Course Description

This course is designed to give students an overview of neighborhood development and politics in the nation’s capital. In this class students will explore and interrogate the history of planning and development in Washington, DC from the 19th to the 21st century, from the 1791 L’Enfant Plan to the 2005 Duke Ellington U Street Plan. The course will focus heavily on how race and politics, both local and federal, have shaped the contours of DC’s physical and social landscape. The course is broken into four sequential sections. The first examines the early years and focuses on the creation and implementation of the L’Enfant Plan and the reconstruction period. The second part of the course investigates DC development during the first half of the 20th century and the emergence of Chocolate City. The third section centers on the 1968 DC riots, the emergence of Home Rule and the Marion Barry regime. The final part of the class explores current DC redevelopment patterns, in particular the growth of downtown and its relationship to neighborhood gentrification, and the changing demographics of the city. This course will be of interest to students who want to understand the evolution of DC’s political structure and its relationship to the city’s development trajectory over time.

Learning Objectives

Through this course you will

- become aware of the complex racial and political landscape in DC and how it has changed over time and influenced development patterns.

- comprehend how the federal government influences neighborhood development in DC.

- understand why planning in DC is unique compared to other U.S. cities.

- gain an understanding of the factors that drive urban growth (or decline) in DC.

- understand the current fiscal and social challenges facing DC.
Required Books (7)


Buy the required books.
Additional required books are posted on Blackboard.

Assignments

1. **Participation**
   I expect that you come prepared for each class session, that you have read the materials, that you contribute constructively to class discussions, and successfully complete assigned tasks.

2. **Class Facilitation (once during the semester)**
   Students will sign up to facilitate discussion for one of the course readings. This will require you to lead class discussion and guide your peers in understanding assigned readings.

3. **Reading Notes**
   Each week, students need to prepare a set of reading notes, ideas, and questions (1-page in length, doubled spaced) in response to assigned readings. These notes are due at 5 pm the day before class on Blackboard.

4. **Final Research Paper and Presentation**
   Each student will be required to write a 20-page (double spaced) research paper on an aspect of planning and development in Washington, DC. Detailed instructions will follow. Students will present the findings of their papers to the class.

Grading

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<tr>
<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Class Facilitation</td>
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<td>Paper Presentation</td>
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<td><strong>Reading Notes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>20-Page Research Paper</strong></td>
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## Class Schedule for Spring 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Part I</strong></td>
<td>-----</td>
<td><em>The Early Years, 1800s-1890s</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>January 15, 2015</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>January 22, 2015</td>
<td>Why Study National Capital Cities? The L’Enfant Plan to the Civil War</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>January 29, 2015</td>
<td>Reconstruction DC Style and African-American Alley Life</td>
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<td><strong>Part II</strong></td>
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<td><em>20th Century Development and the Emergence of Chocolate City</em></td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>February 5, 2015</td>
<td>Segregated DC, 1910s-1930s</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>February 12, 2015</td>
<td>The Push Back of Black America</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>February 19, 2015</td>
<td>African-American Ghetto Life and the Inner Freeway</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>February 26, 2015</td>
<td>Boss Barry</td>
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<td><strong>Part III</strong></td>
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<td><em>Home Rule and the Revival of Downtown</em></td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 5, 2015</td>
<td>Home Rule?</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 12, 2015</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 19, 2015</td>
<td>Downtown Rule and Black Suburbanization</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>March 26, 2015</td>
<td>The End of the Barry Regime and Chocolate City</td>
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<td><strong>Part IV</strong></td>
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<td><em>21st Century Development: From Chocolate City to Condo City</em></td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>April 2, 2015</td>
<td>Neighborhood Redevelopment, Part I</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 9, 2015</td>
<td>Neighborhood Redevelopment, Part II</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 16, 2015</td>
<td>Inequitable Growth</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>April 23, 2015</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td><em>Final Papers due April 26 by 5pm</em></td>
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Week 2: Why Study National Capital Cities? The L’Enfant Plan to the Civil War


+Gillette, H. Between Justice and Beauty, Ch. 1-3, pp. 1-68.

Recommended

Week 3: Reconstruction DC Style and African-American Alley Life

*Gillette, H. Between Justice and Beauty, Ch. 4-6, pp. 69-129.

*Ruble, B. Washington’s U Street, Ch. 1, pp. 19-46.


Recommended

Week 4: Segregated DC, 1910s-1930s

*Ruble, B. Washington’s U Street, Ch. 2-4, pp. 47-171.

*Gillette, H. Between Justice and Beauty, Ch. 7, pp. 136-150

Recommended

Week 5: The Push Back of Black America

*Gillette, H. Between Justice and Beauty, Ch. 8 and 9, pp. 151-189.

*Jaffe and Sherwood. Dream City, Ch. 1-3, pp. 1-61.
Recommended

**Week 6: African American Ghetto Life and the Inner Freeway**


Recommended

**Week 7: Boss Barry**

*Jaffe and Sherwood. *Dream City*, Ch. 4-13, pp. 63-290.

Recommended

**Week 8: Home Rule?**

*Harris, C. *Congress and the Governance of the Nation’s Capital*, Ch. 1 and 2, pp. 1-42.


*Gillette, H. *Between Justice and Beauty*, Ch. 10 & Conclusion, pp. 190-214.

Recommended

**Week 9: Spring Break – No Class**

**Week 10: Downtown Rule and Black Suburbanization**


Recommended


**Week 11: End of the Barry Regime and Chocolate City**


**Recommended**


**Week 12: Neighborhood Redevelopment, Part I**


**Recommended**


**Week 13: Neighborhood Redevelopment, Part II**


**Recommended**


**Week 14: Inequitable Growth**


Recommended

**Week 15: Student Presentations (final papers due April 26th)**