

Community Planning in New York City (URBG 787.40) Fall Semester 2019

Wednesdays, 7:35-9:25 pm, Hunter West Room 1639

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30 and by appointment

What is this course about? This course has two objectives. The first is to examine and reflect on current planning issues, controversies and dilemmas affecting New York City's communities. This entails an understanding of the historical and political context of planning in New York City as well as basic familiarity with the governmental and quasi-governmental institutions that currently shape the city's development. The second objective is to "look beneath the hood" of the non-governmental organizations involved in planning processes and planning politics, aka *civil society organizations*. In this endeavor, we will rely on the book *Inclusion and Democracy* by Iris Marion Young and a number of other readings that discuss ideas of "the public," the concept of multiple publics and counter-publics, and the relationship between civil society organizations and the government, often known in political science as "the state" (which is confusing). Students in the course will undertake their own investigations of civil society organizations trying to accomplish changes in planning and policy in NYC. The final section of the class will be dedicated to a close examination of the politics of the Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning, which is currently underway.

Text: *Inclusion and Democracy* is available from the Hunter College Library as an e-book. You can also purchase a used copy at alibris.com for between \$12 and \$20. Other readings are accessible from the course Blackboard site.

Expectations & Grading: The course requirements are: short reading reflections due **at midnight the Monday before class** in weeks, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (10% each); an in-class case presentation prepared collaboratively with two of your classmates in week 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14 (25%); and a one-question (approx. 1,500 words) take home exam handed out at the final class meeting on December 18th and due by midnight on Monday, December 22nd (25%).

Students should come to class ready to engage in discussion about the readings and ask questions/offer insights about the material presented. I highly value preparation and participation. Exceptional engagement in and contribution to class discussion will bump you up a half a grade at the end of the semester; poor attendance to class or disengagement from the discussion will exert the opposite effect.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity -- Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. I may conduct internet searches or use plagiarism detection services such as Turnitin.com to assess student work.

Accommodation --In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College’s students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointments contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214B, or call 212-772-4857, or e-mail AccessABILITY@hunter.cuny.edu.

Course structure and outline

<p>I. Framing concepts</p>	<p>1. AUGUST 28 Introduction – civil society and “the state;” the public sphere and multiple publics; theories of change.</p>
	<p>2. SEPTEMBER 4 Film – <i>Decade of Fire</i></p>
	<p>3. SEPTEMBER 11 Civil society organizations in the Bronx during and after the “decade of fire”</p>
	<p>4. SEPTEMBER 18 Young – Inclusive political communication</p>
	<p>5. SEPTEMBER 25 Young – Social difference as a political resource; Representation and social perspective</p>
	<p>6. OCTOBER 2 Young – Civil society and its limits</p>
	<p>7. OCTOBER 30 Civil Society and Residential Segregation</p>
<p>II. Participation in planning processes in NYC – Focus on Gowanus, BK</p>	<p>8. NOVEMBER 6 NYC’s ULURP Process and its critics</p>
	<p>9. NOVEMBER 13 The debate over comprehensive planning/Student case presentation 1</p>
	<p>10. NOVEMBER 20 The Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning/Student case presentation 2</p>
	<p>11. NOVEMBER 27 Civil society organizations and the Gowanus rezoning/Student case presentation 3</p>
	<p>12. DECEMBER 4 Environment and resiliency issues in Gowanus/Student case presentation 4</p>
	<p>13. DECEMBER 11 Workforce development and employment issues in Gowanus/Student case presentation 5</p>

14. DECEMBER 18

Student case presentation 6 and wrap-up discussion of course.

DETAILED SCHEDULE AND READINGS

1. AUGUST 28

Introduction – civil society, “the state,” and the public sphere; theories of change

Readings: 1. Iris Marion Young, *Inclusion and Democracy* Introduction (pp 1-14). PLEASE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS AT THE FIRST CLASS MEETING.

2. SEPTEMBER 4

Viewing and discussion of *Decade of Fire*

Read: *Theory of Change: A Practical Tool for Action, Results and Learning*. Prepared for Annie E. Casey Foundation by Organizational Research Services. 2004.

Reading reflection guidelines handed out.

3. SEPTEMBER 11

Civil society organizations in the Bronx during and after the “decade of fire”

Reading (reflection due September 9): selections from Harry DeRienzo’s *The Concept of Community: Lessons from the Bronx* (Milan, IPOC di Pietro Condemi, 2008).

Optional reading: Laura Wolf-Powers, Achievements and prospects of New York City’s self-help housing movement. In N. Gallent and D. Ciaffi eds., *Communities, Community Action, and Planning*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

4. SEPTEMBER 18

Inclusive political communication

Reading (reflection due September 16): *Inclusion and Democracy* Ch. 2, Inclusive Political Communication; Xavier de Souza Briggs, Doing Democracy Up Close: Culture, Power, and Communication in Community Building. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. 18: 1-13. 1998.

Case presentation assignment handed out.

5. SEPTEMBER 25

Social difference as a political resource; representation and social perspective

Reading (reflection due September 23): *Inclusion and Democracy* Ch. 3, Social Difference as a Political Resource; **ONE** of these two is required, the other is optional (you decide): Tarry Hum, (2010) Planning in Neighborhoods with Multiple Publics: Opportunities and Challenges for Community-based Non-profit Organizations. *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 29(4): 461-477 or Fernando Casteli di Castro, The Urban Non-Profit Complex: Thwarting the Rebel New York City. (Thesis, Parsons School of Design Masters program in Theories of Urban Practice)

Optional but short and interesting: Vu Le, The Game of Non-Profit, and how it leaves some communities behind. <https://nonprofitaf.com/2014/06/the-game-of-nonprofit-and-how-it-leaves-some-communities-behind/>

6. OCTOBER 2

Civil society and its limits

Readings (reflection due October 28): *Inclusion and Democracy* Chapter 5, Civil Society and its Limits. Read and reflect on **one** of the following in light of Chapter 5:

Michael Dawson, A Black Counterpublic? Economic Earthquakes, Racial Agenda(s), and Black Politics *Public Culture* 7(1): 193-223. 1994.

Jason W. Buel, Assembling the Living Archive: A Media-Archaeological Excavation of Occupy Wall Street, *Public Culture* 30(2): 283-303

Maria Sonevytsky, Radio Meydan: "Eastern Music" and the Liminal Sovereign Imaginaries of Crimea *Public Culture* 31(1): 93-116

Case Presentation group consultations w/ instructor

7. OCTOBER 30

Civil Society and Residential Segregation

Readings (reflection due November 4): 1. *Inclusion and Democracy* Ch. 6 Residential Segregation and Regional Democracy pp. 196-228. Paul Davidoff, Linda Davidoff and Neil N. Gold, "The Suburbs Have to Open their Gates." (New York Times, Nov 7 1971) Joaquin Sapien, 'The Hundredth Nail in the Coffin' for Integration in Westchester County. *ProPublica* 2017. Phil Kasinitz, "The Gentrification of Boerum Hill," *Qualitative Sociology* 11(3) Fall 1988: 163-182; Brad Lander, *Desegregating NYC: 12 Steps Toward a More Inclusive City* (April 2018)

Case Presentation group consultations w/ instructor

8. NOVEMBER 6

NYC's ULURP Process and its critics

Review: NYC Department of City Planning Community-Based Planning page

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/community/community-based-planning.page> and the Center for Urban Pedagogy's *What is ULURP?*

Read: Regional Plan Association *Inclusive City* report, January 2018; *Flawed Findings: How NYC's Approach to Measuring Displacement Risk Fails Communities*. Pratt Center for Community Development, 2018; Tom Angotti, *Zoned Out*, Ch. 1, Land Use and Zoning Matter

9. NOVEMBER 13

The debate over comprehensive planning /Student case presentation 1

K.C. Alvey, As NYC (Again) Considers Comprehensive Planning, History Offers Insight. *Metropolitiques* February 12, 2019. <https://www.metropolitiques.eu/As-NYC-Again-Considers-Comprehensive-Planning-History-Offers-Insight.html>

Savannah Jacobson, Charter Revision Commission Hears Expert Testimony on Land Use and Planning *Gotham Gazette* March 25, 2019

<https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/8385-charter-revision-commission-hears-expert-testimony-on-land-use-and-planning>

Brad Lander & Antonio Reynoso, Leaving the REBNY vs. NIMBY Doom Loop. *Gotham Gazette* July 31, 2019.

<https://www.gothamgazette.com/opinion/8708-leaving-the-rebny-vs-nimby-doom-loop>

10. NOVEMBER 20

The Gowanus Neighborhood rezoning/Student case presentation 2

REVIEW: Department of City Planning materials: Proposal Overview and Technical Specifications; How We Got Here; Next Steps in the Process; (optional) Draft Scope of Work for an Environmental Impact Statement

READ: *Bridging Gowanus* report, 2015

Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice, *Survive and Thrive: Toward a Justice-Focused Gowanus Neighborhood*, 2017,

Leslie Albrecht, "Gowanus Rezoning Must Reverse Rapid Loss of Affordable Housing: Advocates." DNA Info, March 23, 2017. <https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170323/gowanus/affordable-housing-gowanus-fifth-avenue-committee/>

Guest speaker: Diné Butler, Fifth Avenue Committee and Pratt Center for Community Development

11. NOVEMBER 27

Civil society and the Gowanus rezoning/Student case presentation 3

Revisit Kasinitz, "The Gentrification of Boerum Hill"

Gowanus Canal Conservancy comments on Draft Scope: <https://gowanuscanalconservancy.org/rezoning/>

Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice comments on Draft Scope:

<https://www.prattcenter.net/sites/default/files/gncj-comments-dsow.pdf>

Lander and Levin comments on Draft Scope: <https://council.nyc.gov/brad-lander/2019/05/30/comments-from-councilmembers-lander-and-levin-on-the-draft-scope-of-work-for-the-gowanus-rezoning/>

Sadef Ali Kully, "Gowanus Open House Reveals Proposed Rezoning Faces Optimism, Opposition, *City Limits* February 9 2019. <https://citylimits.org/2019/02/09/gowanus-open-house-reveals-proposed-rezoning-faces-optimism-opposition/>

Paul Stremple, "Gowanus Rezoning Plan: A Developers' Fantasy, Advocates Say" *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 1, 2019 <https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2019/03/01/gowanus-rezoning-plan-a-developers-fantasy-advocates-say/>

Daniel Geiger, Developer bids for more density in return for public benefits in Gowanus *Crain's* August 1, 2019 <https://www.crainsnewyork.com/real-estate/developer-bids-more-density-return-public-benefits-gowanus>

12. DECEMBER 4

Environment and resiliency issues in Gowanus/Student case presentation 4

Reading: Jessica Ty Miller, Is Urban Greening for Everyone? Social inclusion and exclusion along the Gowanus Canal. *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening* 19 (2016): 285-294.

Eddie Bautista, Annel Hernandez, Juan Camilo Osorio & Pamela Soto, Building a Resilient and Equitable City: How to Advance Climate Justice through the OneNYC Plan. *Metropolitiques* 3/1/17 <http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Building-a-Resilient-and-Equitable.html>; «

Two documents from a coalition including the Fifth Avenue Committee, Families United for Racial and Economic Equity (FUREE), Gowanus Canal Conservancy, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest, Friends of Thomas Green Park.

1. "Comments on NYC Department of Environmental Protection's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure application relevant to site selection and acquisition of property located at 242 Nevins Street, 234 Butler Street, and 270 Nevins Street for a combined sewer overflow control facility, commonly referred to as the Gowanus Canal CSO Facility;" 2. "Comments on forthcoming agreement between U.S. EPA and National Grid on remediation of former Fulton Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) in the footprint of Thomas Greene Park."

Gowanus Canal Conservancy and Scape Architecture (n.d.), *Gowanus Lowlands: A Blueprint for New York City's Next Great Park*.

Guest speaker: Diana Gruberg, Gowanus Canal Conservancy

13. DECEMBER 11- Workforce development and employment issues in Gowanus/Student case presentation 5

“Gowanus Rezoning Must Maintain 'Job-Intensive' Industries, Advocates Say.” *DNA Info* February 21, 2017 <https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170221/gowanus/gowanus-rezoning-must-maintain-job-intensive-industries-advocates-say/>; Philip Kasinitz and Jan Rosenberg, 1996, Missing the Connection: Social Isolation and Employment on the Brooklyn Waterfront, *Social Problems* 43(2): 180-196. **OTHER READINGS TBA.**

Guest speaker: Jesse Solomon, Deputy Director, Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

14. DECEMBER 18 - Student case presentation 6 and wrap-up discussion of course.