

**PIA 2125: City and Region, Theory and Practice**

Fall Semester 2013

Time: Wednesday 6:00-9:00 pm

Class location: WW Posvar Hall 3610

**Professor**

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**Course Description**

This course is about the current challenges faced in cities and regions, nearby and around the world—and how those challenges might be met. The majority of the world’s citizens live in cities, and therefore one cannot talk about human progress without thinking about progress in cities. As “mega-regions” consolidate, small cities grow rapidly, and older industrial cities shrink, the managerial, policy, and planning capacities of governments come under increasing stress. How can cities meet these challenges?

To facilitate understanding of these dynamics and issues, this course is divided into two parts. The first part provides a general background necessary for the second part. We define the general concepts of “city” and “region,” and we talk about measurement issues involved in understanding what is happening to them. We also learn about the policy and planning process involved in addressing any issue in a city or region.

The second part focuses on the challenges cities regions face, and how to solve them. Solving them implies having a theory about what causes them, so this part will begin with a discussion of major theoretical approaches to city and regional problems. It will then move on to cover specific issues such as economic development, transit, eminent domain, and sustainability. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the practical issues of implementing urban and regional policies, and learning about actual experiences with such policies in particular places.

**Pre-requisites and class format**

There are no formal pre-requisites for this course. Class sessions will consist of a brief lecture followed by student participation in reacting to the key points of the assigned readings. We will also have guest lecture speakers and student presentations. Students should come to class prepared to participate actively in class discussion.

**Course requirements and grade composition**

The requirements for the course are the following:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Share of grade</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Surprise quizzes	15%	TBA
Reflection paper	30%	Sep 25
Group presentation	20%	TBA
Final paper	35%	Dec 4

- Surprise quizzes (15%). We will have five surprise in-class quizzes to see how you interpret major ideas and retain important information from the readings and guest lectures. There will be no make-up quizzes, but students will be able to drop their lowest grade.
- A reflection paper (30%). Students will write a short reflection paper (6 pages max) that critically examines the practice of urban and regional policy/planning. Students will interview at least three urban or regional planners or policy makers (in the US or abroad). The idea is for students to get a sense of the practice, including the nature of the job, relevant current issues, methodologies used, etc. Due September 25<sup>th</sup> in class.
- Group presentation (20%). Groups of students will be assigned a topic during the semester. The topic will be related to the weekly readings. Students will give a presentation on the topic in class. Presentations should strive to develop critical insights rather than simply summarize material on the research topic. Due TBA
- Final paper (35%). This is a short paper (12 pages max) in which each student will examine a current challenge a city or region faces. The paper must include a statement of the problem, a succinct review of the literature on how the challenge has been understood, a discussion of the main interventions implemented to address the issue, the actors involved, a discussion of the shortcomings of the interventions, and a conclusion stating what elements have been missing that could provide a solution. The idea is that students will become familiar with the major debates surrounding the issue they chose, as well as the main policies that have been implemented to address it. Choose your topic by October 2; final paper due December 4<sup>th</sup> in class.

**Grade scale**

You will receive a grade that reflects your performance on all components of the course using the weights discussed above. The grades *will not* be curved. Your total score for the course will be converted into a percentage (properly rounded). Then, I will use the following grade scale to determine your letter grade:

97% - 100% A+	87% -89% B+	77% - 79% C+	60% - 69% D
93% - 96% A	83% - 86% B	73% - 76% C	below 60% F
90% - 92% A-	80% - 82% B-	70% - 72% C-	

No student can take this class for Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

**Academic Integrity**

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the student’s own work. Each student is expected to abide by the University of Pittsburgh Guidelines on Academic Integrity. <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>

**Disability Resources and Services**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both, the instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, Tel. 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Statement on Classroom Recording**

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and /or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

**Timetable**

<i>Course section and sessions</i>	<i>Main goals</i>
<b>Concepts, measurement, and process</b>	
Week 1: Introduction	During these first weeks of the course, students will become familiarized with the city and region field, key concepts and definitions, their measurement, and the city planning process.
Week 2: Concepts and definitions	
Week 3: Measurement and information	
Week 4: City planning	
<b>Theories, challenges, and interventions</b>	
Week 5: What are theories?	During these weeks students will gain an understanding of the main theories of city and regional development, as well as the debates on some of the challenges cities and regions face. They will also learn how different actors intervene at different levels, from communities to regions, to address such problems.
Week 6: Community development	
Week 7: Sustainability	
Week 8: Economic growth & cumulative causation	
Week 9: Externalities and technology	
Week 10: Transportation & transit	
Week 11: TBD	
Week 12: Effective community participation & revitalization efforts	
Week 13: Eminent domain, urban megaprojects	
Week 14: Thanksgiving break	
Week 15: Student groups' presentations	
Week 16: Student groups' presentations & conclusion	

**Schedule of classes and readings**

The readings will be available to students through the course's Courseweb website.

**WEEK 1** August 28: Introduction to the course

- General introduction to the course, explanation of assignments, expectations and distribution of topic presentations.

**WEEK 2** September 4: Concepts, definitions and measurement*What are cities?*

- Frey, William and Zachary Zimmer. Defining the City. 2001. In, Ronan Paddison, Handbook of Urban Studies. London: Sage.
- Berg, Nate. 2011. Defining Cities in a Metropolitan World. Available at: <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/neighborhoods/2011/09/defining-cities-metropolitan-world/102/>

*The importance of spatial dimension and main debates about intervention*

- Glaeser, Edward. 1999. Help poor people, not poor places. Wall Street Journal, August 12.
- Crane Randall and Michael Manville. 2008. People or place? Revisiting the Who versus the Where of Urban Development. Landlines, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, July, 2008.
- World Bank, 1998. Geographic Targeting: Its effects in Poverty Reduction.

*Look at these US Census sites*

- The Urban-Rural Classification Program: <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/uafaq.html>
- Definitions of micro and metro statistical areas: <http://www.census.gov/population/metro/>
- Geographic terms and concepts: <http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/terms.html> (look for terms like block, place, city, etc.)

**WEEK 3** September 11: Measuring concepts

*Data about people and some housing characteristics*

- US Census. The American Community Survey.
- Look at variables of the ACS here:  
[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about\\_the\\_survey/questions\\_and\\_why\\_we\\_ask/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about_the_survey/questions_and_why_we_ask/)

*Data about neighborhoods*

- Read the concept webpage of the National Neighborhood Indicators partnership. Available at: <http://neighborhoodindicators.org/about-nnip/nnip-concept>
- Arias, Juan Sebastian, 2013. Challenges to Harnessing Data's potential to improve low income neighborhoods. Blog available at: <http://www.livingcities.org/blog/?id=166>
- Read first four pages of this report, browse the rest. The Hazelwood neighborhood profile, 2010. UCSUR. Available at:  
<http://stage.ucsur.pitt.edu/files/nrep/2010/Hazelwood%20Neighborhood%20Profile%202010.pdf>

Gest lecture by Bob Gradeck, UCSUR

Information at different scales: Understanding what we see from street to neighborhood level

**WEEK 4** September 18: The process of city planning

- Sager, Tore. 2012. Collective Action: Balancing Public and Particularistic Interests in Weber & Crane, The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning.
- Duerksen, Dale and Elliot. 2009. Navigating the Planning Landscape. In the The Citizen's Guide to Planning.
- Read this website: <http://www.planning.org/aboutplanning/whatisplanning.htm>
- See the website of Pittsburgh Comprehensive Plan: <http://planpgh.com/process.htm>

Gest Lecture on Pittsburgh's Comprehensive Plan

Noor Ismail, Director, Pittsburgh's City Planning Department

**WEEK 5** September 25: Understanding theories and why we need them for planning and policymaking

*What is a theory?*

- Lynch, Kevin. 1981. Ch. 2 What is the Form of a City, and How is it made? Good City Form. MIT Press (not required).
- Hollander, 2005. Social Forum, The uses of social theory in the practice of city planning. Social Forum.

*Arguments for why we need intervention*

- Coudouel et al. (2002), Poverty Measurement and Analysis, in the PRSP Sourcebook, World Bank, Washington D.C. Only Section 1.3.3 Inequality, growth & poverty. Pp. 51-53, skim the rest.

**WEEK 6** October 2: Community and neighborhood development

- Sherry Arnstein. 1969. A Ladder of Citizen Participation. In *The City Reader*, 2011.
- Chapple, Karen. 2012. The evolving role of economic community development in planning. *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*.
- Paytton Scally, Corrienne. 12/2013. Restoring confidence in the CDC Model. Available at: [http://www.shelterforce.org/article/3329/restoring\\_confidence\\_in\\_the\\_cdc\\_model/](http://www.shelterforce.org/article/3329/restoring_confidence_in_the_cdc_model/)
- Tactical urbanism: [http://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs/tactical\\_urbanism\\_vol.1](http://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs/tactical_urbanism_vol.1) [http](http://)

Guest Lecture on the process of community development and consensus building  
Terry Doloughty, Community Technical Assistance Center

**WEEK 7** October 9: Sustainability, resilience and and preparedness

- Campbell, Scott. 1996. Green Cities, Growing Cities, Just Cities?: Urban Planning and the Contradictions of Sustainable Development, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 62:3, 296-312
- Talen, Emily. 2012. Sustainability, in Weber & Crane, *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*.
- Look at the APA's standards for sustainable places (available for use by communities when developing (or updating) comprehensive plans for sustainable communities): <http://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces/compplanstandards/>

Guest Lecture on Do Green Infrastructure projects meet principles of city sustainability?  
Jay Sukernek, CFO Riverlife

**WEEK 8 & 9 October 16 and 23:** Economic theories on why industry tends to concentrate I

*Comparing Neo-classical growth and endogenous growth theories*

- Blakely and Gree. 2010. *Planning Local Economic Development, Theory and Practice*. Chapter 3.
- Review of local economic development policies
- Case
- Malizia and Feser. 1999. *Understanding Local Economic Development*. Chapter 6 and 5. *Regional Growth Theory*.
- Krugman, and Livas Elizondo. 1996. Trade Policy and the Third World Metropolis. *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 49, pp. 137-150.
- TBA

Gest Lecture on URA's Power Up Pittsburgh  
Jennifer Wilhem

**WEEK 10** October 30: Transportation and transit planning

*Cities: Location theory*

- Bourne, Larry. 1982. *Urban Spatial Structure: An Introductory Essay on Concepts and Criteria*. In *Internal Structure of the City*.
- Krizez and Levinson. 2012. Access. In Weber & Crane, *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*.

Guest Lecture on SPC's Transit development for the region  
David Totten and Matthew Pavlosky, Southwestern PA Commission

**WEEK 11** November 6: TBD

- Foster, Kathryn A. "Snapping back: what makes regions resilient?." National Civic Review, Vol. 96, No. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 27-29.
- Chakravarty, 2013. How density makes us safer during natural disasters:  
<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/housing/2013/09/how-density-makes-us-safer-during-natural-disasters/6864/>
- Look at these articles on disaster preparedness:  
<http://www.planetizen.com/taxonomy/term/29463>

**WEEK 12** November 13: Effective participatory planning for community development

- Involving people most affected by the problem:  
[http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub\\_section\\_main\\_1084.aspx](http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1084.aspx)
- The challenge of community building: <http://web.mit.edu/workingsmarter/media/pdf/ws-kiabrief-0703.pdf>
- Inclusion vs participation
- Cleaver, Frances. 1999. Paradoxes of Participation: Questioning participatory approaches to development. Journal of International Development, Vol. 11, pp. 597-612
- Quick Kathryn and Martha Feldman. 2011. Distinguishing Participation and Inclusion. Journal of Planning Education and Research, Vol. 31, No. 3

Guest Lecture on community involvement and revitalization efforts in the Larimer neighborhood  
Malik Bankston, Executive Director, Kingsley Association

**WEEK 13** November 20: Eminent domain, urban mega projects and community benefit agreements

- Azuela Antonio and Carlos Herrera Martin. 2009. Taking Land around the World: International Trends in Expropriation for Urban Infrastructure Projects. In Lall, et al. Urban Land Markets Improving Land Managements for Successful Urbanization. Springer: Netherlands.
- Baxamusa. 2008. Empowering communities through deliberation. The model of Community Benefits Agreements. *JPER*, Vol. 27, pp. 261-276.

Guest Lecture on Lower Hill District Inclusive Zoning  
Carl Redwood, Co-Director HDCG

**WEEK 14** November 27: Thanks giving break

**WEEK 15** December 4: Student groups' presentations

**WEEK 16** December 11: Student groups' presentations and conclusion to the course