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, housing choice voucher programs, the Empowerment Zone program, the HOPE VI program, inclusionary zoning, and the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. 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 riots in Ferguson and Baltimore and we will consider the extent to which urban policies in the late 20th and early 21st centuries have mitigated (or exacerbated) conditions associated with social 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 (6)**


Buy the required books online.

Additional course readings are posted on Blackboard.

**Assignments**

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

   Two extra points will be added to your participation grade for each Metropolitan Policy Center Author Talk Series events you attend. There will be three Saturday Author Talk Series events from 2pm-4pm at the Anacostia Community Museum (1901 Fort Place, SE, Washington, DC 20020) on January 18, February 22, and March 21. Students will also receive two extra credit participation points for attending the Metropolitan Policy Center’s Annual Spring Lecture featuring Loretta Lees on March 26 from 4pm-5pm in AU’s School of International Service, Founders Room.

2. **Reading Notes**
   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 Blackboard.

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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<td>Paper Presentation</td>
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<td>Reading Notes (11)</td>
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<td>15-Page Research Paper</td>
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*Required book
+Blackboard

**Week 1: United Planning Organization’s Equity in Affordable Housing Forum**

Attend the United Planning Organization’s Equity in Affordable Housing Forum from 5pm-7pm at the Washington Marriot at Metro Center, 775 12th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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 Blackboard]

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: BIDs and TIFs**


Recommended


**Week 9: Spring Break – No Class**

**Week 10: The Kerner Report Revisited: Ferguson and Baltimore**


Recommended


**Week 11: Gentrification on the Rise**


Recommended


**Week 12: Obama Era Urban Policy**


**Recommended**


**Week 13: Where Are We Headed?**


**Recommended**


**Weeks 14 and 15: Student Presentations (Final papers due Sunday, April 26th by 5pm)**