glaeser, "Introduction: Our Urban Species" in *Triumph of the City*

Michael B. Katz, "What Is an American City?" in *Why Don't American Cities Burn?*

William W. Goldsmith, Ch. 1: "Cities as Political Targets" and Ch. 2: "Cities as Budget-Cutting Targets" in *Saving Our Cities*

- III. Economic Development

### Week 2

- A. Overview of Urban Redevelopment

Jon Teaford, "The Problem Perceived" in *The Rough Road to Renaissance: Urban Revitalization in America, 1940-1985*

Jane Jacobs, "Introduction," *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

- B. Downtown

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

Eugenie L. Birch, "Downtown in the 'New American City,'" in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, November 2009

Rachel Weber, "Negotiating the 'Ideal Deal': Which Local Governments Have the Most Bargaining Leverage?" in *Reining in the Competition for Capital*, ed. Ann Markusen

### Week 3

- C. Downtown (continued)

- 1. Uneven Development

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

Martin L. Millspaugh, "The Inner Harbor Story," *Urban Land*, April 2003

Douglas Rae, "Two Cheers for Very Unequal Incomes" in *Justice and the American Metropolis*, eds. Clarissa Rile Hayward and Todd Swanstrom

Laura Wolf-Powers, "Community Benefit Agreements and Local Government: A Review of Recent Evidence," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Spring 2010

## 2. The Creative Class and the Visiting Class

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

Sharon Zukin, "Introduction: The City That Lost Its Soul" in *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*

Costas Spirou and Dennis R. Judd, "The Legacy Projects" and "Epilogue: A City of Bread and Circuses?" in *Building the City of Spectacle: Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Remaking of Chicago*

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

### **FIELD TRIP TO CENTER CITY PHILADELPHIA: Saturday, February 10 (alt. date: Sunday, February 11)**

#### Week 4

##### D. Neighborhoods

William Julius Wilson, "The Economic Plight of Inner-City Black Males" in *Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male*, ed. Elijah Anderson

Michael Porter, "The Competitive Advantages of the Inner City," *Harvard Business Review*, May/June 1995

Steven Cochrane, et al., "Central Cities and Metropolitan Areas: Manufacturing and Nonmanufacturing Employment as Drivers of Growth" in *Revitalizing American Cities*, eds. Susan M. Wachter and Kimberly A. Zeuli

JoAnn Greco, "Making Waves for 'MAKERS,'" *Planning*, February 2014

Eugenie L. Birch, "Anchor Institutions in the Northeast Megaregion: An Important but Not Fully Realized Resource" in *Revitalizing American Cities*, eds. Susan M. Wachter and Kimberly A. Zeuli

Meagan M. Ehlenz, "Neighborhood Revitalization and the Anchor Institution: Reassessing the Impact of the University of Pennsylvania's West Philadelphia Initiatives on University City," *Urban Affairs Review*, September 2016

#### Week 5

##### E. Neighborhoods (continued)

###### 1. Workforce and Small Business Development

Devah Pager, "Blacklisted: Hiring Discrimination in an Era of Mass Incarceration," in *Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male*, ed. Elijah Anderson

Robert Lerman, "Youth Apprenticeship: A Hopeful Approach for Improving Outcomes for Baltimore Youth," *The Abell Report*, 28 (2), (2015)

Melinda D. Anderson, "How Effective Are 'Career Academies'?" *The Atlantic*, April 2016

Marla Nelson and Laura Wolf-Powers, "Chains and Ladders: Exploring the Opportunities for Workforce Development and Poverty Reduction in the Hospital Sector," *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 2010

## 2. Alternative Strategies

Thomas H. Douthat and Nancy Green Leigh, "First Source Hiring: An Essential Tool for Linking the Poor to Employment or a 'Dead Letter' Progressive Policy?" *Urban Affairs Review*, November 2017

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris and Konstantina Soureli, "Cultural Tourism as an Economic Development Strategy for Ethnic Neighborhoods," *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 2012

### **FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE**

## IV. Housing and Community Development

### Week 6

#### A. Responding to Concentrated Poverty

Stacy Seicshnaydre, "Missed Opportunities: Furthering Fair Housing in the Housing Choice Voucher Program," *Law and Contemporary Problems*, 79 (3), (2016)

Robert J. Chaskin and Mark L. Joseph, Chs. 1-5 in *Integrating the Inner City*

### Week 7

#### B. Responding to Concentrated Poverty

Robert J. Chaskin and Mark L. Joseph, Chs. 6-9 in *Integrating the Inner City*

#### C. Community Development

Rachel G. Bratt, "Community Development Corporations: Challenges in Supporting a Right to Housing" in *A Right to Housing: Foundation for a New Social Agenda*, eds. Rachel G. Bratt, Michael E. Stone, and Chester Hartman

L. Owen Kirkpatrick, "The Two 'Logics' of Community Development: Neighborhoods, Markets, and Community Development Corporations," *Politics & Society*, June 2007

Todd Swanstrom, "The Incompleteness of Comprehensive Community Revitalization" in *Urban Policy in the Time of Obama*, ed. James DeFilippis

### Week 8

### **SPRING BREAK**

### Week 9

#### D. Neighborhood Revitalization and Gentrification

Lance Freeman, "There Goes the 'Hood'" in *There Goes the 'Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up*

Daniel Monroe Sullivan and Samuel Shaw, "Retail Gentrification and Race: The Case of Alberta Street in Portland, Oregon," *Urban Affairs Review*, May 2011  
Samuel Stein, "Progress for Whom, For What? Progressive Politics and New York City's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, January 2018  
Film in class: "Class Divide"

**SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIP TO WEST PHILADELPHIA: Weekend of March 24-25**

V. Education

Week 10

A. Racial Isolation

Dana Russo, "School Desegregation: From Topeka, Kansas to Wake County, North Carolina – Changing the Path, but Staying the Course," *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*, 19 (3), 2012

Neil Krauss, "When Political Support Is Not Enough to Reform Urban Schools" in *Majoritarian Cities: Policy Making and Inequality in Urban Politics*

B. Public School Finance

To be assigned

C. Charter Schools

Richard D. Kahlenberg and Halley Potter, *A Smarter Charter*, Chs. 1-3

**SECOND TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE**

Week 11

D. Charter Schools

Richard D. Kahlenberg and Halley Potter, *A Smarter Charter*, Chs. 4-8

E. High-Stakes Testing and Accountability

James Hassler Rhodes, "Progressive Policy Making in a Conservative Age? Civil Rights and the Politics of Federal Education Standards, Testing, and Accountability," *Perspectives on Politics*, September 2011

Film in class: "Tested"

## Week 12

### VI. Law Enforcement

#### A. Punitive Policing

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

Kevin Baker, "Welcome to Fear City': The Inside Story of New York's Civil War, 40 Years On," *The Guardian*, May 18, 2015

George L. Kelling and William J. Bratton, "Declining Crime Rates: Insiders' Views of the New York Story," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Summer 1998

#### B. Race and the Carceral State

Michelle Alexander, "Introduction" and "The Color of Justice" in *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness*

John R. Logan and Deirdre Oakley, "Black Lives and Policing: The Larger Context of Ghettoization," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 39 (8), 2017

## Week 13

#### C. Police Brutality

Franklin E. Zimring, "Who Dies, Where, and Why?" in *When Police Kill*

Nathalie Baptiste, "Urban Policing without Brutality," *American Prospect*, Summer 2015

### VII. Transportation

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

David Dayen, "The Great Los Angeles Revolt Against Cars," *American Prospect*, Summer 2017

Jonathan Mahler, "The Case for the Subway: It Built the City and the City Must Rebuild It to Survive," *New York Times Magazine*, January 7, 2018

## Week 14

### VIII. Parks, Recreation, and Ecology

Christopher G. Boone and Ali Modarres, "Green Spaces, Green Governance, and Planning" in *City and Environment*

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, "What Brings Children to Parks?" *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Winter 2010

William W. Goldsmith, Ch. 5: "The Paradox of Plenty" in *Saving Our Cities*

Kameshwari Pothukuchi, "'To Allow Farming Is to Give Up on the City': Political Anxieties Related to the Disposition of Vacant Land for Urban Agriculture in Detroit," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 39 (8), 2017

Week 15

IX. The Future of Cities

Kevin Layden, et al., "Understanding the Pursuit of Happiness in Ten Major Cities," *Urban Affairs Review*, November 2011

Robert Fishman, "The American Metropolis at Century's End: Past and Future Influences," *Housing Policy Debate*, vol. 11 (1), 2000

**FINAL EXAM DUE AT END OF EXAM PERIOD**