For the first time in history, a majority of the Earth’s human population lives in cities. Vast metropolitan areas are arising in developing and middle income countries, while in the United States, there is a resurgence in interest in urban living. Urbanists, mayors and developers are promising that strong cities can unleash productivity, bring diverse people together, and save the planet. Amid this promise, cities still face many of the challenges that have plagued them for decades, from concentrated poverty and stark inequality, to challenges in housing all residents and operating sustainably, to local controversies over what land uses make for a livable city and who should have the power to shape neighborhoods, to national policies that starve cities of financial resources, to economic systems that can ‘discipline’ places that innovate against the interests of the wealthy.

UEP 301 will cover urban policy and politics in this urban moment. The course will explore how policy can shape cities and impact the lives of those who live therein. The class also embeds the ideals and issues of policy development within the constraints of politics and the realities of power dynamics.

UEP 301 is divided into six sections:

1. **An introduction** to course themes and methods.
2. **Values and Power**, how policy is a tool for manifesting personal and social values in law and collective action; how power, money, organizing, and coalitions enact (or thwart) and enforce policy; and an opportunity for students to consider their own values and their own vision of what makes a good city.
3. **People and Places**, the diversity of urban residents and areas; how places reinforce inequality, opportunity, crime and health – the ‘enduring neighborhood effect’; how to change places; and the value of urban exploration and analysis.
4. **Planning and Building**, forces and policies that shape the built environment in cities: regional sprawl; transportation modes and infrastructure, city planning and debates over local zoning, density, and development; housing affordability; placemaking and urban design.
5. **Urban Futures**, how policy, politics and competing visions of urban futures impact sustainability, climate change, education, and innovation.
6. **Money & Governance**, how to raise and spend money to pay for urban priorities; forms of urban governance and cities as part of regional, state and national, and international political and economic systems.

The course will address these topics through readings, lectures, discussions, and several key individual, group and class processes to allow students to research, create and debate urban policies. These include:

**A - ATLAC a typical large American city.** The class will ‘participate’ in city policy development through a kind of simulation game of urban politics. Each student will
be assigned the role of a city council person in a fictional large American city. Partially based on the demographics and urban typology of their assigned council district, students will choose a policy idea to research, conduct a power analysis of, draft an ordinance, and attempt to pass this policy through city council over the course of the semester. The class will convene regularly as city council committees and as full council to hear and vote on proposed ordinances.

C – Cinematic Cities Each student will view a narrative film set in a major city and write a film review focused on the way that the city is portrayed and policy issues that are directly or indirectly referenced in the movie.

M – Megacity Mayor Each student will choose one of the largest 100 cities in the world, research that city’s circumstances, challenges and opportunities, and write a policy agenda to make the city into a better place.

N – Neighborhood Observations Each student will choose one of Los Angeles’ neighborhoods, visit, observe and document the neighborhood, research the area’s demographics, and write a reflective and analytical essay on the neighborhood’s sense of place, strengths, and needs.

V – Vision of a good city. Students will write a short manifesto or personal vision statement setting down what values and outcomes define a good city.

Z - Zoning LA Teams of students will create written and visual plans for future land use and development in Los Angeles, intended to influence the upcoming revision of the city’s zoning code. The plans will be developed through brainstorming and ‘studio’ sessions that reinforce the synergies (and differences) between design thinking and policy analysis.

The class is a 4 credit, graded course. Grades will be calculated as follows:
35% - Participation in and written products for ATLAC simulation exercise.
20% - Megacity policy agenda (memo 5%, plan 15%)
15% - Zoning LA team plan (group participation, presentation, and written plan)
10% - Neighborhood observation memo
10% - Participation in class discussions.
5% - values statement
5% - film reflections

Texts include sections from the following books as well as shorter articles and essays.

Peter Dreier, et al, Place Matters: metropolitics for the 21st century
Edward Glaezer, Triumph of the City: how our greatest invention makes us richer, smarter, greener, healthier and happier
Becky Nicolaides, My Blue Heaven: life and politics in the working class suburbs of Los Angeles, 1920-1965
Robert J Sampson, Great American City: chicago and the enduring neighborhood effect
PD Smith, City: a guidebook for the urban age
Jeff Speck, Walkable City: how downtowns can save America, one step at a time
Emily Talen, City Rules: how regulations affect urban form

Online sources for inspiration, news and ideas
- Atlantic Cities www.theatlanticcities.com/
Attendance Policy. Because participation is central to this class students are expected to attend all classes.

- 2 unexcused absences will result in a grade no higher than a B
- 3 unexcused absences will result in a grade no higher than a C
- 4 or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
- Please inform the professor of any upcoming absences (or past absences if an emergency arises). Ask the professor to check what absences count as excused.

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor no later than the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

Part 1: Introduction

Tues Jan 22- first class, introduction to course goals, methods, curriculum.

Part 2: Values and Power

Thurs Jan 24 - Why are cities significant? What is your vision of a good city?
Assignment of city council districts.
Readings
- PD Smith, Cities: xi to 15
- Sampson, Great American city, 3-13
- Sloane, Planning Los Angeles 1-10
- Inskeep, Instant City, 1-4

Assignment V1: write a one-page values statement/ manifesto on your personal vision of a good city
Assignment M1: choose three megacities (very large cities) that you are interested in researching and developing a plan for as their 'mayor.' You will be assigned one of these cities. You can pick any cities on these lists:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_by_population
Tues Jan 29
What are different ideological approaches to cities and urban policies?
Readings
- [www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/tslater/iehg_antiurbanism.pdf](http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/tslater/iehg_antiurbanism.pdf)
- Thompson, the city as a distorted price system, in City Reader, 266-273
- Glaeser, Triumph of the City, 3-15
- Dreier et al, Place matters, 247-254
- Speck, Walkable City, 58-63
- [http://www.bopsecrets.org/SI/Chtcheglov.htm](http://www.bopsecrets.org/SI/Chtcheglov.htm)

Assignment A1: complete the profile for your city councilperson and council district:
- Name and short biography of your councilperson
- Name of the district/ neighborhood you represent and a one or two line description of the district
- 2 organizations active in your district
- largest employer in the district
- 2 largest sources of campaign donations to your election

Assignment A 2: come to class with three issues that you/ your councilperson are interested in working on

Thurs Jan 31
Who has the power to change policy?

Guest lecture by Rudy Espinoza, Leadership for Urban Renewal and Sidewalk Vending Campaign

Readings
- SCOPE, mobilizing for action presentation, [http://ebookbrowse.com/mobilizing-for-action-presentation-12-1-07-pdf-d111023959](http://ebookbrowse.com/mobilizing-for-action-presentation-12-1-07-pdf-d111023959)
- narrative power analysis worksheet, [http://trb.la/xV0R4S](http://trb.la/xV0R4S)

Assignment A3: Create a power analysis grid for your general policy goal, fill in with between 6-8 interests

Tues Feb 5 – Power and politics in American cities
Reading
place matters, 165-186, 208-215

Assignment A4: turn in power analysis grid, choose one supporter and one opponent from grid to ‘testify’ on your policy
Assignment V2: write and turn in revised values statement

Part 3: People and Places

Thurs Feb 7 – how does place matter?
Readings
- Great American City, 13-20, 66-68
- Triumph of the City, 17-34, 41-58
- My Blue Heaven 1-6

Assignment N1 – come to class with three Los Angeles Neighborhoods that you are interested in exploring/writing about. There is a map of neighborhoods at http://projects.latimes.com/mapping-la/neighborhoods/ - focus on LA City neighborhoods from the central, eastside, northeast, san fernando valley, south la and Westside.

**Tues Feb 12** – inequality and concentrated disadvantage
Readings
- My Blue Heaven, 19-21, 39-46,
- Great American City, 97-120
- http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/income-segregation/los-angeles/

Assignment A5 – come to class with top two choices for your councilperson’s committee assignment from among these six committees:
- administration and finance
- criminal justice and public safety
- economic development and education
- environment and health
- infrastructure and transportation
- land use and planning

Assignment A6 – turn in policy memo explaining the issue/problems that your policy is designed to address and laying out policy options for addressing the issue

**Thurs Feb 14** - diversity, ethnic enclaves, and ‘slums’
Readings
- City- 124-140
- Triumph of the City, 69-91
- http://nextcity.org/informalcity/entry/when-tokyo-was-a-slum
- Everyday Urbanism, 69-85

Assignment N2 – post notes and images from the neighborhood you observed, be prepared to share impressions in class

**Tues Feb 19** – disorder, crime and collective efficacy
Readings
- The City, 223-231
- http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2012/01/30/120130crat_atlarge_go_pnik?currentPage=all
- Wilson and Kelling, Broken Windows, in City Reader 256-265
- City, 78-86
• http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2013/01/lead-crime-link-gasoline
• Sampson, great American city, 121-161

Assignment A7 – Turn in draft proposed ordinance with summary paragraph, ‘whereas clauses’ justifying need for policy, and text of ordinance

**Thurs Feb 21** – life in the city
Readings
• The City, 163-171, 247-248, 261-268
• Watch http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/video/2009/mar/03/hackney-iain-sinclair
• watch Los Angeles Plays itself parts 1 and 12
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SNc41zyLJ0
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SNc41zyLJ0

Assignment C1- come to class with at least 3 films from this list that you are interested in watching and reviewing from an urban observation/ policy perspective:
- All about my mother
- Amores perros
- Atlantic city
- Battle of Algiers
- Bicycle thieves
- Bladerunner
- Blow up
- Boyz in the hood
- Casino
- Central do brazil
- Christiane F
- Chungking express
- City of god
- Clockwork orange
- Germany year zero
- Godzilla
- Ikiru
- Le samurai
- Leaving los vegas
- Less than zero
- Long good Friday

Assignment A8 – start of committee hearings

**Tues Feb 26**- trading places: white-flight, ‘escaping the ghetto’ and gentrification
Readings
• My Blue Heaven- 308-314, 322-332
• Great American City, 261-286
• http://digitalcommons.law.wustl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1396&context=urbanlaw
• http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2802068/

Assignment N3- turn in Neighborhood Observations essay
Assignment A8 – more committee hearings

**Part 4: Planning and Building**

**Thurs Feb 28** – the shape of the city

Readings

- Engels, “the great towns” in City Reader, pgs 50-58
- Le Corbusier, “A contemporary city” in City Reader, pgs 322-330
- Greg Hise, Magnetic Los Angeles 186-214
- Wade Graham, Blueprinting the Regional City: The Urban and Environmental Legacies of the Air Industry in Southern California

Assignment Z1- zoning LA studio session one- model building workshop led by James Rojas

Assignment C2: turn in film review

**Tues Mar 5** – zoning, the DNA of land use

Readings


Assignment Z2- zoning LA studio session two

**Thurs Mar 7** – the politics of land use

Readings

- Bill Fulton, Reluctant Metropolis, 1-20
- Place matters, 103-126
- Triumph of the city, 135-163

Assignment Z3- zoning LA presentations and plans due

Assignment A8 – more committee hearings

**Tues Mar 12** – Spring break, no class

**Thurs Mar 14** - spring break, no class
Tues Mar 19 – Walking and biking
Readings
• Speck, Walkable City, 7-11, 24-35, 71-72, 80-83, 119-125, 133-135, 163-165
• Pucher and Buehler, City Cycling, 105-135
• http://www.planetizen.com/node/59792

Assignment A8 – more committee hearings

Thurs Mar 21 – Transit and cars
Readings
• Walker, Human Transit: 5-7, 205-214
• http://la.streetsblog.org/2012/10/29/move-l-a-why-you-should-vote-yes-on-measure-j-for-jobs/
• http://la.streetsblog.org/2012/10/30/bus-riders-union-transit-justice-not-corporate-welfare-no-on-measure-j/
• http://shoup.bol.ucla.edu/People,Parking,Cities.pdf

Assignment M2- turn in memo summarizing your megacity’s demography, economy, built environment; its strengths and challenges; and an initial list of policy ideas to help the city in the future
Assignment A8 – more committee hearings

Tues Mar 26 - Livable density in Hongkong, LA and other megacities
Readings
• www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/100430REDA.pdf
• https://dl.dropbox.com/u/2439304/civicexchange/201210walkability_en.pdf 18-32, 94-105,
• http://articles.latimes.com/2013/jan/02/business/la-fi-hong-kong-parking-bubble-20130102

Assignment M3- come to class with at least one idea from your megacity research to help Hong Kong and one idea to help Los Angeles

Tues Apr 2 – Housing
Readings
• www.smartgrowthamerica.org/images/fed-real-estate-facts.png
• http://www.nhi.org/online/issues/77/pubhsg.html
• vbn.aau.dk/files/13671493/SocialHousingInEurope.pdf 1-30
• Triumph of the city, 188-193

Assignment A8 – more committee hearings

Thurs Apr 4 – Place making and improving public space
Readings
- http://www.cnu.org/cnu-news/2012/03/tactical-urbanism-20
- Everyday urbanism, 22-35
- Gehl, Cities for People, 238-241
- Jacobs, Great Streets, 270-308

Assignment A9 – turn in amended ordinance

Part 5: Urban Futures

Tues Apr 9 – green cities
Readings
- Walkable Cities, 51-63
- Carbon zero: imagining cities that can save the planet
- James Kuntsler, Back to the Future
  - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1852329/

Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances

Thurs Apr 11 – urban nature and parks
Readings
- Triumph of the city, 210-222
- www.scag.ca.gov/wptf/pdfs/wptf060806_ACOE-LARiver.pdf

Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances

Tues Apr 16 - Health and Environmental Justice
Readings
- Walkable City, 38-50
- Place matters 76-85
- Triumph of the city, 97-101

Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances
Thurs Apr 18 – Education
Readings
- [http://www.studentsfirst.org/page/-/StudentsFirst_Policy_Agenda.pdf?nocdn=1](http://www.studentsfirst.org/page/-/StudentsFirst_Policy_Agenda.pdf?nocdn=1)
Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances

Tues Apr 23 – Innovation
Readings
- [https://pmarcuse.wordpress.com/2012/12/14/blog-25-re-imagining-the-city-critically/](https://pmarcuse.wordpress.com/2012/12/14/blog-25-re-imagining-the-city-critically/)
- triumph of the city, 223 – 246
Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances

Part 6: Money and Governance

Thurs Apr 25 – municipal finance
Readings
TBD
Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances

Tues Apr 30 – local and regional governance
Readings
Place Matters, 152-162, 218-226
Assignment A10 – full council session to vote on proposed ordinances
Assignment M4 – megacity policy agenda due

Thurs May 2- Last class. Lessons learned, celebration, evaluation.