Public Policy for Metropolitan Regions
Spring, 2013

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Mondays, 4:55 PM – 6:35 PM, Silver Hall, Room 408
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Course Overview

This course will explore how public policies, economic trends and technological change influence the development of metropolitan regions. Key topics include transportation and land use, immigration and demographic patterns, aviation and regional development, the impact of information and telecommunications technologies, cultural innovation and creative cities, strategies for regional economic development, and public policies for high speed rail.

Students will be expected to do the assigned reading prior to class. The class will be conducted in a discussion format. There will be two short written assignments based on the readings and a major final project required.

Required Reading

Required readings will be posted on NYU Classes or in links provided in the syllabus. (No texts need be purchased for this course.)

Short Written Responses

Students will be required to write three 300-word responses to specific readings or related topics in the news, due on February 11th, March 11th and April 8th. These responses will be posted on the NYU Rudin Center Blog (http://wagner.nyu.edu/blog/rudincenter/) with author credit, unless student requests otherwise.

Final Project

Students will create a final project on a self-selected topic related to course readings and discussions. Students should select a case study related to a theme from the course, using a policy or project in a specific metropolitan region.
The final project should come in one of three forms; students may choose the format of their work and collaborate in groups of up to three students.

1. A research paper of 2500 words;
2. A documentary video on a project or policy of 10 minutes; or
3. An interactive web feature (interactive infographic, map, plan, etc.)

Final projects will be due on Monday, May 6th in class. Students will also sign up to give short (approximately 10 minutes) presentations of their research papers, viewings of their videos, or demonstrations of their web features, in class on May 6th or May 13th.

**January 28** – Patterns of metropolitan growth in the 21st Century

- U.S. and global metropolitan growth trends
- Patterns of aging, ethnicity and development
- Infrastructure challenges

Readings:

Optional:

  https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/1880_1195_Angel%20PFR%20final.pdf


  http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2012/12/13-census-race-projections-frey

February 4 – Introduction to transportation networks

- Ships, rail, horses, highways, air, buses, cars, bicycles

Readings:

  http://www.uctc.net/access/30/Access%2030%20-%20Horse%20Power.pdf

- “The Works,” by Kate Ascher, Chapter 1: Moving People. (will be posted online)


  http://www.jstor.org/stable/2113700

- “Do Telecommunications Make Transportation Obsolete?” Pnina Ohana Plaut, Cybercities Reader, pp.162-166.

- Berube, Alan and Joseph Parilla. “Metro Trade: Cities Return to Their Roots in the Global Economy.” Brookings Institute, Metropolitan Policy Program. (November 2012.)
  http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2012/11/26-metro-trade/26-metro-trade

Optional:


**February 11** – Intelligent Transportation Systems/ Internet of Things

*First short written response assignment due*

- How smart transportation affects ridership
- Smart transit networks, self-monitoring infrastructure, autonomous vehicles, smart parking systems

Readings:

- “Driving as We Know It Is Over,” The American Interest Blog, January 2013. [http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/01/14/driving-as-we-know-it-is-over/](http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/01/14/driving-as-we-know-it-is-over/)

Optional:


February 18 – No class – Presidents’ Day

February 25 – Guest speaker – Virginia Borkoski, Senior Project Manager at HDR, Inc.

– Subway planning & building

Readings


Optional:


**March 4 – The Global Metropolis**

Readings:


**March 11 – Guest speaker – Peter Derrick, Transit Historian, NYU Rudin Center Visiting Scholar**

*Second short written response assignment due*

Readings:

Optional:


March 18 – No class – Spring Recess

March 25 – Open Data, Social Media & Government

Video:

Readings:


Optional:
April 1 – Aviation – Guest Speaker – Greg Lindsay, author, *Aerotropolis: The Way We’ll Live Next*

(Readings to be posted as combined PDF)

April 8 – High tech, Manufacturing and Innovation

*Third short written response assignment due*

- Manufacturing and American cities
- Building an innovation hub

Readings:

- Anthony Townsend, Alex Soojung-Kim Pang and Rick Weddle

**April 15** – Walking in Cities

- Guest speaker – Andrew Mondschein, Lecturer, City & Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania

Readings:

http://wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter/publications/mondschein_passeggiata_it_social_travel.pdf


Optional:

- Explore Walkshed - http://www.walkshed.org/

**April 22** – Sustainability

- Guest speaker – Projjal Dutta, Director, Sustainability Initiatives at Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York

Readings:

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/00343400701861344#tabModule


http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200907/carter-obama-energy

April 29 – Future of Economic Development

Readings:


Optional:


May 6 – Final project presentations

May 13 – Last class – Final project presentations