Course Description

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive overview of United States (US) urban and community development policy since the 1950s. This is the time when many urban centers were engulfed in turmoil due to social unrest. The course will explore different federal initiatives aimed at alleviating concentration poverty, urban blight, and spatial and racial inequalities across urban America. Initiatives covered include urban renewal, public housing, the Great Society Programs, Model Cities, the housing choice voucher program, the Empowerment Zone program, the HOPE VI program, inclusionary zoning, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and Opportunity Zones. Though federal policies stemming from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development will be a primary focus, the role of city governments, and the use of Tax Increment Financing and Business Improvement Districts, will also be discussed. Throughout the course we will interrogate how federal and local urban policies relate to central city development, neighborhood poverty, segregation, suburbanization, and gentrification. The course will conclude by exploring the post-2010 US uprisings in Ferguson and Baltimore and those following the murder of George Floyd. We will consider the extent to which urban policies in the late-20th and early-21st centuries have mitigated (or exacerbated) conditions associated with unrest. Students will come away from this course with a thorough understanding of the major US urban initiatives over time and how these policies have shaped our contemporary metropolitan landscape.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Through this course you will:
- understand an array of US urban and community development policies that have been implemented since 1950;
- learn about the link between US urban policies and suburban and central city neighborhood development;
- have a better understanding of how the federal and local governments work together to produce urban change; and
- understand the complex relationship between urban policy and social unrest.
Required Books (7)


Buy the required books online.
Additional course readings are posted on Canvas.

Assignments

1. Participation
   Students will come prepared for each class session, read the materials, contribute constructively to class discussions, and successfully complete assignments.

2. Reading Notes (12)
   Each week, students will prepare reading notes, ideas, questions, and critiques (one page in length, doubled spaced) in response to assigned readings. These notes are due at 5pm the day before class and will be handed in through Canvas.

3. Final Research Paper and Presentation
   Each student will write a 15-page research paper based on some aspect of urban policy that we have covered in class. Students will present their papers to the class.

Grading

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Reading Notes (12)</td>
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<td>15-Page Research Paper</td>
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Week 1: Introductions

There is no assigned reading for week one.

Week 2: The Kerner Report

*The Kerner Report*, Summary, Chapters 6-8, 11, and 16, pp. 1-30, 238-277, 301-323, and 390-409. [This reading is also available on Canvas]

Recommended

Week 3: Urban Renewal and Unrest


Recommended

Week 4: The Response: Model Cities, CDCs, CDBGs, and Welfare Reforms


Recommended

**Week 5: Neighborhood Poverty, 1970 to 1990**


Recommended

**Week 6: The Empowerment Zones and the HOPE VI Program**


Recommended

**Week 7: Mobility, Dispersal, and Inclusionary Zoning Policies**


Recommended
**Week 8: TIFs, BIDs, and Political Fragmentation**


Recommended


**Week 9: The Kerner Report Revisited: Ferguson and Baltimore**


Recommended


**Week 10: Gentrification on the Rise**


Recommended


**Week 11: Obama and Trump Era Urban Policies**


Recommended

**Week 12: Policing, Concentrated Poverty, and Unrest**


Recommended

**Week 13: No Class – Thanksgiving Break – Work on Your Final Papers**

**Week 14: Where Are We Headed?**


Recommended

**Week 15: Student Presentations (Final papers due Sunday, December 11th by 5pm)**