Introduction and Overview

Planning as a state and civil society practice arose out of particular, international historical context. Since its inception, planning theory has reflected and sought to shape the circumstances in which it was created by regulating spatial development, especially in cities. Much like you will do in your careers, planning practitioners of the past sought to thread their work into the flow of ideas and worldly events, often with the goal of making cities more livable, environmentally sound, democratic and just.

The aim of this class is for students to think deeply about the historical context of planning and its relevance to contemporary practice. To this end, the course material is presented chronologically, with texts that both describe planning in historical context and present the theories that planners drew on at particular moments. We will also trace how events outside of the control of planners – like migration, economic crises and environmental degradation – brought renewed challenges and unexpected consequences to the goals that planners sought.

This course is structured to grapple deeply with the relationship between context, practice and theory through an international history of planning. We will explore the growth and institutionalization of planning, national planning and the post-World War II boom years, planning in response to the multiple crises of the 1970s, and the self-consciously globalized planning of the last 20 years. In each of these periods we will explore the realities planners were seeking to shape, what they were thinking about and what they were doing.

Learning Goals & Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a familiarity with urban planning history,
- Understand and be able to evaluate a variety of urban planning theories,
- Conduct research on a theoretical or historical topic of their choosing,
- Reflect on your identity as a planner within contemporary moment of urban planning practice.
Expectations and Requirements

1. **Reading and active participation in seminar discussion [30%].**
   This is a graduate-level seminar, in which students share responsibilities with the instructor to actively participate in the teaching and learning that we accomplish in each class. Active participation requires:
   
   - Regular class attendance
   - Completing assigned readings in full in advance of each class. See below for information on purchasing texts and the course pack.
   - Engaging in discussion – speaking and listening – with other seminar members in a respectful and constructive exchange of ideas.

2. **Completion of four written reflection papers (3-5 pages each) discussing and evaluating the weekly assigned readings [30%]**
   You may select readings for any four weeks during the semester as the subject of your reflection papers. All reflection papers must be completed by the final day of class. Your essays should not merely summarize the readings. They should offer critical reflection of and engagement with the history and ideas presented in the texts. Reflection papers are due in hard copy at the beginning of the class session in which the readings are assigned and discussed. Late papers will not be accepted.

3. **Submission of an 10-12 page final research paper (10-12 pages)**
   Select a topic covered over the course and examine it in greater depth. Your paper should draw on readings for that week. You should also go beyond the assigned readings drawing on sources that will add depth and evidence to support your argument. For example, if you select Week 4, on the Progressive Movement in planning, you should read the entirety of one of the books assigned, and bring in readings and articles that interest you on the topic to supplement what was presented in class.

**Paper Submission Instructions:** All papers must be submitted in hard copy. They must be type written, in 12 point font and they must conform to professional standards of grammar, punctuation and citation format. Plagiarism and other academic integrity infractions will not be tolerated. Please see the following statement for more information: [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html).
**Required Texts:** The following required texts should be purchased by students. The course pack can be purchased at Advanced Copy Center at 552 LaGuardia Place. www.advancedcopycenter.com


**Optional Texts:** Students have the option of purchasing the following texts:


**Course Schedule:**

1. January 28  
   Course Overview and A Look at the Distant Past
2. February 4  
   Capitalist Transformation & Responses
3. February 11  
   Capitalist Transformation & Responses
4. February 18  
   Institutionalization: Trans-Atlantic Progressivism & Cities
5. February 25  
   Institutionalization: New Deal & Rational Planning
6. March 4  
   Post-war: Decolonization, Nationalism & High Modernism
7. March 11  
   Post-war: Urban Renewal, Suburbanization & Migration
   March 17  
   Spring Break
8. March 25  
   Post-war: Change from the Bottom, Up
9. April 1  
   Global Urban Crisis: Unrest & Structural Readjustment
10. April 8  
   Crisis Responses: Critique of Capitalism & Activism
11. April 15  
   Crisis Responses: State Retreat, Equity & Neo-Pragmatist Planning
12. April 22  
   Crisis Responses: Post Modernism & Informality
13. April 29  
   Global Urbanism: Integration: Economy & Sustainability
14. May 6  
   Global Urbanism: Fracture: Inequality & Splintering
   May 11  
   Final Papers Due
Weekly Schedule of Readings:

Week 1. Introductions, Course Overview, and A Look at the Distant Past

Week 2. Capitalist Transformation & Responses: Regulation, Utopianism & Boosterism


Week 3. Capitalist Transformation & Responses: Industrial, Colonial & Company Towns


Week 4. Institutionalization: Transatlantic Progressivism & Cities


Week 5. Institutionalization: New Deal & Rational Planning

Week 6. Post-war: Decolonization & International Fordism


Week 7. Post-war: Urban Renewal and High Modernism


Week 8. Post-war: Change from the Bottom, Up


Week 9. Global Urban Crisis: Unrest & State Retreat


Week 10. Crisis & Responses: Marxism, & People’s Movements


Week 11. Crisis & Responses: State Retreat, Equity and Neo-Pragmatism


Week 12. Crisis & Responses: Ethics, Post-Modernism & Insurgent Histories


c. TBD

Week 14. Global Urbanism: Fracture: Inequality, Informality and Splintering


c. TBD