INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

“For illustrations, please look closely at real cities. 
While you are looking, you might as well also listen, linger, 
and think about what you see.”
- Jane Jacobs

“The city as a built form can, it is true, be regarded as a set 
of objects arranged according to some pattern in space. 
But there are few who would argue that cities are just that.”
- David Harvey

What are cities and what forms can they take? How have cities changed and what forces have influenced that change? Who are cities for? Even though the majority of the human population today lives in cities, the answers to these questions are not necessarily obvious and can be difficult to come by. Indeed, there are a myriad of perspectives that help us come to grips with cities - in different ways history, geography, political science, economics, sociology, architecture and urban design, anthropology, and other social science disciplines all contribute to our understanding of urbanization, both as a process and as a material thing.

This course will trace the evolution of the American city, from the compact colonial town to the sprawling post-modern metropolis. Along the way we will examine some of the key forces responsible for urban transformation, such as changes in transportation technology and economic restructuring, and the impact of this change on people. We will also discuss how some important observers of the urban scene, from sociologists to architects to journalists have grappled with what they see, and how they have contribute to and advance our understanding of cities. The course is arranged in an essentially historical fashion, but breaks from that structure in the last part with a section on urban planning.

USP 401 "Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning" is a required course for Urban Studies Planning Majors and Minors. Enrollment in USP 401 is limited to 20 students. In addition to introducing students to the substantive fields of urban studies and urban planning, a major objective of USP 401 is on honing communication skills— particularly writing ability. Oral communication skills will also be practiced. USP 401 satisfies the
Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). Students must have completed ENG 214 with a C or better to enroll in USP 401.

Students must pass USP 401 with a C grade or better to satisfy GWAR requirements and the USP program requirement. Students must take USP 401 for a letter grade, not credit/no credit. Furthermore, grade equivalents below a C are required to be submitted as NC (no credit) - there are no D or F grades in this course.

**Course Format and Requirements**

**Seminar:**
Rather than being entirely lecture-based, this course is a seminar. While typically Tuesday classes will be devoted to lecture, many Thursdays will be devoted to student-led discussion. Some time will also be spent on various other activities, with a focus on writing.

**Writing emphasis:**
There will be several writing assignments for this class as USP 401 satisfies the SFSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). A major purpose of the class is to help students integrate substantive literature from Urban Studies and Planning in developing writing skills and styles specific to these fields. All students must submit four (4) 500 word (two-page double spaced) papers and one 3000 word paper (12 pages double spaced) totaling a minimum of 5,000 words that demonstrate proficiency in upper-division written English. Each student must submit a complete draft of the final course paper before it is due, and incorporate received feedback in the final paper.

**Required Texts**
There are two required textbooks for this course:

- Birch, Eugenie L. 2009. The Urban and Regional Planning Reader. New York: Routledge. (Referred to as Birch in the syllabus)


- In addition, readings are posted to my DiVa page for the course. Author last names are in this syllabus; refer to the reading schedule to be handed out for full bibliographic information.
Grading and Assignments

- 3 Reading Summaries 10% each, total 30% (refer to reading schedule for due dates)
- Research Paper prep work
  - Annotated bibliography 10%
  - Detailed outline 10%
- Final paper & presentation
  1. Writing (20%)
  2. PPT (10%)
  3. Total 30%
- Attendance/participation 20%

Late assignments
For each day that an assignment is late, 10% of the grade will be deducted (for example, if an assignment is turned in 24 hours late, 1 points will now be deducted from the score if the maximum possible points were 10); no assignment will be accepted if more than 7 days late.

“Take care of the easy stuff.” Spell-check your assignments, and READ them (aloud always helps). Check for grammatical errors. An error-free paper looks professional and is much more likely to get a more favorable response than a sloppy one.

Other Essentials:

Disability Programs and Resource Center: Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC, located in SSB 110, can be reached by telephone at 415-338-2472 (voice/TTY) or by e-mail at dprc@sfsu.edu.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! If you copy any text, you must indicate this by quoting and citing the author(s). You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with what plagiarism is and how you can avoid plagiarizing, even accidentally. Plagiarism as defined by the SFSU College of Humanities is: “Plagiarism is a form of cheating or fraud; it occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own.” Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action. The SFSU Student Code of Conduct mentions likely sanctions for plagiarism (http://virga.sfsu.edu/pub/data/Appx_G/2.SFSU_StudCodeOfConduct.html)
**Learning Objectives:**
Students who complete this course should:

- Demonstrate proficiency in writing that conforms to norms of the fields of Urban Studies and Planning, and the social sciences more generally;
- Practice to communicate effectively the main import of their written work orally and using Powerpoint;
- Understand the essential physical and social evolution of the American city from colonial American society to the present day;
- Be familiar with the evolution of planning and its role in American urbanization;
- Understand and develop informed opinions regarding the issues and problems associated with suburbanization;
- Be familiar with how people alter the built environment, and in turn how changes in the built environment affect people;
- Understand how different modes of transportation have affected, and continue to influence, urban development;
- Become familiar with some of the classic writing and work of urbanists;
- Learn how urbanists approach the task of understanding cities;
- Be familiar with key problems facing American cities and gain an appreciation of your own role in the life of cities

**Course Outline**

**T Aug 28**  
**Introduction to course: What is Urban Studies? What is it to be urban? What makes a city a city? Course content, requirements, readings etc..**

READING:  None

**Th Aug 30**  
**How to Look at Cities: Kevin Lynch’s edges, nodes, districts. Mental Maps. Is just looking at the “built environment” enough to really understand a city?**

READING:  Lynch, Jackson 1, 2
T Sep 4  The Evolution of American Cities: from the colonial to the industrial

Th Sep 6  The Problems and Promise of the Industrial City
READINGS: Jackson 5, 6

T Sep 11 In-class exercise, writing in urban studies and planning I
READING: a selection from Urban Action

Th Sep 13 Escaping the central city: early suburanization.
READINGS: Jackson 7, 9

T Sep 18 Rise of the modern city - American urbanization early 1900s to 1945 (or so)
Out and up and out: the automobile and the new suburb, skyscrapers and the new city

Th Sep 20 Case study: A brief history of San Francisco’s evolution
READINGS: Jackson 10

T Sep 25 Writing and research II
READINGS: Jackson 11, 12

Th Sep 27 Urban theory and thinkers I – Engels; the first urban sociologists – Simmel and Weber; the Chicago School and its attempt to model urban spatial structure.
READINGS: Engels

T Oct 2 Visionary architects and the modern city; the evolving suburb.
Th Oct 4  Discussion 1

READINGS: Relph (5); LeCorbusier, Wright; Wirth, J.B Jackson; Relph (6)

T Oct 9  American Urbanization from 1950 to 1975 (or so): from de-industrialization and the decline of the central city to the rise of the service sector and the post-industrial city.

Th Oct 11  Discussion 2

READING: Jacobs - Intro (All); Jacobs 2, 6, 12; Mumford

T Oct 16  American Urbanization 1975 and after – The Postmodern City, Edge Cities, Technoburbs, the Entrepreneurial City, the City of Spectacle.

Th Oct 18  Discussion 3

READING: Knox, Fishman, Sharp and Wallock, Garreau

T Oct 23  Urban theory and thinkers II: The LA School, the Right to the City movement, some contemporary thinking about cities.

Th Oct 25  Discussion 4

READING: Davis; Madanipour, Harvey; Soja; Curran

T Oct 30  Globalization and the idea of the world city. Whose city is it now?

Th Nov 1  Discussion 5

READING: Sassen, Castells; Nijman; Weber, Laquian; Herod

T Nov 6  The evolution of urban planning I: From the grid to the plan. Early visions of for better cities: the City Beautiful and Garden City Movements.
**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DETAILED OUTLINE DUE**

Th Nov 8  Discussion 6

READING from BIRCH: Moor and Warah (1), U.S. Dept of Housing (2), Ross and Leigh (3), Orfield (6), Sullivan and Michael (11), Taylor (12), Fainstein (13), Kaiser and Godschalk (21).

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DETAILED OUTLINE DUE**

T Nov 13  The evolution of urban planning II: planning and the modern city.

Th Nov 15  Discussion 7

READING from BIRCH: Hopkins (24), Kaiser et al (25), Barnett (26), Garvin (29), Faga (32), Barrett (33), Lucy and Phillips (37), Hack (39)

T Nov 20  No Class - Thanksgiving

Th Nov 22  No Class - Thanksgiving

T Nov 27  The evolution of urban planning III: Planning as if people and places matter.

Th Nov 29  Discussion 8

READING from BIRCH: Ross and Leigh (3), Qadeer (4), Davidoff (18), Hoch et al (27), Myers (30), Duany et al (38), U.N. Population Fund (40); Arnstein, Wheeler

T Dec 4  Contemporary planning issues - sprawl, regions, and beyond.

READING from Birch: Kotkin (5), Beatley (42), Nolan (43), Rota (45),

Th Dec 6  Final Report Presentations

T Dec 11  Final Report Presentations
Th Dec 13       Final Report Presentations

*FINAL REPORT PRESENTATIONS ARE ALSO SCHEDULED DURING PERIOD SCHEDULED FOR FINAL EXAM – FINAL PAPERS DUE.*

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Misc Information

**Final Exam:** According to Academic Senate policy F76-12 a time period is set aside at the end of each semester for a formal examination period. All classes are expected to meet during the final examination period whether an examination is given or not. The final examination schedule is published each semester in the Class Schedule.
http://www.sfsu.edu/~acadres/final_exams/finalf12.htm

**CHSS Withdrawal Policy:** The last day to drop a class is **September 10th, 2012 at midnight.** From September 11th–November 26th, 2012 you must submit a withdrawal petition. Withdrawal from a class after **September 10th, 2012** will be considered for serious and compelling reasons only and must have accompanying documentation. The following reasons are not considered **serious and compelling:** Changing your major, poor performance, class not required for graduation/major, or more time needed for other classes. If you wish to withdraw from class due to unexpected changes in your work schedule, illness or family emergencies, documentation will be required, along with a copy of unofficial transcripts. If you are requesting a withdrawal, bring your petition and appropriate documentation to the instructor. From **November 27th-December 17th, 2012** you may not withdraw from a class or the University, except in the case of a **serious** documented illness or verified accident.

**CR/NC Option:** **October 23rd, 2012 (by midnight)** is the last day to request the CR/NC option. The Associate Dean will not approve requests for changes if you miss this deadline.

**Late Add Policy:** The period to add classes via permit numbers is **August 27th-September 10th (midnight), 2012.** The period to add classes by Exception (2nd set of permit numbers) is **September 11th-24th, 2012.** It is your responsibility to procure a late permit number from your instructor and add the class. Faculty cannot add you into a class. After **September 24th, 2012** a Waiver of College Regulations form must be signed by your instructor, Chair and CHSS Associate Dean to add. This will be approved only if there was an administrative error.

**Check your registration through MySFSU:** Sign up for CR/NC, drop and add classes by the appropriate deadline online through MySFSU. **ALWAYS** check your registration after making any changes and **BEFORE** deadlines to be sure you are registered properly for your classes. This is a student responsibility.
Deadlines for all registration procedures, including withdrawals and requests for credit/no credit, are listed in the class schedule and will be strictly adhered to by the instructor, the Department Chair and the Associate Dean of College of Health and Social Sciences.

This can be viewed on the Registration Calendar at the following website: http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/regsched124.html

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