

Urban Planning 315: Planning the Great Cities of the World

Dr. Michael Martin
Spring Semester 2009
M & W 5:00-6:15
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Class Objective:

The three objectives of this course are:

- 1) To expose students to the great cities of the world and to learn why they developed the way they did.
- 2) To obtain a general knowledge of the urban planning theory from a historical perspective.
- 3) To better understand the role of urban planning as it relates to non-Anglo cities.

Course Description:

This class will look at how the urban form has progressed from the first cities in the Fertile Crescent to modern Metropolitan areas. We will pay special attention to how and why the built form and urban patterns developed and how the built form and urban patterns have changed over time. Theoretically, we will be concentrating on larger macro-trends in urban planning to explain why great civilizations built the cities that they did. On a micro-level, we will focus on a few cities as case studies to highlight how these theoretical macro-trends played out in actual urban areas. Due to the background of the professor, our case studies will have a large focus on Latin America cities and the unique urban experiences of Latinos.

The text for this class is:

Kostof, Spiro, (1991), "The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History", Little, Brown and Company, Boston, MA.

We will be using the theoretical underpinnings of Kostof's masterpiece *The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History* to drive the course. We will concentrate on his theories of the "organic" city, the urban grid pattern, the Grand Manner, and modernism. Conceptually, Kostof believes that the urban planner needs to understand the history of cities and the built form not just through the construction of structures but also through the context they were built in. The culture, socio-economics and politics of a society will manifest itself in the built form. In other words, architecture does not create culture, culture creates architecture. This class will involve lectures, movies, slideshows and exposure to music and art to drive this point home.

In addition, we will employ urban case studies to highlight these theories and how they are important in the real world. The class will touch on urban forms through cultures as diverse as: Islamic/Arabic, Spanish Colonial, Russian and Latin American, in addition to the traditional cultural roots of European and the United States. The class will try to emphasize non-Anglo cultural issues while dealing with the over-whelming bias of Anglo culture in all urban theory.

Course Requirements:

This class will be based on a 100-point scale: (A=100-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-88, B=87-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-78, C=77-73, C-=72-70, D+=69-68, D=67-60, D-=59-58, & F>57). Any test or paper not turned in will result in a zero (0) and 10% of the total score will be reduced for every day that a test or paper is late (i.e. one day late on a 25 point test will lose 2.5 points).

You will be expected to attend class, participate in discussions, read the assigned material and be prepared for class. Any meaningful class discussion depends on your ability to interpret the assigned readings. For this reason I will have frequent quizzes based on the readings and previous lectures, three best quizzes count toward your grade. You may or may not be given warning to when these quizzes will be given. A “pop quiz” may be given if it is obvious students are not doing the reading or attending class. These quizzes will be worth a total of **10 points**.

You will also be given one in-class test and one paper. These will each be worth 25 points and 40 points respectively, for a total of **65 points**. All test questions will be drawn from my lectures, discussions, films, slideshows and from the readings. No early or second exams will be given and make-up exams are only allowed in the case of a verifiable excused absence. Details about the paper will be given during Week 3 of class.

The final exam will be comprehensive in nature but will be weighted toward the information presented after the first test. All test questions will be drawn from my lectures, discussions, films, slideshows and from the readings. No early or second exams will be given and make-up exams are only allowed in the case of a verifiable excused absence. The final exam is worth **25 points**.

Other Issues:

Accommodation of learning, physical and psychological disabilities must be arranged at the beginning, not the end of the semester and in proper consultation with the appropriate university offices.

It is expected that all work will be your own or properly footnoted or quoted. Plagiarism and cheating will result in a grade of zero for that particular exercise, whether it is a quiz, exam, or in-class writing. Serious cases of plagiarism or cheating may be referred for further investigation and may result in an F for the course.

Schedule of Classes: (subject to change)

Week 1: 1/26 & 1/28

Introduction to the Course, General Business & Theoretical Groundings:

Reading:

Kristof: Introduction p 9-42

Section I: The Classic and Pre-Classic Cities of the Western Hemisphere

Week 2: 2/2 & 2/4

Roots of Pre-Columbian Cities in the Western Hemisphere

Cities Highlighted: Teotihuacan, Chan, Chan, San Lorenzo

Film: Teotihuacán

Week 3: 2/9 & 2/11

The Greatest Pre-Columbian Empires and Their Conquest

Cities Highlighted: Tenochtitlan and Cuzco

Kandell, Jonathan, La Capital: The Biography of Mexico City, Henry Holt & Co., New York, NY, 1988.
Chapter 2: Cannibal Empire, p. 26-54.

Film: Engineering an Empire: The Aztecs

Section II: The Organic City: Theory and Practice

Reading:

Kristof: Chapter 1 p. 43-94

Week 4: 2/16 & 2/18

The Organic City: Theory and Islamic Urban Form

Cities Highlighted: Mecca, Fez, Baghdad, North African Medinas, Cordoba and Grenada

Slideshow: Islamic Architecture

Music: Spanish Guitar to Flamenco: Spanish Multi-Cultural Diversity via Music

Section III: The Urban Grid: Theory and Practice

Reading:

Kristof: Chapter 2 p. 95-158

Week 5: 2/23 & 2/25

Orthogonal Planning: The Urban Grid: Colonialism, Capitalism and Order

Cities Highlighted: Greeks, Romans, European and North American cities

Week 6: 3/2 & 3/4

Colonial Spanish America: Origins of the Latin American Urban Form

Cities Highlighted: Spanish Colonial Ports, Lima, Mexico City and Buenos Aires

Slideshow and Music: Latin American Cultural and Architectural Diversity

Week 7: 3/9 & 3/11

In Class Exam

Week 8: 3/16 & 3/18

SPRING BREAK

Section III: Grand Manner

Kristof: Chapter 4 p. 209-278

Week 9: 3/23 & 3/25

The Grand Manner: The European Influence of Modern Urban Planning

Cities Highlighted: Paris, Washington DC, St. Petersburg and Moscow

Film: Engineering an Empire: Russia

Week 10: 3/30 & 4/1

Grand Manner in Latin America

Cities Highlighted: Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Lima

Music Lecture: Tango is Life: From the Milogna of the Pampas to the Musical Identity of Buenos Aires

Section IV: Modern Urban Form

Kristof: Chapter 5 p. 279-336

Week 11: 4/6 & 4/8

Modern Urban Form in History: From Skyscrapers to Sprawl

Film: Favelas

Week 12: 4/13 & 4/15

Latin American Modern Urban Form

City Concentrations: Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Lima

Week 13: 4/20 & 4/22

Minority Enclaves in Urban Areas

City Concentrations: Los Angeles, New York & Miami

Music: Afro-Cuban Jazz: The Musical Child of Manhattan Racial Segregation

Week 14: 4/27 & 4/29

Semester Papers Due

Week 15: 5/4 & 5/6

Review for FINAL EXAM