

CourseNo: PLANA6805_001_2015_1

Meeting Time: W 11:00A-01:00P **Meeting Location:** FAYERWEATHER 323

Instructor Information:

[Elliott Sclar](#)

Course Intentions:

Two goals: 1) Enhance your understanding of planning history as an academic discipline and 2) explore the use of that history as a methodological tool for your planning scholarship.

Course Rationale:

As social science planning occupies the intersection of social space and physical space (i.e. “the planning intersection”). The narratives constructed by planning scholars about that intersection typically reference three substantive social science domains,

- 1) Socio-economic theories of **population dynamics** (class, ethnic, gender and national differences),
- 2) **Urbanization and urbanism** (urban culture) and
- 3) **Environmental and technological imperatives.**

Planning theories are essentially efforts to rationalize intentional policy interventions to alter the course of events in the planning intersection.

Why History?

The three research domains (society, place and environment) reside in a three-dimensional space; in addition to social space and physical space there is the passage of time as the third dimension. It is the exploration of this third dimension; change over time, that is the focal point of this seminar in advanced planning history.

We seek to understand how ideas of theory and narratives of history develop, intersect with one another and ultimately influence our understanding of planning as a policy-based practice. The narrative of planning history result from the collection and analysis of information derived from local experiences. Local experiences, although always unique in time and place, are invariably responses to both local conditions and larger social forces. Research in planning history seeks to uncover and distill general patterns as made

manifest in seemingly unique local experiences. In planning history we develop hypotheses about the general from studying the specific.

We will use case based evidence from historic readings to help us better understand the role played by *institutionalized planning* in shaping particular urban outcomes.

Readings:

We will spend the first four weeks (January 20th to February 11th) grounding our common understanding about planning history via a collective reading of two important works in planning history:

Leonardo Benevolo, (1967) *The Origins of Modern Town Planning*, Cambridge: MIT Press

Peter Hall, (2014) *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century*, (Fourth Edition) London: Wiley Blackwell Publishers.

The next three sessions (February 18th to March 3rd) reading Robert Caro's classic study of planning in New York.

Caro, Robert (1974) *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*

The remainder of the course (March 11 to May 6) we will read critiques of post World War II planning in the United States.(Goodman, Percival and Paul

Goodman (1947) *Communitas; Means of Livelihood and Means of Life*

Berman, Marshall *All That is Solid Melts into Air* (Pages 287-348 only)

Jacobs, Jane (1961) *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, New York: Vintage Books

Goetz, Edward (2013) *New Deal in Ruins: Race, Economic Justice and Public Housing Policy*

Vale, Lawrence (2013) *Purging the Poorest: Public Housing and the Design Politics of Twice-Cleared Communities*

Lupo, Alan, Frank Colcord and Edmund P. Fowler, (1971) *Rites of Way: The Politics of Transportation in Boston and the U.S. City*, Boston: Little Brown and Company

Bagli, Charles (2013) *Other People's Money: Inside the Housing Crisis and the Demise of the Greatest Real Estate Deal Ever Made*

Buzbee, William (2014) *Fighting Westway: Environmental Law, Citizen Activism, and the Regulatory War that Transformed New York City*

NOTE: There are no sessions scheduled for 3/18-Spring Break and 3/25 travel commitment. However we have an added session on May 6th.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings, and come to seminar prepared to participate in and lead class discussions.
- 2) Produce one high-quality term paper (details below).
- 3) Produce two literature review essays of books read this semester around themes of your own choice (details below)

Grading:

Class Participation 25%

Term Paper 35%

Book Reviews 40% (20% for each review)

Term Paper Details:

As you develop your understanding of the construction of planning history in our readings and discussion, you are expected to be constructing a history narrative relevant to **your individual dissertation work**. This will be done through the writing of a term paper due to me no later than 5:00 PM **May 12th**. I will be available through out the semester to confer on your paper topics and your progress on the paper. You should be checking in with me regularly (about every week or two of the semester) on your progress, even if it is just to say there is no progress. The most important thing is that you are working steadily on your term paper project. Term papers can take one of two forms, a period paper or a policy-planning paper.

- 1) **Period Paper:** A basic descriptive analysis of the socio-political and economic context of the time period and the specific place in which your dissertation is likely to be situated.
- 2) **Policy-Planning Paper:** A history of the particular policy or plan or planning approach that is likely to be central to your dissertation.

Papers should be no more than 20 double spaced pages, including bibliographic materials.

Literature Review Essay Details:

Literature review essays summarize, synthesize and analyze themes from the assigned books over the course of the semester. Each review must develop a thematic essay that compares and contrasts at least three of the books we read in that segment of the course. The first review is due **March 13th** no later than 5:00 PM. The first review essay should cover books assigned through the March 11th class. The second review essay is due **May 8th** no later than 5:00 PM. This review essay should cover readings assigned for the period from April 2nd through April 30th.

Review essays should be approximately 10 double spaced pages in length.