URPL-GP 2452
Transforming Cities:
Public-Private Partnerships, Public Spaces, Politics & the Press
Fall 2019

Tuesdays, 4:55 – 6:35 pm
25 West 4th Street, Room C-4

Professor Tim Tompkins
Email: tmt6@nyu.edu
Office hours by appointment

Prerequisites:
CORE-GP.1011; PADM-GP.2140 or URPL-GP.2608

Course Description

This course examines the mix of tools, tactics, theories and trends that shape and transform cities. It will be grounded in case studies that look at urban revitalization strategies in places ranging from Times Square to the Bronx River to Singapore to Atlantic City. Guest speakers will discuss their tactics for changing urban areas. Readings will include contemporary media coverage side-by-side with selections from thinkers like Jane Jacobs, Alexander Garvin and Ed Glaeser.

There will be a special focus on the role of public-private partnerships in harnessing the power of the non-profit, private and governmental sectors. Students will examine the perspectives of each sector, and the skills needed to make such partnerships tools for change. The role of public space transformation and placemaking in shaping perceptions and empowering communities will be looked at in depth.

Theories and assumptions about the economic life of cities will be illuminated through real-world examples, some of which will involve the instructor’s experience with park revitalization, the BID movement, and the transformation of Times Square. We will examine how ideas about economic development shift across time and place, even as deeper truths remain constant. While reviewing standard economic development tools, we will also look at ideas in corporate branding, managing public space, nurturing creative industries, and reforming governmental practices.

Above all, we will ask: What things make cities thrive and grow, and how do we nurture those things?
Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic tools, tactics, theories and trends that shape and transform cities
2. Identify the distinct strengths and perspectives of the non-profit, private and governmental sectors, and the ways in which public-private partnerships can harness those strengths
3. Utilize both standard economic development tools along with political and press skills to advocate for and transform an urban area
4. Develop, critique and present an urban revitalization strategy for a particular place, and discuss criteria for determining the success of that strategy

Required Readings


NYU Classes and Email

All announcements, resources, and assignments will be delivered through the NYU Classes site and email. I may modify assignments, due dates, and other aspects of the course as we go through the term with advance notice provided as soon as possible through the course website.

Class Format

Classes will consist of opening presentations by the professor, seminar-style discussions of assigned readings, and occasional moderated conversations with guest speakers. Course readings are front-loaded to the first half of the term to familiarize students with a number of core concepts and ideas, which will then be explored through case studies and the process of making policy recommendations for the final paper.

The order of classes may shift slightly during the term depending on the availability of guest speakers either for case studies or for Q & A sessions.

Assignments and Evaluation

1. Class Preparations and Participation (30%)

All students should be prepared to discuss and answer questions about the week’s readings in class. Required readings are listed below each week’s topics (see next page), and all readings can be found in the ‘Resources’ folder on the NYU Classes website. On multiple occasions the professor will send students current readings from publications or websites for discussion in class. These will be sent via email and uploaded to the NYU Classes site.
Near the end of the term the presentation and critiques related to the final assignment will also be taken into account for the participation grade.

2. **Short Assignments (20%)**

There will be two short (2 page) writing assignments (10% of your grade each) relating to the readings and/or specific case studies. There will also be one ungraded photography assignment where students will be asked to upload pictures of neighborhood conditions.

Papers are due as a PDF on the ‘Assignments’ tab of the NYU Classes page. They should be saved as ‘Last Name: Assignment x: Title of Paper.’

3. **Final Paper (50%)**

There will be one longer (10-15 page) assignment due at the end of the term where students will present their economic development philosophy and recommendations for New York City, with specific examples of how the recommendations will be implemented in two New York City neighborhoods, one in demand and in transition, the other underperforming significantly economically and socially. Students will also present and critique each others’ ideas several times in classes near the end of the term, as a way to further refine their ideas for the final presentations and paper.

See NYU Classes for 'Guidelines for Final Research Paper’ and ‘Wagner Integrity Statement.’

Final papers are due as a PDF on the ‘Assignments' tab of the NYU Classes page. Documents should be saved as ‘Last Name: Final Paper: Title of Paper’ and are due Tuesday, December 12.

**Learning Assessment Table**

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<tr>
<th>Graded Assignment</th>
<th>Course Objective Covered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Assignments</td>
<td>1 and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>All</td>
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**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. Each student is required to sign and abide by Wagner’s Academic Code. Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated since you have all signed an Academic Oath and are bound by the academic code of the school. Every student is expected to maintain academic integrity and is expected to report violations to me. If you are unsure about what is expected of you should ask.
Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) website at www.nyu.edu/csd and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or e-mail CSD at (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU’s Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

NYU’s Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.
COURSE SCHEDULE
*Readings and Guests Subject to Change*

Class 1: September 3

*Introduction*

The professor will introduce the format and objectives for the course and facilitate the first class discussion.

Required Readings:
- Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Introduction
- Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Introduction
- Pre-class email

Class 2: September 10

*Core Ideas, Tools & Tactics I*

Required Readings:
- Bruce Katz and Jeremy Nowak, “The New Localism”, Chapter 2
- Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Chapters 6-8, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22 (divided amongst students):
- Glaeser, Chapter 1, 6, Conclusion

Class 3: September 17

*Core Ideas Tools & Tactics II
Case Study: Times Square 1970s – 2000, Part 1*

Required Readings:
- Sagalyn, *Times Square Roulette*, Preface, Chapters 1 – 6

*Short Assignment 1 due by 8:00pm on Sept. 20*

Class 4: September 24

*Case Study: Times Square 1970s – 2000, Part 2
Review of Classes and Assignments to Date; Discussion of Final Paper Goals, Objectives & Research*

Required Readings:
- Sagalyn, *Times Square Roulette*, Chapters 7 – 11 (divided amongst students), Epilogue

Class 5: October 1

*Assets, Liabilities & Competitive Forces
Case Study: Singapore
Guest Speaker: Todd Rufo, Bloomberg Associates*

Required Readings:
- The Singapore Economic Development Board: *Why Singapore* – website
Class 6: October 8

Crime, the Community and Trust

Case Study: Broken Windows

Guest Speaker: Fred Davie, Chair, Civilian Complaint Review Board / Former Member of the White House Council of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Required Readings:

- Glaeser, The Triumph of the City, Chapter 4
- Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Chapter 2
- NPR, How a Theory of Crime and Policing Was Born, and Went Terribly Wrong (Nov. 2016)
- City Journal, Why We Need Broken Windows Policing (Winter 2015)
- NYPD Working Group Marijuana Report (June 2018)
- Civilian Complaint Review Board website: “About,” “Administrative Prosecution Unit” and “Body Worn Cameras” sections
- Civilian Complaint Review Board, 2018 Annual Report
- White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, “Compassion in Action” Roundtable Report (March 2007)
- President’s Advisory Council on Face-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, “A New Era of Partnerships,” Introduction (March 2010)
- City Charter Commission, Final Report, p. 5-6, 47-57 (July 2019)

No session October 15: Classes meet according to a Monday schedule

Class 7: October 22

Public-Private Partnerships and BIDs/BIAs/CIDs

Required Readings:

- International Downtown Association (IDA), Publications page, just skim
- City Parks Alliance, Closing the Gap: Public and Private Funding Strategies for Neighborhood Parks (2015)
- Times Square Alliance, *20 Years, 20 Principles* (2012)
- Downtown DC BID, *2018 Annual Report*, p.4-7, skim the rest (2018)
- Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, *State of Downtown Pittsburgh*, read Intro and skim the rest (2019)
- NYC Department of Small Business Services, *District Needs Survey*

**Class 8: October 29**

*Advocacy, Press and Communications*

**Guest Speaker:** Caitlin Lewis, former Director of External Affairs at the Times Square Alliance and Former Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development

Required Readings:
- Times Square legislation briefing book and other advocacy materials and articles uploaded to Classes
- New York Magazine, "New York City’s Development Czar Alicia Glen talks Amazon HQ2 and affordable housing" (Nov 2018)
- New York Times, "New York Should Say No to Amazon" (Nov 2018)
- Crain’s New York, "What Critics Get Wrong About Amazon’s HQ2" (Dec 2018)
- Wall Street Journal, “Amazon to New York: It’s Not Me, It’s You” (Feb 2019)

**Class 9: November 5**

*Arts & Urban Revitalization*

**Guest Speaker:** Jean Cooney, Director of Times Square Arts / former Deputy Director of Creative Time, and Kemi Ilesanmi, Executive Director of the Laundromat Project

Required Readings:
- “The Ruse of the Creative Class”
First Draft of Final Presentation due Noon on November 12th

Class 10: November 12
Housing, Equity & Community-Based Economic Development
Case Study: Brownsville & NYCHA
Guest Speaker: Rasmia Kirmani-Frye, former President of the Fund for Public Housing

Required Readings:
• Glaeser, Chapter 3, 7
• Jacobs, Chapter 3, 15, 20
• Community Solutions – Program Summary
• Auspos, Patricia and Cabaj, Mark, “Complexity and Community Change,” The Aspen Institute, September 2014
• Weinstein, Wolin, Rose, “Trauma Informed Community Building,” Health Equity Institute, May 2014
• The Brownsville Partnership – information sheets
• City Visions: Rasmia Kirmani-Frye, July 2016
• Motherboard, Your City’s Cheapest Housing Is Also Most At Risk, May 2017

Short Assignment 2 due by noon on Nov. 19

Class 11: November 19
Struggling Cities
Case Study: Atlantic City + Baltimore
Guest Speaker: Curtis Bashaw, former Founder of Cape Advisors and Executive Director of Casino Reinvestment Development Authority

Required Readings:
• Selected Readings on Atlantic City (see NYU Classes)
• Glaeser, Chapter 2
• Jacobs, Chapter 13

Class 12: November 26
Parks, Public Spaces, Partnerships & Social Capital
Case Studies: The Bronx River & DOT Pedestrian Plazas
Guest Speaker: Sabina Saragoussi, Partnerships for Parks

Required Readings:
• Bronx River Alliance + Partnerships for Parks materials uploaded to Classes
• Jacobs, Chapter 5

Class 13: December 3
Oral Presentations & Class Discussion

Class 14: December 10
Oral Presentations & Class Discussion

FINAL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE DECEMBER 17