

URBAN POLICY & POLITICS

Urban & Environmental Policy/Politics 301

Spring 2023

January 23, 2023 – May 8, 2023

Asst. Prof. Rick Cole

Class Sessions: Mondays 3-6 pm

Office: Urban & Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI)

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30 – 3:30 and by appointment

Phone: (805) 901-4284 Email: colef@oxy.edu



OXY Occidental College

SYLLABUS

UEP/Politics 301: URBAN POLICY & POLITICS

Junior Writing Seminar

FACULTY: Rick Cole

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:00 pm

CLASS SESSIONS

Mondays, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Fowler 112

LENGTH: 15 weeks

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We live at an inflection point in human history: the first time a majority of the world's population live in cities and American cities are the epicenter for economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities. Taught by a senior local government executive, this course deals with the practical realities of power, politics and policy in cities and regions. Grounded in the history and evolution of how cities work and how they are governed, the focus is on how to make lasting change to create a more equitable and sustainable future for American cities. Emphasizing the role of civic, political and management leadership, the class combines theory and practice, using greater Los Angeles as the primary case study. The course includes varied writing assignments with the goal of imparting useful skills for future leaders.

Some of the major questions we will explore:

1. As the U.S. has changed, so has the shape, function, and number of cities and metropolitan areas. How have these changes come about? How and why did the suburbs grow, especially after World War II? How has the physical shape of metropolitan areas -- its architecture, roads, residential areas, open spaces, factories, stores, offices, neighborhoods, downtowns -- changed? What impact have these changes had on how people live their lives? What roles did leaders play in these outcomes?
2. Are there certain "urban" characteristics -- economic, social, political, psychological -- common to cities and metropolitan areas? What is meant by the term "new urban crisis?" Does it affect all urban areas in the same way? How has the distribution of wealth and power in the larger society influenced the economic, social, and physical conditions of cities and metro areas? What are the causes of urban poverty and racial segregation?

3. Why don't cities and urban policies play a larger role in our national political life? Why isn't there a national urban policy designed to help strengthen and improve cities? Should policies help individuals wherever they happen to live? What approaches have been tried? What works? What hasn't? Why? How do we assess proposals to deal with our urban problems? Can innovation and experimentation at the local level successfully forge new solutions to long-standing challenges such as poverty and employment, housing and homelessness, public health, transportation and environment, racial segregation? What are the current policy debates regarding these and other issues?

4. How are cities governed? Who runs our cities? Business? Local politicians? Neighborhood groups? Developers? Bureaucrats? Unions? No one? What role do leaders play in shaping urban policy and politics? What are the different ways that cities and metro areas are governed? What powers should cities have? Regions? States? What difference does it make? The course also explores the political and administrative nuances of formulating policy and the underappreciated challenges of implementing policy.

5. What can we learn from cities around the globe? Using Los Angeles and its suburbs as our primary case study, what are the similarities and differences between Los Angeles and other major American cities including New York, Seattle, Boston, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Chicago? What about global cities like Paris, Copenhagen, Toronto, Mexico City, Seoul, Nairobi, and Beijing? What responsibility do we have as global citizens to model responsible, sustainable policies and politics?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Highlight the key contemporary urban policy challenges and their potential solutions
2. Understand how and why local government and governance works or does not work
3. Based on understanding the role of power, politics and policy in shaping decision-making, develop their own perspective on effective leadership: how to recognize it, how to promote it and how to practice it
4. Write succinctly and persuasively about urban topics in a range of formats
5. Engage in thought-out, data supported group discussion on urban topics
6. Explore varied paradigms for understanding and acting upon urban challenges
7. Recognize the use case for different types of sources and sieve through them
8. Assess aspirational policy ideas and understand how to shape them to be adopted and implemented

TEXTBOOKS

There are no required textbooks, but we will be reading chapters from several books.

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

There is no specific body of knowledge that covers the broad themes of exercising constructive leadership in shaping the future of our cities. The topic is too broad; the issues are too complex; and the roles you may play (professional, decision-maker, advocate, academic or citizen) are too diverse to comprehensively cover all you'll need to prepare for leadership. So there will be no "tests"

but I expect you to develop and refine your own theory of leadership and your own paradigm or theory of change as a framework for approaching civic leadership in its many forms.

COURSEWORK

You will be graded on the following assessments:

Participation: You will be expected to absorb the course material and respond thoughtfully and critically to it in classroom discussion. You will be expected to offer your own analysis and to respond to the perspective of others, including the instructor. To help frame classroom discussion, you will also be expected to pose at least one question in written form by midnight on Sunday, the day before class.

1. **Leadership Paper (*due Monday Jan 30*):** Your first paper will be 4-5 pages. This is a not classic academic paper with footnotes and bibliography. It is meant to present your personal thoughts on leadership in the context of the “organized complexity” of cities. You will draw upon at least three sources (at least two from class materials, at least one outside source) to help frame your definition and how it fits into the challenges of shaping urban policy. Don’t forget to address counter-arguments to your thesis – are those objections/reservations valid -- and to what extent?
2. **Newspaper op-ed (*due February 26*):** Using examples from Los Angeles Times op-eds to guide you on length and language, you will write in your own personal voice, taking a stand on an issue you care about. The assignment is to write 600-1000 words expressing your viewpoint on a particular urban policy choice. For simplicity, please choose a topic related to housing or homelessness (still a broad area.) You may draw from what we’ve covered in class. You may do some research on current controversies/proposals in the LA region. But take a position and defend it. As with the first paper, address counter-arguments to your thesis – are they valid and to what extent. This is not an academic or analytic paper. You are seeking to *persuade*. Still, it doesn’t hurt to cite credible sources (but remember your audience is the general public when choosing who they might find credible.)
3. **Public Event Reports (*first due on February 12, second on March 12*):** You will be expected to attend two online or in-person meetings, rallies, public hearings, or similar public events that include public attendance and participation dealing with issues raised in the course – such as housing, urban planning, policing, transportation, public health and the environment. Be sure to describe the meeting format, provide quotes or examples from the meeting and evaluate its effectiveness in terms of public decision-making. *15% of your grade will be based on your written observations and analyses of **two** public events.*

Rubric for Reports: Record your observations of these events, and write a short evaluation of the different perspectives and political sides of the issue. These events need to be *off campus*. Your write-ups should include not only descriptions of these events but also analysis, linked to the topics and readings in this course. If you learn about such events, please share them with the rest of the class. The written observations/analysis should be 3-5 pages in length, double-spaced. Identify where and when you attended these events. Hand in the

assignment within one week of the event. It is OK if more than one student attends the same event, but each student must write his/her own paper based on her/his own observations and analysis.

4. **Mayor/Councilmember Interview (*due on April 9*):** You will need to observe at least two hours of a City Council meeting of one of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. You will then have the responsibility to contact and interview one of the members (Mayor or Councilmember). 15% of your grade

Rubric for Interviews: Hopefully watching the Council meeting will give you some background for asking these questions of a Mayor or Councilmember:

- Why did you seek your current office?
- What are the main issues you focus on?
- What are your goals for 2021?
- What are the pressures of serving in elective office?
- What advice would you give to someone considering running for local elected office?

In 4-5 pages, summarize what you learned from observing the elected officials interactions with their colleagues, City staff and the public; from any light research you do to understand their background and whether they have made recent news; and from their answers to your questions. Be sure not to rely solely on the office holders answers for your analysis. Then, address: how does all this inform your understanding of the realities of leadership in local elective office? Please include at least some direct quotes from the meeting and the interview.

5. **Film Review (*Due Sunday, March 26*):** You can pick from a list of movies and documentaries with city themes and write a review. 10% of your grade will be based on your review.

Rubric for Film Reviews The review should be 3-4 pages. Don't pick a film you've already seen or is assigned for another course you're currently taking. Review the film critically: what worked about the film and what didn't? What was missing, what was overemphasized? Don't spend more than a paragraph or two summarizing the film. Instead, focus on how the film story/content is relevant to the concepts we're discussing in class. Most of these films are available through the library and/or online. The trailers are hyperlinked for you to review to make a selection.

- [“Blade Runner”](#) -- 1982 Ridley Scott dystopian film projected what L.A. would look like in 2019
- [“Chinatown”](#) – iconic 1974 film noir version of how LA got its water that won an Academy Award for best screenplay

- [“Citizen Jane: Battle for the City”](#) Documentary tells the iconic story of the titanic clash between journalist and activist Jane Jacobs and "The Power Broker" Robert Moses over the development of Manhattan
- [“City of Hope”](#) – a 1991 fictionalized story about a real city in New Jersey and how white and black politicians, community activists, and developers promoted and fought against gentrification.
- [“Crash”](#) – the 2004 Academy Award winner for Best Picture about the racial and social tensions in Los Angeles, inspired by a real-life incident
- [“Daley: The Last Boss”](#) – a 1995 documentary about Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, who ran the city like it was his fiefdom, earning him the reputation as a political “boss.”
- [Detroit](#) – a 2017 fictionalized retelling of the Detroit riot of 1967 and the brutal killings at the Algiers Motel
- [“Do The Right Thing”](#) -- Spike Lee's famous 1989 film about daily life in the Brooklyn ghetto in the early phases of gentrification and has an Oxy alum as one of the actors.
- [“Fruitvale Station”](#) -- a 2013 dramatic film based on events leading to the death of Oscar Grant, a young man who was killed in 2009 by a Bay Area Rapid Transit officer in Oakland.
- [Gentified](#) – this 2020 Netflix comedy series dramatizes the struggle over changing demographics in LA’s Boyle Heights Latino neighborhood (watch the first episode and at least two others)
- [Mayor Pete](#) – this 2021 documentary traces the rise of the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana into an unlikely presidential front-runner
- [Milk](#) – the 2008 Hollywood version of the life of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in a major city, played by Sean Penn
- [“Philly DA”](#) – an eight-part PBS series on the forerunner of the wave of “progressive district attorneys” that began with the election in 2017 of civil rights attorney Larry Krasner as DA in Philadelphia. Watch the first episode and your choice of one of the next seven (except not Episode Six which is assigned for class) for your report.
- [“Quinceañera”](#) – a 2006 dramatic film, set in the LA neighborhood of Echo Park in the early stages of gentrification. It follows the lives of two young Mexican American cousins who become estranged from their families.
- [“Save the Farm”](#) and [“The Garden”](#) – compare two documentaries about how Latino families, politicians, a wealthy developer, environmental activists, and celebrities collide over the fate of a community farm in South Los Angeles, the largest urban garden in the country.
- [“The Pruitt-Igoe Myth”](#) – a 2012 documentary that tells the story of the transformation of the American city in the decades after World War II, through the lens of the infamous Pruitt-Igoe housing development and the St. Louis residents who called it home.
- [“The Times of Harvey Milk”](#) – a 1984 documentary about the first openly gay American to get elected to a major political office – San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors.

- [“The Human Scale”](#) -- the Danish architect and professor Jan Gehl has studied human behavior in cities through 40 years, this 2012 documentary illuminates how modern cities repel human interaction, and argues that we can build cities in a way, which takes human needs for inclusion and intimacy into account.
- [“The Places That Make Us”](#) – this 2021 documentary highlights the next generation of residents of Youngstown, Ohio and why they choose to stay and try to revitalize their rust belt town
- [“This Changes Everything”](#) -- Inspired by Naomi Klein’s book, the documentary presents portraits of communities on the front lines of the climate crisis, from Montana’s Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing.

6. **Policy Recommendation to the Santa Monica City Council Policy Paper:** This is a group project that will produce an 8-12 page Policy Recommendation on Homelessness to the Santa Monica City Council as well as a 10 minute presentation to the class. Groups of 4-5 students will develop, write and then present a homelessness policy recommendation for the Santa Monica City Council as if you were a City staff member. You will use the Santa Monica Policy Playbook as a resource and the template you’ll be provided for the written report. You will select and make a recommendation on a proposal to address affordable housing. You will do both research and interview stakeholders in Santa Monica to develop your policy recommendation. Your group will do enough research to be able to have a basic understanding of Santa Monica’s approach to homelessness and to come up with one new proposal/program/policy to present. *15% of your grade will be based on the quality of the written report and the effectiveness of your public presentation. **Group written report due Sunday, May 4. Group Oral Presentation on May 8.***

7. **Extra Credit Field Trip:** You will receive a bonus of 5% of the class grade if you attend the class field trip on Saturday from 9:30 to 1:30 on Saturday, . The itinerary will be announced and distributed later, but will involve a transit trip and a free lunch. For those with Saturday work schedules or other obligations that day, alternate extra credit can be arranged.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Summary of assignments and assessment:

Assignment Name	Due Date (by 12 pm PT)	% of Course Grade
Essay 1: Leadership Paper	Sunday, January 29, 2023	10%
Public Event Report 1	Sunday, February 12, 2023	10%
Essay 2: Newspaper Editorial	Sunday, February 26, 2023	10%
Public Event Report 2	March 12, 2023	10%
Film Review Paper	March 26, 2023	10%
Elected Official Interview	April 9, 2023	10%
Policy Paper Written Version	May 7, 2023	15%
Policy Paper Oral Presentation	Monday, May 5, 2023	

Participation	Whole Semester (includes 3 class discussion questions submitted by noon on Thursday of class)	20%
<i>Extra Credit Field Trip</i>	<i>Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:30 am-1:30pm</i>	5%
Total		100%/105%

All written assignments are due by 11:55 pm PT on the day they are due!

Laptops and Cellphones

Please use your laptops only to take notes or look up citations during class – and silence your cell phones.

Writing Support Services

We can all use help sharpening our writing skills. I strongly encourage you to utilize the writing support services provided by the Writing Center: <https://www.oxy.edu/writing-center>

Academic Ethics

You should be familiar with the college's policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. I take these issues very seriously and so should you. Read full policy statement here:

<http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics/academic-ethics>

Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism occurs when the ideas, organization, or language of another are incorporated into one's work without properly crediting the original source with a citation or other disclosure. It includes re-writing or re-formatting material without acknowledging the original source of the ideas. Even if the language and organization are in the student's own words, any ideas or information that are not common knowledge must be acknowledged in a reference. Students are responsible for knowing and using the correct procedures for acknowledging and identifying sources of borrowed material. Failure to properly credit sources in all or part of work presented in draft or final form to anyone is plagiarism, regardless of whether it occurs as a result of dishonest intent or carelessness and regardless of the course credit attached to it. As a student scholar, if you:

- Quote directly from a source: you must enclose the quoted material, even if it is no more than a phrase or a single distinctive word (such as a neologism), within quotation marks, and provide a reference.
- Paraphrase, i.e., restate the material in your own words: (a) the paraphrasing must represent a substantial change from the original, not just the changing of occasional words and phrases, and (b) you must provide a reference.
- Present material that is common knowledge, but borrow someone else's organizational pattern: you must acknowledge that borrowing in a reference.

Penalties for academic misconduct are severe (see “Academic Misconduct”), and ignorance of the principles and policies concerning cheating and plagiarism is not a defense. Students with any doubts at all about whether an action or piece of academic work involves academic misconduct should consult their instructors before committing the action or submitting the work.

Disability Services

Please let me know if you need any kind of accommodation. Students with documented disabilities who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Students who experience significant physical or mental impairments can contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support.

Occidental Sexual Misconduct Policy and Resources

Policy: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-assault-resources-support/policies-procedures>

24/7 Confidential Hotline: (323) 341-4141

Campus Safety Emergency Line: (323) 259-2511

Dean of Students Office: (323) 259-2661

LESSON PLAN

Assignments for pre-class reading and watching is subject to change throughout the semester. Students will be notified of changes. Course schedule may also be modified to accommodate guest speakers. *NYT = New York Times; LAT = Los Angeles Times).

WEEK ONE: January 23, 2023

We'll start by outlining the focus and structure of the class.

Then we'll break into groups for students to reflect on your own experiences:

- What is your story of place? Where have you lived? How has that place shaped you?
- Where have you traveled? What is your favorite place and why?
- How have your experiences with place shaped your views on place?

Then we will begin our exploration of urban policy and politics:

- What is a city? We'll explore the ideas of urbanist Jane Jacobs
- How are cities shaped? We'll look at the continuum of power – politics – policy
- The rise of American cities: we'll look back at how the industrial revolution spawned cities that were dirty, filthy, unhealthy, overcrowded and extremely productive places
- What shaped American cities in the 20th Century? We'll look at the political and policy implications of race, transportation, and the marketing of suburbia as well as “urban renewal” and the “urban crisis”

Then we'll begin to outline how power, politics and policy shape place – and how policy is formulated, using Bardach/Patashnik's “Practical Guide for Policy Analysis” and their Eightfold Path:

1. Define the Problem
2. Assemble Some Evidence
3. Construct the Alternatives
4. Select the Criteria
5. Project the Outcomes
6. Confront the Trade-offs
7. Stop, Focus, Narrow, Deepen, Decide
8. Tell Your Story

Finally, we will begin to examine the role of leadership in all this

WEEK TWO: January 30, 2023

Lecture: The New Urban Crisis

Watch these videos before coming to class:

- [KCDC Annual Meeting 2016: Joel Kotkin debates Richard Florida](#) (38 minutes)

- [“Urbanized”](#) (85 minutes)
- [“The Future of Cities”](#) (18 minutes)

Read before class:

- Florida, *The New Urban Crisis*, Preface and Chapters 2-5, pp. 13-68

WEEK THREE: February 6, 2023

Lecture: How National Policy Shapes Cities

Read this before class:

- Dreier, *Place Matters*, Chapter 5, *From FDR to Obama: A Brief History of Urban Policy*, pp. 136-174
- [Andrews “How Ben Carson Tried to Destroy Fair and Affordable Housing” \(Curbed, August 17, 2020\)](#)
- [The Biden Plan for Investing in our Communities Through Housing \(Biden Harris Campaign, 2020\)](#)
- [Steuteville, “What will Biden do for Urbanism?” CNU, November 9, 2020\)](#)
- [Liebman, “Biden’s Housing Plan: An Anthology of Failed Approaches” \(The American Conservative, June 11, 2021\)](#)
- [US DOT, “Biden-Harris Administration Launches New Program to Help Communities Seek Infrastructure Projects”, October 6, 2022\)](#)
- [program-help-communities-seek-infrastructure](#)
- [Katz “How Washington made itself irrelevant” \(Washington Post, December 4, 2014\)](#)
- [Slowly, “How Urban Policy Can Help Bridge Political Divides \(The American Conservative, June 25, 2021\)](#)

WEEK FOUR: February 13, 2022

Lecture: Who owns the City?

Watch this video before class:

- [Kinder Institute Forum: Henry Cisneros](#) (60 minutes, but you can skip the first 10 minutes of introductions)

Read before class:

- [Cole, "Who Takes Ownership of the City," Reimagine, \(Spring 2010\)](#)
- [Florida, "The Diverging Economies of LA and San Francisco" \(City Lab, April 25, 2016\)](#)
- [Florida, “How the 1 Percent Is Pulling America’s Cities and Regions Apart” \(CityLab, April 3, 2019\)](#)

- [Wolf, "The Fight over Amazon is the fight over the future of the Democratic Party" \(CNN, February 15, 2019\)](#)
- [Matsakis, "The Truth About Amazon, Food Stamps, and Tax Breaks" \(Wired, Sept. 6, 2018\)](#)
- [Leonhardt, "New York Did Us All a Favor by Standing Up to Amazon" \(NYT, February 17, 2019\)](#)
- [Kroessler, "Much Ado About Amazon"](#)
- [Troy, "The DiBlasio Debacle" \(City Journal, January 2nd, 2022\)](#)
- [Tynan, Bas, and Cohen, *Unmasking the Hidden Power of Cities: Using Their Authorities, Energy and Promise to Secure the Common Good*, June 2018 \(pages 1-19 only\)](#)
- [Sassen, "Who Owns Our Cities – And Why This Urban Takeover Should Concern Us All" \(Guardian, November 24, 2015\)](#)

WEEK FIVE: February 20, 2023, President's Day Holiday

WEEK SIX: February 27, 2023

Lecture: Power and governance

Watch this video before class

- ["The New Los Angeles" \(56 minutes\)](#)

Read before class:

- Dreier, *Place Matters* Chapter 7 – "Urban Politics Matters: Progressive, Liberal and Conservative Cities"
- [Svara, "The Visionary Facilitator in City Hall and the County Courthouse" \(Presentation for ICMA President's Colloquium\)](#)
- ["Is Rick Cole's Resignation as Santa Monica City Manager a Canary in the Coal Mine for All Cities?" \(The Planning Report, April 19, 2020\)](#)
- [Holder, "Rising Star Mayor Who Championed Guaranteed Income Loses Hometown Race" \(CityLab, November 19, 2020\)](#)
- ["Common Issues and Pro/Con Arguments in Elections to Change Form of Government" \(Municipal Research and Services Center Fact Sheet\)*Harney, "The Mayor Manager Conundrum" \(Governing Magazine, April 2004\)](#)
- [Kotkin, "Garcetti's Legacy" \(City Journal, August 3, 2021\)](#)
- [Zahniser, Wicks, Orestes, "When will we see Mayor Karen Bass' appointees?" \(LAT, January 21, 2023\)](#)

WEEK SEVEN: March 6, 2023

Lecture and Invited Speaker: The Structure of the City of Los Angeles (CalState LA Professor Raphael Sonenshein invited)

Read before class:

- [Sonenshein, *Los Angeles Structure of City Government* \(League of Women Voters, 2006\) pp. 19-68](#)

Lecture: Economics, Budget, finance and taxation

Watch this video before class:

- [What if you could decide how government spends funds?](#) 10 minutes

Read before class:

- Dreier *Place Matters* Chapter 6 – “City Limits: What Can Motown Teach Us About Wealth, Poverty and Municipal Finance?”
- [Cole, Four Horseman of the Fiscal Apocalypse \(Planning Report, April 29, 2020\)](#)
- [Mayor Garcetti’s Proposed FY 21-22 Budget Summary](#)
- [Detailed Departmental Budgets, Volume 1](#) Just read pp. 407-433 to familiarize yourself with the LAPD budget
- [Marohn, “You Get What You Tax For” \(Strong Towns Journal, March 4, 2019\)](#)
- Judd & Hinze, “The Metropolitan Battleground” – Ch.12 in *City Politics* 10th edition (will distribute)

WEEK EIGHT: March 13, 2023 Spring Break

WEEK NINE: March 20, 2023

Lecture: How the Media, Activism and Campaigns Shape Governance

Guest Speakers: LA Controller Kenneth Mejia and his Chief of Staff Jane Nguyen

Read before class:

- [Brichasek, “Six ways the media influence elections” \(University of Oregon\)](#)
- [Owen. “The New Media’s Role in Politics” \(OpenMind BBVA, 2018\)](#)
- [Hopkins. “All Politics is National because All Media is National” \(538, June 6, 2018\)](#)
- [Suciu. “Social Media and Local Government” \(Forbes, Nov 19 2019\)](#)
- [Bolter. “Social Media are Ruining Political Discourse” \(The Atlantic, May 19, 2019\)](#)
- [Ardia et al. “Addressing the decline of local news, rise of platforms, and spread of mis- and disinformation online \(Executive Summary\)” \(UNC CITAP, 2019\)](#)
- [Fisher. “The subtle ways that ‘clicktivism’ shapes the world” \(BBC, September 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Kleinfield, “What Gang Backed Government Could Do To America” \(The Atlantic, January 6, 2022\)](#)
- [Darr, “Local News Coverage is Declining and That Could Be Bad for American Politics” \(Five Thirty Eight, June 2, 2021\)](#)
- [Hennen, “Local-News Woes Hide a Deeper Civics Problem” \(National Review, October 26, 2021\)](#)

WEEK TEN: March 27, 2023

Lecture: Public Safety, Police, & Criminal Justice

Watch these videos before class:

- [“Philip McHarris on What Defunding the Police Actually Means”](#) (39 minutes)
- [“Defunding the police is not the answer, Houston Police Chief Says”](#) (8 minutes)
- [“Philly DA \(Episode Six\)”](#) (55 minutes)

Read before class:

- [“The Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing”](#) pp 1-70
- [Finnegan, “How Police Unions Fights Reform”](#) (New Yorker, July 27, 2020)
- [Mazumder, “What Protests Can \(And Can't\) Do.”](#) *FiveThirty Eight* (Aug 27, 2020)
- [Booker, George Gascon Implements Sweeping Changes to LA's District Attorney's Office](#) (NPR, December 28, 2020)
- [Florida, “The Great Crime Decline and the Comeback of Cities”](#) (CityLab, January 16, 2018)
- [Cobb, “The Death of George Floyd in Context](#) (The New Yorker, May 28, 2020)
- [Ray, "What Does 'Defund the Police' Mean and Does it Have Merit?"](#) (Brookings, June 19, 2020)
- [Elmahrek, “Santa Ana Embraced 'Defund the Police' Then came the union backlash”](#) (LAT, September 3, 2020)
- [Bratton and Mangual, “Forgotten Lessons of the War on Crime”](#) (National Review, October 4, 2021)

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP: SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023 9:30-1:30

Itinerary to be announced and distributed before. Will include free transit trip and lunch. 5% extra credit for attendance.

WEEK ELEVEN: APRIL 3, 2023

Lecture: Climate Change, transportation and sustainable cities

Watch these videos before class:

- [“Taken for a Ride”](#) (60 minutes)
- [“Change the Street, Change The World”](#) (45 minutes)
- [“The Nature of Cities”](#) (40 minutes) about the role of nature in urban life

Read before class:

- Dayen, [“The Great Los Angeles Revolt Against Cars”](#) (The American Prospect July 17, 2017)

- [“LA's Green New Deal: Sustainable City pLAn”](#) (2019) Read the Introduction, pp. 1-21, and Chapters One (Environmental Justice); Three (Local Water), Nine (Waste and Resource Recovery) and Eleven (Urban Ecosystems and Resilience)
- [Baca, “The Green New Deal’s Huge Flaw”](#) (Slate, February 7, 2019)
- [Shoup, Parking Reform Will Save the City](#) (CityLab, September 19, 2019)
- [Peters, “Paris Mayor has dream of the ‘Fifteen Minute City’”](#) (Fast Company, January 29, 2020)
- [Hurley, “How the Green New Deal Could Retrofit Suburbs”](#) (CityLab, February 11, 2019)
- [Fitzgerald, “Cities on the Front Lines”](#) (American Prospect, December 5, 2019)
- [Five Reasons Your City Should Have a Zero Waste Plan](#) (Next City, October 21, 2020)
- [Gold, “Making Los Angeles Completely Water Self-Sufficient Won't Be Easy or Cheap. But It Can Be Done”](#) (LAT, March 19, 2018)
- [Pedersen, “How Relevant is New Urbanism in an Age of Racial Inequality, Climate Change and Housing Scarcity?”](#) (Common Edge, August 31, 2021)

WEEK TWELVE: April 10, 2023

Lecture: The legacy of residential segregation and inequality today

Watch these videos before class:

- [“Race – The Power of an Illusion: How the Racial Wealth Gap Was Created”](#) (30 minutes)
- [“Longford Street: Precious Places”](#) (9 minutes)
- [“Wealth Inequality in America”](#) (6 minutes)

Before class:

- Go to this website ([“What Percent Are You?”](#)) and plug in your family’s household income to discover where your family fits in the class system
- Go to this website ([“Family Budget Calculator”](#)) and plug in your family type, state, and location to discover how much a family in your area needs to make ends meet:

Read before class:

- [Florida, How Zoning Restrictions Make Segregation Worse](#) (CityLab January 4, 2016)
- [Oliver, “The Racist Origins Of America’s Suburbs And The Story Of The First Black Family To Move In”](#) (ATI, November 19, 2017)
- [Hurley, “Housing Is Everybody’s Problem”](#) (Places Journal, October 2017)
- [Badger, “How Redlining’s Racist Effects Lasted for Decades”](#) (NYT, August 24, 2017)
- [Rothstein, “Why Los Angeles is Still a Segregated City After All These Years”](#) (LAT, August 20, 2017)
- [Kallenberg, “The Government Created Housing Segregation. Here's How the Government Can End It”](#) (The American Prospect July 2, 2019)
- [Cole, “How a Pasadena Black Family’s Challenge to White-Only Real Estate Covenants Culminated in The Supreme Court’s Landmark Ruling Outlawing Them Across America”](#)

WEEK THIRTEEN: April 17, 2023

Lecture Poverty and Homelessness

Read before class:

- Dreier *Place Matters* Preface; Chapter 1 – “Place Still Matters”; Chapter 2 – “The Facts of Economic Segregation and Sprawl”; Chapter 3 – “The Costs of Economic Segregation and Sprawl”
- [Committee for a Better Los Angeles, “No Going Back” Report, 2020 Read the Executive Summary and Introduction pp. 11-19 as well as sections on Economic Stress, pp. 20-38, Black Life in Los Angeles pp. 39-51; Immigrants 148-164; Alternatives to Incarceration pp. 165-173; Transportation pp. 186-194](#)
- [Smith, “No Going Back’ To Racist Past, LA Civic Leaders Say of Post-COVID Future” \(LAT, Sept. 9, 2020\)](#)
- Judge Carter injunction & appeals reversal:
 - Injunction reporting: [LA Times](#), [La Mag](#)
 - Appeal & reversal: [La Mag](#), [Legal analysis](#)
 - [Text of the Injunction](#) (skim)
 - [Text of the Appeals ruling](#) (skim)
- [CA Auditor report](#) on COVID-19 and CA Homeless Population
- [Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness](#), pp 1-66 and the ["Homelessness" section of the "No Going Back" Report](#), pp. 65-77
- [Gladwell, “Million Dollar Murray” \(New Yorker, February 13, 2006\)](#)
- [Cole, "LA County Flying Blind on Homeless Data" \(San Gabriel Valley Tribune, December 20, 2020\)](#)
- [Cole, "Homelessness is a Manmade Disaster" \(Pasadena Star-News, January 2, 2020\)](#)

WEEK FOURTEEN: April 24, 2023

Lecture and Guest Speaker: How Policy Gets Made

Read before class:

- Santa Monica Policy Playbook (Copy to be provided)

Lecture: The Challenge of Affordable Housing

Watch these videos before class:

- [“City Rising”](#) (one hour)

Read before class:

- Phillips, *The Affordable City* pp. 1-220
- [“50 Years of Gentrification: A Timeline”](#) (The Next City)

- [Anbinder, "The Pandemic Disproved Urban Progressives' Theory About Gentrification" \(The Atlantic, January 2, 2021\)](#)
- [Cole, LA Mayor's 'I-Team' Seeks to Minimize Displacement During Urban Revitalization \(The Planning Report, February 13, 2015\)](#)
- [Dreier, "Why America Needs More Social Housing" \(American Prospect, April 16, 2018\)](#)

WEEK FIFTEEN: May 1, 2023

Lecture: The Future of Cities, Nationally and Globally

Watch these videos before class:

- ["SCAG 2012 Compass Blueprint Intro"](#) (3 minutes)
- ["Bruce Katz: The Global Metropolitan"](#) Revolution (18 minutes)
- ["Revitalizing a City by Revitalizing a Stream"](#) (11 minutes)
- ["Urbanized"](#) (85 minutes)

Read before class:

- Florida, *The New Urban Crisis* pp. 87-166
- Dreier, *Place Matters* Chapter 4, "The Roads Not Taken: How Government Policies Promote Economic Segregation and Suburban Sprawl"
- Fulton, *The Long Drive (The Reluctant Metropolis)* (To be distributed)
- Cyclovia: Bogota, Columbia (10 minutes)
- [Gelman "What If Citizens Set City Budgets?" \(World Resources Institute, June 18, 2018\)](#)
- [Eukliadiadas, "Xiong'an, China's self-sufficient city" \(Tomorrow City, October 25, 2020\)](#)
- [Lennard and Lennard, "The Genius of the European Square" \(Livable Cities, December 2004\)](#)
- [McCardle, "Is Masdar city a ghost town or a green lab?" \(Popular Science, April 24, 2018\)](#)
- Milk, "A City of Neighborhoods" Speech, 1978 (Milk, Black and Morris *An Archive of Hope: Harvey Milk's Speeches and Writings*, University of California Press, 2013) To be distributed later

FINALS WEEK: May 8, 2023

Student Group Presentations of Housing/Homelessness Policy Recommendations