
PUAD 685 – DC Policy & Politics

Spring 2023

Time: Thursday, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Watkins Bldg., Room 110

Prof: [Derek Hyra](#)

Office Hrs: Thursdays from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

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 2015 Southwest Neighborhood 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 uprisings, 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. We will interrogate DC's transformation from Chocolate City into the Cappuccino City by examining neighborhood changes in Shaw, Anacostia, Southwest, and the H Street Corridor. 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.

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 and politics in DC are 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

- Asch, M. Chris, and George, D. Musgrove. (2017). *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*. The University of North Carolina Press.
- Golash-Boza, Tanya. (2023). *Before Gentrification: The Creation of DC's Racial Wealth Gap*. University of California Press.
- Gillette, Howard, Jr. (1995). *Between Justice and Beauty*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Hyra, Derek. (2017). *Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Jaffe, Harry, and Sherwood, Tom. (2014). *Dream City: Race, Power, and the Decline of Washington, DC*. Argo-Navis.
- Ruble, Blair. (2010). *Washington's U Street*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press/John Hopkins University Press.
- Summers, T. Brandi. (2019). *Black in Place. The Spatial Aesthetics of Race in a Post-Chocolate City*. The University of North Carolina Press.

Buy the required books.

Additional course readings are posted on Canvas.

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 Canvas.

4. Final Research Paper and Presentation

Each student will be required to write a 15-page (double spaced) research paper on an aspect of policy and politics in Washington, DC. Detailed instructions will follow. Students will present the findings of their papers to the class.

Grading

Participation	20%
Class Participation	
Class Facilitation	
Paper Presentation	
Reading Notes	20%
15-Page Research Paper	60%

Class Schedule for Spring 2023

	Dates	Topics
<i>Part I</i>	-----	<i>The Early Years, 1800s-1890s</i>
Week 1	January 19	Introduction
Week 2	January 26	Why Study National Capital Cities? The L'Enfant Plan to the Civil War
Week 3	February 2	Reconstruction DC Style and African American Alley Life
<i>Part II</i>	-----	<i>20th Century Development and the Emergence of Chocolate City</i>
Week 4	February 9	Segregated DC, 1910s-1930s
Week 5	February 16	The Push Back of Black America
Week 6	February 23	Boss Barry
<i>Part III</i>	-----	<i>Home Rule and the Revival of Downtown</i>
Week 7	March 2	Home Rule?
Week 8	March 9	Downtown Rule and Black Suburbanization
Week 9	March 16	<i>Spring Break – No Class</i>
Week 10	March 23	The End of the Barry Regime and Chocolate City
<i>Part IV</i>	-----	<i>21st Century Development: From Chocolate City to Cappuccino City</i>
Week 11	March 30	The Greater U Street Area, Gone!
Week 12	April 6	Inequity along the Waterfront
Week 13	April 13	Gentrification and Criminal Justice (<i>Guest Speaker: Tanya Golash-Boza</i>)
Week 14	April 20	“Diversity” on the H Street Corridor (<i>Guest Speaker: Shilpi Malinowski</i>)
Week 15	April 27	Student Presentations <i>Final Papers due April 30 by 5pm</i>

*Required book
+Posted on Canvas

Week 1: Introductions

Week 2: Why Study National Capital Cities? The L'Enfant Plan to the Civil War

+Campbell, S. (2003). The Enduring Importance of National Capital Cities in the Global Era, pp. 1-32.

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

Recommended

Cary, F.C. (1996). *Washington Odyssey: A Multicultural History of the Nation's Capital*. Smithsonian Books.

Green, C.M. (1962). *Washington: A History of the Capital, 1800-1950*. Princeton University Press.

Klemek, C. Exceptionalism and the National Capital in the Late 20th Century Paris and Washington, DC. In Hyra, D. and Prince, S. eds. *Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC*. Routledge.

Mayer, H., Sager, F., Kaufmann, D., and Warland, M. (2018). *The Political Economy of Capital Cities*. New York: Routledge.

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.

+Borchert, J. (1980). *Alley Life in Washington*, Ch. 1, pp. 1-56.

Recommended

Masur, K. (2010). *An Example for All the Land*. The University of North Carolina Press.

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. 135-150.

+Jackson, M. Race, Desegregation, and the Fight for Equality in the Nation's Capital. In Hyra, D. and Prince, S. eds. *Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC*, pp. 27-44.

Recommended

Green, C.M. (1967). *The Secret City: A History of Race Relations in the Nation's Capital*. Princeton University Press.

Holloway, J.S. (2002). *Confronting the Veil*. The University of North Carolina Press.

Moore, J.M. (1999). *Leading the Race: The Transformation of the Black Elite in the Nation's Capital, 1880-1920*. University of Virginia Press.

Week 5: The Push Back of Black America

*Asch, M.C. and Musgrove, G.D. *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*, Ch. 10-12, pp. 285-389.

Recommended

Green, M.S. (2009). *Washington, D.C. Protests*. Charleston, SC: The History Press.

Huron, A. (2018). *Carving Out the Commons: Tenant Organizing and Housing Cooperatives in Washington, D.C.* University of Minnesota Press.

Pearlman, L. (2019). *Democracy's Capital: Black Political Power in Washington, D.C., 1960s-1970s*. The University of North Carolina Press.

Valk, A.M. (2008). *Radical Sisters*. University of Illinois Press.

Walker, J.S. (2018). *Most of 14th Street Is Gone: The Washington, DC Riots of 1968*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 6: Boss Barry

*Jaffe, H. and Sherwood, T. *Dream City*, Ch. 6-13, pp. 115-290.

Recommended

Gilbert, B. (1968). *Ten Blocks from the White House*. Frederick A. Praeger.

Barras, J.R. (1998). *The Last of the Black Emperors*. Bancroft Press.

Week 7: Home Rule?

+Harris, C. (1995). *Congress and the Governance of the Nation's Capital*, Ch. 1 & 2, pp. 1-42.

+Fautroy, M. (2003). *Home Rule or House Rule?*, Intro., Ch. 2, pp. 1-63 and Ch. 7, pp. 195-210.

*Gillette, H. *Between Justice and Beauty*, Conclusion, pp. 208-214.

Recommended

Walters, R. and Travis, T.C. (2010). *Democratic Destiny and the District of Columbia*. Lexington Books.

Week 8: Downtown Rule and Black Suburbanization

+Gale, D. (1987). *Washington, D.C.: Inner-City Revitalization and Minority Suburbanization*, Ch. 1-5, pp. 3-83 and Ch. 7, pp. 110-128.

+Ndubuizu, R. (2021). In the State's Shadow of Fair Housing: D.C. (White) Business Leaders and Their Revanchist Desires. *Urban Affairs Review* 57(6): 1558-1589.

Recommended

Farrar, M.E. (2008). *Building the Body Politic: Power and Urban Space in Washington, D.C.* University of Illinois Press.

Lacy, K.R. (2007). *Blue-Chip Black*. University of California Press.

McGovern, S.J. (1998). *The Politics of Downtown Development*. The University Press of Kentucky.

Schrag, Z. (2006). *The Great Society Subway: A History of the Washington Metro*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Williams, B. (1988). *Upscaling Downtown*. Cornell University Press.

Week 9: Spring Break – No Class

Week 10: End of the Barry Regime and Chocolate City

+Knox, P.L. (1991). The Restless Urban Landscape: Economic and Socio-Cultural Change and the Transformation of Washington, D.C. *Annals of the Association of Geographers* 81(2): 181-209.

*Jaffe and Sherwood. *Dream City*, Ch. 14-16, and Afterword, pp. 291-378, 389-441.

Recommended

Bratman, E. (2011). Development's Paradox: Is Washington DC a Third World City? *Third World Quarterly* 32(9): 1541-1556.

Jackson, J. (2015). The Consequences of Gentrification for Racial Change in Washington, DC. *Housing Policy Debate* 25(2): 353-373.

Modan, G.G. (2007). *Turf Wars*. Blackwell Publishing.

Ruble, R.A. (2005). *Creating Diversity Capital*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Week 11: The Greater U Street Area, Gone

*Hyra, D. *Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City*, Ch. 1 & 4-8, pp. 3-22 & 75-168.

Recommended

Gallaher, C. (2016). *The Politics of Staying Put: Condo Conversion and Tenant Right-to-Buy in Washington, DC*. Temple University Press.

Hopkinson, N. (2012). *Go-Go Live: The Musical Life and Death of a Chocolate City*. Duke University Press.

Lornell, K., and C.C. Stephenson. (2009). *The Beat! Go-Go Music from Washington, D.C.* University Press of Mississippi.

Week 12: Inequity Along the Waterfront

+Williams, B. Beyond Gentrification: Investment and Abandonment on the Waterfront. In Hyra, D. and Prince, S. eds. *Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC*, pp. 227-238.

+Anguelovski, I., Brand, A.L., Ranganathan, M., and Hyra, D. (2021). Decolonizing the Green City: From Environmental Privilege to Emancipatory Green Justice. *Environmental Justice*, pp. 1-11.

+Levin, A. and Hyra, D. (2020). The Wharf: A Monumental Waterfront Urban Regeneration Development in Washington, DC. Washington, DC: The Metropolitan Policy Center, pp. 1-56.

Recommended

Austin, P.C. (2019). *Coming of Age in Jim Crow DC: Navigating the Politics of Everyday Life*. New York: New York University Press.

Ranganathan, M. and Bratman, E. (2019). From Urban Resilience to Abolitionist Climate Justice in Washington, DC. *Antipode* 53(1): 115-137.

Reese, A.M. (2019). *Black Food Geographies: Race, Self-Reliance, and Food Access in Washington, D.C.* The University of North Carolina Press.

Week 13: Gentrification and Criminal Justice (Guest Speaker: Tanya Golash-Boza)

*Golash-Boza, T. (2023). *Before Gentrification: The Creation of DC's Racial Wealth Gap*. Chapters 3 & 4, pp. 99-186.

+Helmuth, A.S. (2019). "Chocolate City, Rest in Peace": White Space-Claiming and the Exclusion of Black People in Washington, DC. *City & Community*, pp. 746-769.

Recommended

Castaneda, R. (2014). *S Street Rising: Crack, Murder, and Redemption in D.C.* New York: Bloomsbury.

Golash-Boza, T., Oh, H., & Kane, R. (2022). "Gentrification, White Encroachment, and the Policing of Black Residents in Washington, DC. *Critical Criminology*, pp. 1-22.

Prince, S. (2014). *African Americans and Gentrification in Washington, D.C.: Race, Class and Social Justice in the Nation's Capital*. Ashgate.

Week 14: "Diversity" on the H Street Corridor (Guest Speaker: Shilpi Malinowski)

*Summers, B. *Black in Place. The Spatial Aesthetics of Race in a Post-Chocolate City*, Intro, Ch. 2-5, pp. 1-27 & 61-167.

+Malinowski, S. (2021). *Shaw, LeDroit Park and Bloomingdale in Washington, DC: An Oral History*, Ch. 4-5, pp. 58-103.

Recommended

Erickson, B.O., Esser, D.E., and Turner, K. (2021). Spatial Dynamics of Racialized Income Inequality in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. *The Professional Geographer* 73(1): 72-84.

Grier, S.A. and Perry, V.G. (2018). Dog Parks and Coffee Shops: Faux Diversity and Consumption in Gentrifying Neighborhoods. *Journal of Public Policy & Marketing* 37(1): 23-38.

Week 15: Student Presentations, final papers due on Sunday, April 30 by 5 pm)
