

Sprawl, Transportation, and Planning
Roosevelt University, SUST 320
Fall 2014

Instructor: Yonah Freemark
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Class Hours: Thursdays, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Class Location: Gage Building, 18 S. Michigan Avenue, Room 210

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course explores the sustainability challenges in the built environment, exploring issues including demographic change, sprawl, smart growth, commuting patterns, city planning, and the "new urbanism." Key topics include the exploration of transportation systems, ranging from bicycle commuting to highway construction to public transportation networks, and their relationship to sustainable planning, whether at the level of community, city, or region. Students will gain an understanding of the political-economic, spatial, and public policy issues relating to sprawl; learn the history, present use, and future prospects of urban planning and its potential to reshape the urban and suburban landscape in positive ways; develop qualitative and quantitative means to evaluate current transportation systems in terms of efficiency, cost, and environmental impact; and develop critical tools and presentation skills in order to proffer alternative transportation initiatives, particularly at the community or regional levels.

Key outcome: By the conclusion of the class, students should be knowledgeable in key concepts of urban planning relating to transportation and land use, and be able to describe current planning issues within the context of historical patterns and best practices.

Course Requirements

To be successful, this class requires students to be engaged with the material and ready to discuss concepts raised by readings and presentations. Students should be sure to be ready to discuss important points raised by readings. All readings listed on the syllabus are required.

Attendance: Students are expected to be on time to every class, and attendance will be taken. Quizzes will begin five minutes after class begins; students who are late will not be given extra time. In the case of a family or medical emergency, the instructor should be informed as soon as possible by phone or email that a student will not make it to class.

Turning in Assignments: Assignments are due by the beginning of class on their assigned due date, either by email to yfreemark@roosevelt.edu or in person. Assignments that are late will lose half a grade per day late (e.g., from B+ to B), and will not be accepted more than a week late.

Assignment Format: All assignments should be completed to the length specified on the assignment instructions, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font and on paper with 1-inch margins.

Plagiarism, Recycling, and Unauthorized Fabrication: Under no circumstances will assignments be accepted or graded if they have been plagiarized, recycled, or completed in collaboration with another student without the authorization of the professor. Please see Roosevelt's Academic Integrity Guide for more information (<http://www.roosevelt.edu/Provost/Faculty/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>).

Help with Writing: The Roosevelt Academic Success Center (<http://www.roosevelt.edu/StudentServices/AcademicSuccessCenter.aspx>) is available to help students complete their assignments. Please take advantage of this resource if you feel it would be useful.

Grading

Students will be graded based on their effort to engage the subjects and materials discussed in class. Assignments 1, 2, and 3 must all be completed for a student to receive a passing final grade. Final grades will be derived using the following percentages:

- 35% Class participation
 - 15% Assignment 1, 3 pages on contemporary trends in land development (due October 2)
 - 25% Assignment 2, 5-7 pages on adapting a suburb to modern needs (due October 30)
 - 25% Assignment 3, 5-7 pages on redeveloping an urban site in Chicago (due December 10)
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Course Outline and Readings

All readings will be available online on the class Blackboard in PDF format.

In general, each class will begin with a quiz that covers the subjects discussed in the required reading. Students will then discuss the readings and the content of them. The professor will then lecture on several related topics. At the end of class, students will engage in a group activity.

Week 1: August 28	City planning for a sustainable Chicago.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Student and professor introductions. Overview of the class.
Week 2: September 4	Understanding urban growth and demographic change.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Walking tour: South Loop. Meet on north side of Roosevelt Road at Orange and Green CTA elevated station at 6 PM.
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson. <i>Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs</i> . Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. 2011. 16-20. Alan Ehrenhalt. <i>The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City</i> . New York, NY: Vintage Book. 2013. 40-62.
	<i>Assignment</i>	Assignment 1 distributed (due October 2)
Week 3: September 11	20th century growth and sprawl.	
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck. <i>Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream</i> . New York, NY: North Point Press. 2000 (revised 2010). 5-20. Dolores Hayden. <i>A Field Guide to Sprawl</i> . New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company. 2004. 5-16 and selected highlights.
Week 4: September 18	Environmental and social impacts of land development.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Walking tour: West Loop. Meet on Halsted Street at the UIC-Halsted Blue Line Station entrance at 6 PM.
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	Vishaan Chakrabarti. <i>A Country of Cities: A Manifesto for an Urban America</i> . New York, NY: Metropolis Books. 2013. 74-101. Edward Glaeser and Matthew Kahn. "Sprawl and Urban Growth." NBER Working Papers Series, Working Paper 9733. 2003. Read full paper.

Week 5: September 25	Controlling growth and regional planning.	
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	Robert Bruegmann. <i>Sprawl: A Compact History</i> . Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. 2005. 202-219. David Rusk. <i>Cities without Suburbs</i> . Third Edition: A Census 2000 Update. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press. 2003. 5-50.

Week 6: October 2	Using regulatory tools like zoning.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Visiting lecturer: Daniel Kay Hertz.
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	Daniel Kay Hertz. "One of the best ways to fight inequality in cities: zoning." <i>The Washington Post</i> . August 13, 2014. Joseph B. Schwieterman and Dana M. Caspal. <i>A History of Zoning in Chicago: The Politics of Place</i> . Chicago, IL: Lake Claremont Press. 2006. 3-44.
	<i>Assignment</i>	Assignment 1 due. Assignment 2 distributed. Due October 30.

Week 7: October 9	Rebuilding the suburbs.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Lecture by Ta-Nehisi Coates at Roosevelt Library (beginning at 5 PM) Followed by Willis Tower Skydeck visit.
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson. <i>Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs</i> . Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. 2011. xxv-xxix; 2-14; 37-40; Color portfolio; 67-72; 108-139; 162-164; Optional: 140-218. Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck. <i>Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream</i> . New York, NY: North Point Press. 2000, Revised 2010. 183-243.

Week 8: October 16	Getting around the modern metropolis—by bike and feet.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Visiting lecturer: Steven Vance.
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	John Greenfield. "CDOT Unveils Bold Vision for Milwaukee Bike Lanes; Drivers Grouse." <i>Streetsblog Chicago</i> . May 1, 2013. Sarah Goodyear. "Why the Streets of Copenhagen and Amsterdam Look So Different From Ours." <i>The Atlantic Cities</i> . April 25, 2012. Whet Moser. "Why Congestion Pricing Works, and Why People Don't Like It." <i>Chicago Mag</i> . October 15, 2012. Yonah Freemark. "Stuck in the Land of Missed Opportunity." <i>The Transport Politic</i> . March 2, 2011.

Week 9: October 23	Getting around the modern metropolis—by motor vehicle.	
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	<p>Jeff Speck. <i>Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time</i>. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2012. 139-159.</p> <p><i>Bus Rapid Transit: Chicago’s New Route to Opportunity</i>. Metropolitan Planning Council. August 17, 2011.</p> <p>Eran Leck. “The Impact of Urban Form on Travel Behavior: A Meta-Analysis.” <i>Berkeley Planning Journal</i>. Volume 19. 2006. 37-58.</p> <p>Jeffrey J. LaMondia. “Comparing Transit Modes.”</p>

Week 10: October 30	Getting around the modern metropolis—by transit.	
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	<p><i>High Speed Rail in America</i>. America 2050 and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. January 2011.</p> <p>Yonah Freemark. “Defining Clear Standards for Transit-Oriented Development.” <i>The Transport Politic</i>. July 15, 2013.</p>
	<i>Assignment</i>	Assignment 2 due. Assignment 3 distributed. Outline due November 6 by email; final version due December 4.

Week 11: November 6	No class.	
	<i>Assignment</i>	Outline for Assignment 3 due.

Week 12: November 13	Water.	
	<i>Activity</i>	Visiting lecturer: Abby Cristotomo.
	<i>Readings for this class</i>	<p><i>Water 2050: Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply/Demand Plan</i>. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. March 2010. Executive Summary and Chapters 1-2.</p> <p><i>Green Infrastructure Online Training</i>. South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. http://review.em-assist.com/courses/ssmma/web/index.html. Click through whole training module.</p>

<p>Week 13: November 20</p>	<p>The future of cities.</p>	
	<p><i>Readings for this class</i></p>	<p>Brent D. Ryan <i>Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities</i>. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. 37-83.</p> <p>Margarita Garcia. "The Urban Frontier: A guided tour through one of Chicago's best kept secrets." In William Upski Wimsatt. <i>Bomb the Suburbs</i>. Revised Second Edition. Chicago, IL: The Subway and Elevated Press Company. 1994. 71-74.</p> <p>William Upski Wimsatt. "Subway Scholar." In William Upski Wimsatt. <i>Bomb the Suburbs</i>. Revised Second Edition. Chicago, IL: The Subway and Elevated Press Company. 1994. 4-11.</p>

<p>Week 14: December 4</p>	<p>Planning in Chicago.</p>	
	<p><i>Activity</i></p>	<p>Visiting lecturer: Dean Brad Hunt.</p>
	<p><i>Readings for this class</i></p>	<p>D. Bradford Hunt and Jon B. DeVries. <i>Planning Chicago</i>. American Planning Association Planners Press. 2013. 229-281.</p> <p><i>GO TO 2040</i>. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Short plan.</p>

Assignment 3 due December 10.