Every city has a mix of professional planning and raw unregulated development, patterns and anomalies. This dynamic has epitomized American cities for over 300 years; it also extends beyond national borders, embodying the allure and shock of the modern metropolis, affecting what is possible in the present and what people can imagine about the future.

This class explores the evolution of some key ideas, policies, spatial forms and conflicts in American cities, both generic and unique, as well as some of the conditions that influenced them and the patterns that have spread abroad. While focusing on historical patterns, each session also takes up questions for the present. What is “downtown”? How has it changed in use and location? How do building sites influence social life and natural environments? Lectures and readings explore topics like the uses and distortions of maps; the transience of commercial spaces; shifts in housing typologies; changing “civic sites” like city halls and stadia; conflicts between developers and communities; the collective necessity of infrastructure; the appeal and neglect of nature; and the ongoing toll of racial inequalities.

Regular class attendance is required. So are research-paper proposals and weekly readings: both primary (historical) sources and recent (secondary) analyses. Read each week’s assignments before class for background.

Three 1-page analyses of various kinds of sources are also required (submitted on time), plus a research paper (or another approved final project). There is no exam--- except for students who miss 3 or more classes.
NOTE: The first set of readings for every week are required & available on Canvas.

WEEK 1 (Sept. 11). AMERICAN PATTERNS OF COMMUNITY & CONFLICT
Inscribing beliefs on the landscape; transnational influences; colonial towns and origin myths; the idea of ‘American exceptionalism’.

You may want to begin with some short BACKGROUND READINGS on Canvas:
“Timeline,” Settlement Patterns: Perspecta 30 (1999), 7-9


For background on Native American and colonial-era cities, see
Hugh Thomas, World without End: Spain, Philip II and the First Global Empire (2016)

WEEK 2 (Sept. 18). MANUFACTURING CIVIC & COMMERCIAL CULTURE
The meanings of maps; business patrons for urban plans; the dissemination of grids and town squares; urban ‘boosterism’; producing land for industrial and commercial space.

Phil Steinberg and Rob Shields, What Is a City? Remaking the Urban after Hurricane Katrina (Athens, 2008), 172-185

Recommended:
Bill Hubbard, American Boundaries: The Nation . . & the Rectangular Survey (Ch, 2009)
Robert Wright, The First Wall Street: Chestnut Street...(Chicago, 2005)
Mario Gooden, “‘Made in America,’: There Is No Such Thing as African-American Architecture,” in Gooden, Dark Space (NY, 2016), pp. 10-19

**WEEK 3 (Sept. 25). PROGRESSIVES & THE “CITY BEAUTIFUL”**

American visions of modern urban growth; civic centers and neighborhood reforms; the ‘new woman’; modern social sciences and regional modernisms in Europe and the US.

*** First Assignment Due ***


Recommended:

Jessica Ellen Sewell, Women and the Everyday City: Public Space in San Francisco, 1890-1915 (Minneapolis, 2011)

Sabine Haemmi, The Immigrant Scene: Ethnic Amusements in NY, 1880-1920 (Min. ’08)

John C. Hudson, Chicago: A Geography of the City and Its Region (Chicago, 2006)

Howard Gillette, Between Justice and Beauty: Race, Planning and the Failure of Urban Policy in Washington DC (Baltimore, 1995)

Nick Yablon, Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of . . . Modernity, 1819-1919 (Chic, 2009)


**WEEK 4: (Oct. 2). THE ‘HOUSING CRISIS’ IN CITIES AND SUBURBS**

Modern “projects” as ideal or dsytopia; reinforcing urban ghettos; site plans and regulations, urban & suburban; affordable housing; Is there a “Right to Housing”?

Tenement House Department of the City of New York, For You (New York, 1917)

Planning Perspectives 10 (1995), 17-41

William Morrish, et al., Growing Urban Habitats (SF, 209), p22-23,76-83,128-31,179-83


Recommended:

John Bauman et. Al., From Tenements to the Taylor Homes (University Park, PA, 2000)


Alan Maynew, Slums: The History of a Global Injustice (Chicago, 2017)

Michael Duneier, Ghetto: The Invention of a Place, The History of an Idea (NY, 2016)


WEEK 5 (Oct. 9): COMMERCIAL CULTURE IN AMERICAN URBAN LIFE

‘The world-as-exhibition’ from department stores to shopping centers; the rise and demise of Main Streets; vulgar Strips and monotonous malls; where is retail today?

** Second Assignment due **

Victor Gruen, “Cityscape and Landscape,” Arts and Architecture (Sept. 1955)

Anna Klingmann, Brandscapes: Architecture in the Experience Economy (2007), 312-29


Recommended:

Alex Wall, Victor Gruen (Barcelona, 2005), esp. pp. 58-72, 107-13

Ann Satterwaite, Going Shopping: Consumer Choices, Comm. Consequences (NH, 2001)


John Chase, Glitter Stucco and Dumpster Diving (New York, 2002)

**WEEK 6 (Oct. 16): THE NEW DEAL, PRAGMATISM & INFRASTRUCTURE**
Modernities and militarism; soft and hard infrastructure; public opinion and expertise; debating tactics and priorities: is there a legacy for the New Deal?


Recommended:
Keller Easterling, *Organization Space: Landscapes, Highways, Houses* (Cam, 1999)
-----, *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space* (London, 2014)

**WEEK 7 (Oct. 23): POST-WAR URBAN CENTERS & ‘EDGE CITIES’**
Urban renewal: slum clearance, demolition for luxury apartments and convention centers; obsolescence; Jane Jacobs reframes urban life; new-towns-in-town; suburban campuses.

** Research Proposal due

Recommended:
Daniel M. Abramson, *Obsolescence* (Chicago, 2015)

**WEEK 8 (Oct. 30): ENVIRONMENTALISM AND URBANISM**

The legacy of urban parks; rediscovering early green design; Earth Day & environmental justice; American sensibilities or disdain for natural environments?

Frederick Law Olmsted, “Public Planning and the Enlargement of Towns” (1870) in S.B. Sutton, ed., *Civilizing American Cities* (NY, 1997), 52-99 (rec. selections)

Recommended:
-----, *Manhattan Atmospheres: Architecture, the Interior Environment and Urban Crisis* (New York, 2015)
Andrew Zolli, *Resilience: Why Things Bounce Back* (NY, 20113)

**WEEK 9. (Nov. 6) ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY**

**WEEK 10 (Nov. 13). URBAN CRISES/ URBAN SPECTACLES of the 1960s**
*** Third Assignment due

Community design; Rustbelt and Sunbelt cities in a post-Fordist economy; ephemeral architectural spectacles; tourism, tax-revenues and cities as “growth machines”

Patrick Schumacher and Christian Rogner, “After Ford” in Georgia Daskalakis, et.al., eds, Stalking Detroit (Barcelona, 2001), 48-56
“Introduction” and “Cleveland Medi-Plex City” in Julia Czerniak, ed., Formerly Urban: Projecting Rust Belt Futures (NY, 2013), pp. 21-32, 36-49

Recommended:

Richard Bernard and Bradley Rice, Sunbelt Cities: Policy and Control (Austin, 1985)
Alan Altshuler and David Luberoff, Mega-Projects (Washington, DC, 2003)

WEEK 11 (Nov 20): ENCLAVES of HISTORY, SCIENCE, FEAR & BUSINESS
Historic preservation & contextual design; urban design guidelines & regulations; extra-urban territories for corporations and technology; the rise of theory

Daniel Abramson, “Make History, Not Memory,” Harvard Design Magazine 9 (F 1999)

Recommended:
Tom Agnotti, Zoned Out! Race, Displacement and City Planning in NYC (NY, 2016)
Jorge Otero-Pailos, et.al., ed., Experimental Preservation (Zurich, 2016)
Max Page & Randall Mason, ed, Giving Preservation a History (NY, 2004), esp. 185-206
Leslie Berlin, Troublemakers: Silicon Valley’s Coming of Age (New York, 2017)
Margaret O’Mara, Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the Next Silicon Valley (Princeton, 2015)
WEEK 12 (Nov. 27): URBAN HISTORY AS THE LURE OF THE FUTURE and RETURN OF THE REPRESSED

The ‘experience’ economy; public-private partnerships; ‘big data’ and networks; community identities and ongoing segregation; urban disasters and urban resilience


Stephen Graham and Simon Marvin, Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition (L & NY, 2002), 203-216


Recommended:

Glynda Caldwell and Carl Smith, eds., Digital Futures and the City of Today: New Technologies and Physical Spaces (Mediated Cities) (Chicago, 2016)

Anthony Townsend, Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers and the Quest for a New Utopia (New York, 2014)


Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City (NY, 2017)


Michael Lariace & Elizabeth Macdonald, eds., The Urban Design Reader (NY 2007)


Rebecca Kinney, Beautiful Wasteland: The Rise of Detroit as America’s Postindustrial Frontier (Minneapolis, 2016)

Brent C. Ryan, Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities (Phi 2012)

Margaret Dewar and June Thompson, eds., Design after Abandonment (Phil, 2012)