

**STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN REGION  
(URBG 702) Spring 2023**

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Spring 2023

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Office: 1613 West Building

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 2-5 PM and by appointment

Course Meeting Time and Location: 7:30-9:20

Hunter North C103

Course Description:

This course examines American metropolitan areas' economic, social, demographic, spatial, and political structures. The analysis of urban structure (such as urban institutions and infrastructure) has important implications for city planning and policy.

Most city planners and urban policy experts work for agencies or departments within the fractured administrative structure of American cities and suburbs. However, larger-scale systems and patterns still impact their work. The metropolitan structure investigated in this course creates advocacy and planning opportunities that extend across agency lines and traditional city/suburban boundaries. Many "urban problems" confronted by policy and planning experts, such as the lack of affordable housing or pollution, result from regional development structures/patterns.

This course highlights significant efforts to control and direct the metropolis in transportation, housing, open space, and education. Regional transport authorities, metropolitan councils or compacts, and state-level economic and urban development efforts reflect American metropolitan planning practices.

The growing interdependence of cities and suburbs and the merging of formerly separate metropolitan areas will likely create new opportunities and pressure for cooperation. Many urban experts believe regional/metropolitan planning still offers the most exciting opportunities for positive, large-scale change in American society. For instance, recent breakthroughs in zoning reform at the state level have confirmed some of these regional hopes regarding social and racial justice.

Primary Learning/Skill Objectives:

*By the end of the course, students will be able to:*

1. Trace the development of American metropolitan structure over time, including the forces that shaped urban form.
2. Analyze American metropolitan areas' contemporary economic, social, demographic, spatial, and political structures across time and space.
3. Identify problems in metropolitan regions concerning social equity, education, the environment, housing, and transportation.
4. Compare the American approach to global examples.
5. Find and analyze relevant Census, economic, social, and other data to explore the urban region as part of a regional planning/analytical strategy.
6. Formulate and communicate potential planning solutions that are mindful of structural trends, political processes, social divisions, and constraints.

Required Books:

Hanlon, Short, and Vicino, *Cities and Suburbs* (Routledge, 2009) ISBN-10: 9780415497312

Dreier, Mollenkopf, and Swanstrom, *Place Matters* (Kansas, 2014) ISBN-10: 9780700619276

Class Format

Class meetings will combine seminar-style discussions, student presentations, and lectures. Attendance at every class meeting is required, as is participation in weekly discussions.

**Copies of Course Lecture Powerpoints are here:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MCFbXqSW\\_43xi4Woy7sKI5bfeHfuzRjt?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MCFbXqSW_43xi4Woy7sKI5bfeHfuzRjt?usp=share_link)

*Assignment 1: Weekly Reading Summaries*

It is crucial to the quality of class discussions that you stay current with the readings. To facilitate this, each of you should develop, every week, a summary of each reading. Responses should focus on the “big picture” regional/metropolitan planning and policy questions the articles raise and answer the following question: *what is the regional/metropolitan issue?* These should be emailed before the beginning of each class meeting. They will provide the basis for the discussion.

*Assignment 2: Metropolitan Presentations*

Students working in pairs will present during the semester on metropolitan issues in assigned American regions. The presentations, developed in consultation with the professor, will include visuals reflecting metropolitan issues (must use Social Explorer, for instance), essential facts and figures, the assigned readings for the case study, and a set of regional recommendations that follow from the analysis. Presentations will be 15 minutes maximum. All students will re-present in the last class meeting after receiving feedback from the professor. Students will submit the final PowerPoint and a 3-5 page summary by the end of the semester.

*Assignment 3: Short Final essay*

The first written assignment will synthesize the readings and class discussions from the class sessions. The questions and details will be provided roughly two weeks before the assignment deadline. The material will be submitted to Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

Metropolitan Presentations and Write-Up (30%)

Participation in class discussions and weekly reading summaries (40%)

Final Essay Exam (30%)

**COURSE POLICIES**

Class attendance – you must attend every class meeting. Please be on time and stay until the end of the class. Skipping class or arriving late will affect your grade. Participation grades are given based on direct contribution to discussions rather than attendance. Laptops may only be used in class with instructor permission, and cell phones should be on silent mode and stored.

Deadlines – No late papers will be accepted without documented rationale.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

1. Academic Integrity Statement: 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.

2. ADA Statement: In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College 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 appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 /or VRS (646) 755-3129.

3. Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct: In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:  
<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1, January 25**

#### *Course Introduction*

Discussion Theme: How do we define a region, and why does it matter to think regionally?

Video: How to Make Poor Places Richer, *The Economist*: <https://youtu.be/5Y5moVvzayc>

### **Week 2, February 1**

#### *Thinking about the Development of the American Metropolis from Past to Present*

Hanlon, Short, and Vicino, *Cities and Suburbs*, Ch 2-5: 15-111.

Richard Florida, "Patchwork Metropolis,"

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3y0urmia8as95kn/Patchwork%20Metropolis.pdf?dl=0>

Shlomo Angel, *Planet of Cities*:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l26kG2yd2tmJAMTH9UEmVwhmoh7TQ8AZ/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l26kG2yd2tmJAMTH9UEmVwhmoh7TQ8AZ/view?usp=share_link)

## **SECTION I: REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING**

### **Week 3, February 8**

#### ***American Metropolitan Governance***

##### Case Study: New Jersey

Daniel Gale, *Greater New Jersey*: [New Jersey.pdf](#)

##### General Readings

Hanlon, Short, and Vicino, Ch 10, 197-220

Dreier, Mollenkopf, and Swanstrom, Chapters 6-7: 175-236.

Gerald Frug and David Barron, *City Bound: How States Stifle Urban Innovation* (2013), "Land Use and Development," Chapter 5, 99-120:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/55vlnxntfh1npxt/Frug%20Land%20Use.pdf?dl=0>

## **Week 4, February 15**

### ***American Metropolitan/Regional Planning***

#### Case Study: New York

NY: Read the text boxes and watch videos, <https://rpa.org/about/centennial>

NY: Regional Plan Association, *The Fourth Regional Plan* (2018), [fourthplan.org/](http://fourthplan.org/)

#### General Readings

Jerry Weitz, "Growth Management in the United States, 2000-2010" (*Journal of Planning Literature*, 2012), *read only pages 394-401*

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bv7hg2cbqym3zz9/GrowthManagementLiterature%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0>

Peter Eisenger, *The Rise of the Entrepreneurial State*,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19eMmuExwOZ-3KOrkzcddfVjnM5Ca6p/view?usp=sharing>

*Suburban Remix*, "Arlington's Experiment in Urbanizing Suburbia,"

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lm59odg8tzjip58/Suburban%20Remix.pdf?dl=0>

## **Week 5, February 22**

### ***Comparative Global Metropolitan Planning and Governance***

#### Case Study: Toronto

Edward Relph, *Toronto: Transformations in a City and its Region*, Chapters 4-5 and Chapter 9

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TtsBxhoM5ZKstFSxMHk6NQ0l4qZJHeol/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TtsBxhoM5ZKstFSxMHk6NQ0l4qZJHeol/view?usp=share_link)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ccfwbyffmj6wk3s/Toronto.pdf?dl=0>

Not Just Bikes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkO-DttA9ew> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxWjtpzClfA>

#### General Readings

Anne Power and Jorg Ploger, *Phoenix Cities: The Fall and Rise of Great Industrial Cities*(2010), Chapters 3 and 4,

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_zB8xQ9p5MJXn4OF9mItlQFTP7RDFMP4/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_zB8xQ9p5MJXn4OF9mItlQFTP7RDFMP4/view?usp=share_link)

Sonia Hirt, *Zoned in the USA* (2014), "How Others Do it," Chapter 3, 60-89:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/megmo0uqdo6ayzl/Hirt%20Zoning%20Abroad.pdf?dl=0>

Yonah Freemark, "Varieties of Urbanism,"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/110etY3kAfnE45KhDplaEamg8ZLPKKUMp/view?usp=sharing>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV6ZENGko1I>

## **SECTION 2: REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING/POLICY**

### **Week 6, March 1**

*Natural Resources and the Modern Metropolis*

Case Study City: Los Angeles

"Willful Waters," *Places*

<https://placesjournal.org/article/willful-waters-los-angeles-river/>

Mike Davis, *Ecology of Fear*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13ular8nBCwULGXasn8B9I8Zr3nkSxDZX/view?usp=sharing>

*The Atlas of Cities, Los Angeles*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tdfQD2DbHyRLQsp3Yz-qxLqIPfJ38WYu/view?usp=sharing>

*Planning Los Angeles*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qpt2faJD51Q1DO4Fp2Je8UZMIKfxUHoZ/view?usp=sharing>

new addition\*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/19/us/bruces-beach-sold-reparations.html>

#### **General Readings**

Jon Teaford, *The Unheralded Triumph: City Government in America* (1984), "The Triumph of Technology," Chapter 8, 217-250: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kx0s2ehmk9hihvm/Teaford%20Triumph.pdf?dl=0>

Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside* (2001), "Septic-Tank Suburbia," Chapter 3, 87-118 and "Where Not To Build," 153-188:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4a0cve81wls2wol/Rome%20Bulldozer.pdf?dl=0>

### **Week 7, March 8**

*Metropolitan Scale Ecological/Sustainable Planning*

Case Study City: Portland

Carl Abbott, *Greater Portland*:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10pW7kjlW2eAoWz6YBQ67vJc5KKFngYEu/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10pW7kjlW2eAoWz6YBQ67vJc5KKFngYEu/view?usp=share_link)

#### **General Readings**

Thomas Daniels, "A Trail Across Time: American Environmental Planning from City Beautiful to Sustainability" (*JAPA*, 2009):

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ihekruud3me8snb/Environmental%20Planning%20Overview.pdf?dl=0>

Read the Preface and Introduction of Luke W. Cole and Sheila R. Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*, 1-33,

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/From\\_the\\_Ground\\_Up/R6rj8XMSjx4C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=environmental+racism+regional&pg=PR11&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/From_the_Ground_Up/R6rj8XMSjx4C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=environmental+racism+regional&pg=PR11&printsec=frontcover)

Mariana, Mogilevich, "Renewal on the Waterfront":  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uAEd02URQ2FT3qm5R8WxA\\_BTLKu6ObtS/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uAEd02URQ2FT3qm5R8WxA_BTLKu6ObtS/view?usp=sharing)

### **SECTION 3: REGIONAL SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

#### **Week 8, March 15**

*Social Impact of Metropolitan Form*

Case Study: San Diego

Larry Ford, *Metropolitan San Diego*,  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/136AiytyMRERLWygZiyZyUWi0Mmzw5zhQ/view?usp=sharing>

General Readings

Heather McGee, *The Sum of Us*:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uA3nngYVBzuwj3ZMaPGhdxmo-RE95ISA/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uA3nngYVBzuwj3ZMaPGhdxmo-RE95ISA/view?usp=share_link)

Hanlon, Short, and Vicino, *Cities and Suburbs*, Chapters 5-9, 85-196

Dreier, Mollenkopf, and Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, Chapter 3, pages 59-102

Parisi, et. Al, "Multi-Scale Residential Segregation," *Social Forces*(2011):  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/4qn8p0qcpai6kvz/parisi2011\\_residentialsegregation%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/4qn8p0qcpai6kvz/parisi2011_residentialsegregation%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0)

#### **Week 9, March 22**

*Housing, Community Planning, and Equity at the Metropolitan Scale*

Case Study: Chicago

General Readings

"What Shapes Uneven Access to Urban Amenities"  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QPa8Q8bia4nJMhw-oBaQ2\\_4sP9HqdIYn/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QPa8Q8bia4nJMhw-oBaQ2_4sP9HqdIYn/view?usp=sharing)

Kevin Kruse and Thomas Sugrue, *The New Suburban History* (2006), "The Legal Technology of Exclusion in Metropolitan America," Chapter 10, 205-220:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ta1jrtg2z0iamz/Frug%20Exclusion.pdf?dl=0>

Michael Hamilton and Patricia Atkins, *Urban and Regional Policies for Metropolitan Sustainability* (2008), "Affordable Housing Policies in Metropolitan Areas," Chapter 6, 167-199:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/482kk0yzmtnu2wo/Hamilton2008\\_MetroAffordableHousing%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/482kk0yzmtnu2wo/Hamilton2008_MetroAffordableHousing%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0)

Mara Gay, "The Era of Shutting Others Out of New York's Suburbs is Ending," *The New York Times*,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/21/opinion/housing-new-york-city.html>

June Manning Thomas and Margaret Dewar, *The City After Abandonment*, read the Introduction:

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_City\\_After\\_Abandonment/zYj7XZ5VIUgC?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_City_After_Abandonment/zYj7XZ5VIUgC?hl=en&gbpv=1)

## **Week 10, March 29**

*Regional Educational, Cultural, and Research Resources*

### General Readings

Nikole Hannah-Jones,

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/562/the-problem-we-all-live-with-part-one/act-one-5>

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/562/the-problem-we-all-live-with-part-one/act-two-5>

Amy Wells, *Why Boundaries Matter: A Study of Five Separate and Unequal Long Island School Districts*(2009):

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/y1fswfxnfuh5vd8/Wells2009\\_FinalReport%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/y1fswfxnfuh5vd8/Wells2009_FinalReport%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0)

Nicholas Dagen Bloom, *How States Shaped Postwar America*, “The Metropolitan State University System,”

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PCV86yhLBloSPiobk0\\_W13r1W4odDeAO/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PCV86yhLBloSPiobk0_W13r1W4odDeAO/view?usp=share_link)

Sharon Haar, *City as Campus: Urbanism and Higher Education in Chicago*(2011), “University Space in the Global City, Chapter 7, 149-184:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o36xap92yenumfv/City%20as%20Campus.pdf?dl=0>

## **SECTION 4: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION**

### **Week 11, April 19**

*Planning and Building Regional Roads*

#### Case Study: Phoenix

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iZfAjmhS-GYJ0spXAZakB9EIEdNPhPrd/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iZfAjmhS-GYJ0spXAZakB9EIEdNPhPrd/view?usp=share_link)

#### General Readings

Joseph DiMento and Cliff Ellis, *Changing Lanes: Visions and Histories of Urban Freeways* (2012), “Postwar Urban Freeways” Chapter 4, 73-102

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bmqquvxsafqcqjp/Cliff%20Ellis%20Interstate%20Design.pdf?dl=0>

David W. Jones, *Mass Motorization + Mass Transit* (2010), “The Interstate and Pervasive Motorization,” Chapter 5, 108-136:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/v1oaugr11k39kcq/Motorization%20and%20Interstates.pdf?dl=0>

“Disruption: Baltimore’s Highway to Nowhere”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyrsq0vP2xl>

Deborah N. Archer, “Transportation Policy and the Underdevelopment of Black Communities,”

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H2bSlpPMoRMscfQ3LYtsz7wtGBsYAMi\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H2bSlpPMoRMscfQ3LYtsz7wtGBsYAMi_/view?usp=sharing)

## **Week 12, April 26**

### *Mass Transit on a Metropolitan Scale*

#### Case Study: Atlanta

The Legacy of Racism in Transit: <https://vimeo.com/617199975>

Margaret O'Mara, "Selling the New South,"

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rDYuWR8HmNqrCdRjHevhf8PWPh74om5q/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rDYuWR8HmNqrCdRjHevhf8PWPh74om5q/view?usp=share_link)

Pray For Transit: Seeking Transportation Justice in Metropolitan Atlanta

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0hxdb1rqi8h48hu/Clayton%20County.pdf?dl=0>

#### Dan Immergluck,

[https://theconversation.com/atlantas-beltline-shows-how-urban-parks-can-drive-green-gentrification-if-cities-dont-think-about-affordable-housing-at-the-start-193204?utm\\_source=linkedin&utm\\_medium=bylinelinkedinbutton](https://theconversation.com/atlantas-beltline-shows-how-urban-parks-can-drive-green-gentrification-if-cities-dont-think-about-affordable-housing-at-the-start-193204?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=bylinelinkedinbutton)

#### General Readings

Transit Atlas

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/13sIOksZ9W4ydltudcihOwSEhZdctt6rC/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13sIOksZ9W4ydltudcihOwSEhZdctt6rC/view?usp=share_link)

Bus Riders Union Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzMv6wM7wfQ>

Video: City Nerd: 10 Most Useless Rail Systems in the United States:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEUg9ymgrXk>

Robert Cervero, Erick Guerra and Stefan AI, Editors, *Beyond Mobility*(2017), "Transit Oriented Development," Chapter 7, 109-142:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/f52dy2hsfytiqnn/Transit%20Oriented%20Development.pdf?dl=0>

### **Week 13, May 3**

*Intercity Services: Rail and Airports*

#### Case Study: Miami

*Miami*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/159P9z7jCQMFQ1xpgC9j1DQoVZQpHf8zH/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/159P9z7jCQMFQ1xpgC9j1DQoVZQpHf8zH/view?usp=share_link)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15oA57HISnt3AqzV1P-2QU0kd84-19tWl/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15oA57HISnt3AqzV1P-2QU0kd84-19tWl/view?usp=share_link)

N.D.B. Connolly, the author of *A World More Concrete: Real Estate and Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida*, discusses his book,

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?324271-2/a-world-concrete>

#### General Readings:

Alan Altshuler and David Luberoff, *MEGA-PROJECTS*(2003), "Building New Airports and Expanding Older Ones," 123-175:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ufk6irmtnjx5uvc/Building%20Airports.pdf?dl=0>

Nicholas Dagen Bloom, *The Metropolitan Airport*,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uryHpa4wNySy9TefevbkRKltyf6gPuZp/view?usp=sharing>

Video: Alan Fisher, California HSR:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwNthD-LRTQ&list=PLhyclWhOLttikNg2Z1aJvGPogqipGs9qh&index=3>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBtDEFGOJNg&list=PLhyclWhOLttikNg2Z1aJvGPogqipGs9qh&index=28>

### **Week 14, May 10**

Final Re-presentations