

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

ROBERT F. WAGNER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**BUILDING GREEN HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**  
**P11.4639.001**

Spring Semester, 2011

Dates: Wednesday Evenings, March 23, 2010-May 4, 2010

Time: 6:45 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.

Location: Silver Center, Room 701

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The primary purpose of this course is to teach students to understand the benefits of building green housing and sustainable communities and to appreciate the challenges in developing such communities. We will review the practical and applied aspects of the development of affordable housing and vibrant neighborhoods in the urban environment, with an emphasis on environmental sustainability. New York City will form the backdrop of much of our investigation but this local focus will be framed by larger regional and national considerations.

**COURSE CONTENT AND FORMAT**

The class will include lectures and presentations from experts in the field to introduce the weekly sessions. Case study examinations and class exercises will be used as the basis for merging theory with the applied aspects of community design and development. Discussion sessions will be built into the structure of each class to relate the content of the reading material and presentations to our class objectives.

The course will begin with an overview of urban housing development, examining the historical context that has created the current patterns and development costs. We will then look at best concepts and practices that define green housing and sustainable

communities. Week Three will investigate the racial and economic inclusion in building sustainable neighborhoods. We will analyze local and regional policies and then compare and contrast them against national approaches. And finally we will review the various elements of green housing and sustainable communities through actual case studies.

The last class will be devoted to student presentations of their research related to a class topic.

## CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grading will be based on class participation, attendance, class presentation and final paper. Students will be expected to attend and actively engage in class discussions, with class participation making up 20% of the grade. Students working in teams will make a short team presentation to the class of a researched topic which will represent 20% of the grade and the individual final paper will be 60% of the grade.

Attendance: There is an expectation, short of emergencies, that students will be on time and at each class.

Class Participation: All class sessions will involve discussions based on the readings and the presentations.

Team Presentations: The class will divide into four teams to research and prepare to present to the class a major issue or case study involving green housing and sustainable communities.

Final Paper: Each student will prepare a final research paper on the course subject of approximately 5000 words to be submitted no later than one week after the last class.

## READINGS

Reading assignments listed in this syllabus are required and are available at the class Blackboard site at <http://classes.nyu.edu>

## STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

We are all expected to adhere to NYU's high standards of academic integrity. The Academic Code which spells out these intellectual standards particularly in regards to writing assignments is available at <http://wagner.nyu.edu/current/policies/>.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week One

Wednesday, March 23, 2010

#### **A More Sustainable Approach: Defining Green Housing and Sustainable Communities**

Overview of course, schedule, assignments, case studies and expectations.  
Lecture and discussion

#### Readings:

LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System (2009)

Enterprise Green Communities Criteria (2008)

New York City “plaNYC: A greener, Greater New York-HOUSING” 2008

### Week Two

Wednesday, March 30, 2010

#### **Current Development Patterns and their Costs**

#### Guest Lecture:

Robert Rosenberg (invited)

Rosenberg Group

#### Readings:

B. Katz, Transcript from July 14, 2009 Brookings Institute Discussion “From Despair to Hope: Two HUD Secretaries on Urban Revitalization and Opportunity”

B. Lipman, “A Heavy Load: The Combined Housing and Transportation Burdens of Working Families, pp.1-21

R. O’Toole, “The Vanishing Automobile and Other Urban Myths: How Smart Growth Will Harm American Cities” pp. 274-280

### Week Three

Wednesday, April 6, 2010

#### **The Importance of Inclusion**

#### Guest Lecture:

Richard Baron, (invited)

McCormack, Baron and Salizar

#### Readings:

V. Been, M. Cunningham, I. Ellen, A. Gordon, J. Parilla, M. Turner, S. Whitney, A. Yowell K. Zimmerman “Building Environmentally Sustainable Communities: A Framework for Inclusivity” (2010) pp. 5-14

S. Cashin, “The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are Undermining the American Dream” pp 4-38

X. Briggs, "The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America" (2005) pp. 1-13

Week Four

Wednesday, April 13, 2010

**Local and Regional Approaches**

Guest Lecture:

David Bragdon, Director (invited)

New York City Mayor's Office

Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability

Readings:

New York City "plaNYC": A Greener, Greater New York (2008)

R. Bruegmann, "Sprawl: A Compact History" (2006) pp. 51-95

D. Owen, "Green Metropolis: Why living Smaller, Living Closer and Driving Less Are the Keys to Sustainability", (2009) pp. 1-48

Readings

Week Five

Wednesday, April 20, 2010

**National Policy Approaches**

Guest Lecturer:

Thom Lowther, Vice President, Education, (invited)

U.S. Green Building Council

Readings:

J. McIlwain, Journal of Affordable Housing (2001) "Show Me the Money: A proposed Federal Response to Urban Sprawl

P. Calthorpe, "The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community and the American Dream" (1993) pp.13-38

Week Six

Wednesday, April 27, 2010

**Case Studies**

(To be introduced at the first class)

Week Seven

Wednesday, May 4, 2010

**Student Team Presentations**

Twenty minute presentations by four teams.

Class evaluation and final discussion.