Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments
URST-3500 (4 Credits / 60 class hours)

International Honors Program (IHP)

Cities in the 21st Century

COURSE OVERVIEW

The relationship between urban planning, sustainability, and urban space is complex and contradictory. The aim of the Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments (UPSE) course is to critically engage these complexities and contradictions to unpack the possibilities and challenges of urban planning in creating more socially just and sustainable cities. The four cities explored in this course –each taught by a local faculty living and engaging with that place– offer their own unique insights into how planning processes manifest themselves spatially and what they mean for attempts to create more socially just and inclusive urban spaces.

Since planning emerged as a need during early industrialization in Europe, it has evolved into a dynamic and contested practice across the world. The establishment of planning as a profession in the early to mid 20th century is inherently modernist in form and intention. Early ideals of urban planning were focused on protecting the public interest through technical and rational interventions. Modernist urban design saw urban form as a critical influence on how people behave and live in the city. Good city design and planning were largely seen as physical interventions intended to create amenity and order, as directed by the master plan.

Approaches to urban planning have evolved considerably since the heyday of the modernist paradigm. An entrepreneurial, economic growth-oriented approach to planning stands –often uneasily– alongside attempts to incorporate diverse voices and inclusive spatial interventions towards more sustainable urban forms, spaces, and mobility. Contemporary planning approaches also seek to understand the underlying sociocultural and economic processes that shape urban form, and the limitations of the blueprint planning tradition in responding to these realities. Recognition of the need to incorporate the voices of actors with differing agendas, and a deeper engagement with place and power, reflect efforts of urban planning professionals to create more sustainable and socially just urban environments.

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Yet this shift towards social justice and sustainability in planning is occurring very unevenly within and across cities around the world. On the one hand, the recently adopted New Urban Agenda (NUA) sees urban planning as a key operational enabler that leads cities towards becoming more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. The notion of "resilience" has emerged as an important focal point in planning debates given the impact of climate change on food security, rural-urban migration, and the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Increasing amounts of public and private funding are being directed towards planning to address these pressing realities. On the other hand, the efficacy of planning in practice to enable decent urban livelihoods and more sustainable cities especially, but not exclusively, in the Global South is questionable. Many cities still use traditional planning approaches that do not address the real needs of low income and marginalized residents. The power of dominant forces in shaping urban space for economic and political gain is instead what predominates in countless cities around the world.

While each city we visit offers its own unique insights into the possibilities and challenges of urban planning in creating more sustainable and just urban environments, the overarching theme that applies to all is the gap between the plan and what actually transpires in urban space.

The **following three themes** are used to interrogate planning processes and urban realities:

● **The evolution of urban form in relation to structural and labor dynamics**

Each city presents an opportunity to gain insight into how city planning systems have shaped space, how structural dynamics impact urban form and how plans have failed, succeeded, or further entrenched the socio-economic processes that make place. This is an ongoing theme in planning theory and is also an opportunity to expose you to the tools and methods of planning and their limitations. Each city provides an opportunity to explore how global economic processes, cultural contexts, and local political processes relate to the built form.

Urban development processes often have either unintended or deliberate consequences for vulnerable residents, such as gentrification, a concept to be explored in depth in several cities. Processes of displacement often connected to gentrification raise questions of spatial justice, and the economic processes that drive city development, and allow us to explore the roles of infrastructure, work, and housing provision in driving socio-spatial change.

● **The role of infrastructure in city making and the production of urban space**

Networked infrastructure –such as water and sanitation or social facilities like libraries, schools and parks– are key elements composing urban spaces. Coordinating the location and maintenance of utilities, incorporating transit into spatial planning and shaping neighborhood public space are just a few of the tasks of urban planners. Infrastructure planning is also one of the key ways in which planners can have material and symbolic impacts on and respond to the structural dynamics that shape the production of cities.

- **Climate change and cities**

Understanding climate change impacts and urban resilience and sustainability requires a spatial, social, and ecological engagement with cities. There are many entry points for examining this dynamic. In various cities on the IHP itinerary we will unpack the existing and potential social and physical impacts of climate change and how these are accommodated (or not) in spatial plans. We will also explore the environmental and spatial justice implications of urban interventions to address climate change, focusing on emerging yet growing trends related to urban greening and green infrastructure.

COURSE APPROACH AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

There are two learning principles that inform the approach to this course. The first is *experiential learning*. This occurs through in-country deep engagement via site visits, guest lectures, homestays, and case studies, experiences that expose you to the 'everyday' experiences of urban dwellers in different contexts. With this nuanced understanding of context and firsthand exposure, you gain more than academic insight into the concepts and issues presented in the UPSE course. We seek to enable reflective learning by examining our own mindsets and values in relation to urban processes and dynamics.

The second principle relates to *comparison*. This represents a critical methodological moment for learning about cities and how sets of issues manifest in different contexts. It also confronts the limitations of best practice learning, and the situational realities of people, place and politics. By building on contextual commonalities (urban violence, social fragmentation, income inequalities, cultural diversity) and exploring geographic specifics (local spatial planning regimes, governance frames, local cultural dimensions) of the different cities, you are able to be discerning and pragmatic in how you define key issues, and think through solutions.

The learning outcomes intended with the UPSE module are therefore as follows:

- To understand the role of city planning in relation to contemporary urban dynamics, and the factors that impact the relationship between the making of plans and their implementation;
- To gain critical insight into the social, economic, and ecological dimensions of urban sustainability and climate change; and
- To develop a critical awareness of how socio-cultural context and political economies inform local planning processes and implementation.

The methods of instruction and sharing will include field visits, case studies, and classroom interaction.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation: All students are expected to be present at every class session, with the

only exceptions being illness. Unexcused absences and habitual lateness *will* result in penalties reflected in your grade. Please inform the instructor if tardiness is anticipated. **All students are expected to come to class on time**. You are also expected to read in anticipation of lectures – required and recommended readings for each class are listed in this syllabus.

Late work: In keeping with IHP policy, papers handed in late will drop one point per day, unless permission is granted otherwise. Course assignments are due at the beginning of the day. Due dates of assignments will be given by each instructor in each city.

Plagiarism: All students are responsible for having read the IHP statement on plagiarism, which is available in the IHP Student Handbook. Students are advised that the penalty for plagiarism may be "…expulsion from the program or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Program Director, subject for approval by the Executive Director."

Refer to the Student Handbook for IHP policies regarding academic integrity, academic warning and probation, diversity, disability, harassment protocols, and the academic appeals process.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be evaluated on three assignments over the course of the semester. The UPSE local faculty will evaluate the assignment collected in a particular city, with lead Faculty moderating. Assignments will make up one third of the final grade for the course.

An expanded description of each assignment will be handed out at the beginning of each country program, including the criteria for evaluation. They are summarized below.

City	Assignments	Focus	Weight
City 1 Buenos Aires	Public space OR Planning the city	Reading the south-north axis of Buenos Aires OR Are cooperative buildings a viable option for Buenos Aires?	33.3%
City 2 Barcelona	Case study	Climate change planning, equity and social justice in Barcelona	33.3%
City 3 Cape Town	Story telling exercise	Climate change, creative research outputs, and social justice in Cape Town	33.3%

SESSIONS AND READINGS

Topics covered in each session will draw on site visits, lectures, and other activities, in addition to the assigned readings. The order of the sessions is provisional and may be rearranged to respond to activities or opportunities presented in each country program. Each session will explore a particular

debate. A full description of assignments and instructions will be distributed upon arrival in each country.

Typical course structure in each city

UPSE uses the city as a living lab to demonstrate competing visions of urban spaces, lived experiences, and formal planning aspirations. This module introduces key concepts about theory and practice of urban planning, looking at specific processes in a city while keeping the overarching goals of sustainability and equity (justice) in sight. Each country case is interrogated on its own merits, and the concepts we learn about are explored *in situ*.

<u>NEW YORK, USA</u>

SESSION 1: PLANNING, LAND USE, AND ZONING IN NYC – POWER DYNAMICS AND COMPETING INTERESTS

This two-hour session will provide an introduction to land use, zoning and urban planning in New York City. We will briefly review the major functions and history of planning and land use in the city, followed by an examination of the discretionary rezoning process in New York City (known as the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure or 'ULURP') as a lens on the contestation and competing priorities inherent in planning and the processes and actors that are attempting to shape the city's future.

Required readings
- Agnotti, T. (2016). Land Use and Zoning Matter. In *Zoned Out! Race, Displacement, and City Planning in New York City* (pp. 18 - 44). New York, NY: Terreform.
- Stein, S. (2019). The Rise of the Real Estate State. In *Capital City* (pp. 13 - 41). Brooklyn, NY: Verso Books.

Recommended readings:
- Woo, R., & Mangin, J. (2009). *What is Affordable Housing?* New York, NY: Center for Urban Pedagogy.
- Woo, R., Mangin, J., Gasper, C., & Torrey, M. (2017). *What is ULURP?* New York, NY: Center for Urban Pedagogy.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

SESSION 2: GROUNDING POWER THROUGH PLANNING IN BUENOS AIRES

This session will introduce the region to the students and present how the urban form of the city of Buenos Aires has developed in two simultaneous and imbricated scales: at the regional level as a center of political, economic, and cultural power, and at the city level by defining areas of power and control through urban planning tools and processes. Departing from colonial times, we will use a decolonial and feminist approach to highlight the importance of the port for the configuration of the city of Buenos Aires, materially, politically and symbolically. We will explore how specific intersections of race, class and gender are mapped –and have been purposefully planned– onto the north-south axis of power in the city of Buenos Aires.

Required Readings:
- Grimson, A. 2008. The Making of New Urban Borders: Neoliberalism and Protest in Buenos Aires. Antipode Vol. 40 No. 4, pp. 504-512.
- Sarlo, B. 2000. The modern city: Buenos Aires, the peripheral metropolis. *Through the kaleidoscope: The experience of modernity in Latin America*, pp. 108-123.

Recommended Readings:
- Auyero, J. and Sobering, K. 2019. "Collusion and Cynicism at the Urban Margins", *Latin American Research Review* 54(1): 222-236.
- Auyero, J. 2011. Researching the Urban Margins: What Can the United States Learn from Latin America and Vice Versa? *City & Community*, 10(4): 431-436.

SESSION 3: ACCESSING AND LIVING IN THE GENTRIFYING CITY. UTOPIA AND DYSTOPIA IN URBAN BUENOS AIRES

This class will focus on the housing situation in the city as ideas about *citizenship* and *who belongs to the city* evolved throughout the 20th century. We will pay particular attention to ideas about the "sanitized" and modern city from the 1970s onwards, and its accompanying "whitening" policies leading to initiatives to eradicate slums and restructure urban space in selective ways. That will lead us to the study of fragmented Buenos Aires in the 1990s, a model that carries social fracture through gentrification and displacement, processes that are at their peak nowadays. The aforementioned processes are cosmetically covered up by greening and good environmental practices of global cities.

Required Readings:
- Herzer, H. and Di Virgilio, M. M. (2015). "Gentrification in Buenos Aires, global trends and local futures." In Lees, L., Shin, H. B. and López-Morales, E. (Eds.) *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement.* Bristol-Bristol University Press, pp. 199-222.

- Rodríguez, M.C. and Di Virgilio, M. M. (2016). A city for all? Public policy and resistance to gentrification in the southern neighborhoods of Buenos Aires, *Urban Geography*, 37(16), pp. 1215-1234.
- Story of cities #46: the gated Buenos Aires community which left its poor neighbours under water. The Guardian, 19 May 2016. https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/19/story-cities-46-buenos-aires-gated-community-nordelta-flood

Recommended Readings:
- Arch Daily (2015). New City Hall in Buenos Aires / Foster + Partners. *Arch Daily*: https://www.archdaily.com/615436/new-city-hall-in-buenos-aires-foster-partners
- Rollenhagen, L. (2019). Should a notorious Buenos Aires slum become an official neighbourhood? *The Guardian*: https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/aug/07/should-a-notorious-buenos-aires-slum-become-an-official-neighbourhood
- M. Scheinson & C. Cabrera. 2009. "Social movements and the production of housing in Buenos Aires; when policies are effective." *Environment and Urbanization,* 21(1): 109-125.
- Michelini, JJ. & Pintos, P. (2016). Metropolitan expansion and new socio-spatial segregation scenarios in contemporary Argentina. The case of Nordelta-Las Tunas (Buenos Aires). *Habitat International*, 54(1): 40-49.

SESSION 4: THE MAKING OF THE NEOLIBERAL CITY: LABOR RELATIONS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW

This session will be centered in the spatial dimension of the productive model of development of the city and its labor relations. As a divided and fragmented city, the formal and informal labor market organizes competing multiple labor-related spatialities. From above, the paradigm of the branding of Buenos Aires, as a global city, zoning processes takes place with the aim of revitalizing areas of the city, profiling old neighborhoods as creative clusters like art, IT, and film. Complicating this, there is a tension in the emerging forms of informal economies from below that the government tries to regulate. For example, the government has promoted the establishment of selected day-markets (both handcraft and vegies and food-tracks) in parks all over the city as a way of managing the crisis while repressing and disarticulating networks of independent street artisans and street vendors.

Required Reading:
- Gago, V. (2017). Between Servitude and the New Popular Entrepreneurship: The clandestine Textile Workshop from *Neoliberalism from below: Popular pragmatics and baroque economies*. Duke University Press, pp. 108-152.
- Centner, R. (2009). Conflictive sustainability landscapes: the neoliberal quagmire of urban environmental planning in Buenos Aires, 14: 173-192.

Recommended Reading:
- Dinardi, C. (2017). Cities for Sale: Contesting city branding and cultural policies in Buenos Aires. *Urban Studies*, 54(1): 85-101.

- New Internationalist (2017). What we learned from Argentina's WTO alternative. The New Internationalist Magazine online: https://newint.org/blog/2017/12/18/argentina-wto
- Atzeni, M., & Grigera, J. (2018). The Revival of Labour Movement Studies in Argentina: Old and Lost Agendas. *Work, Employment and Society*. https://doi.org/10.1177/0950017018800233

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BARCELONA, SPAIN

SESSION 5: GENTRIFICATION: PROCESSES, PERSPECTIVES, PROSPECTS

In this session we will unpack the different processes behind and ways of understanding gentrification, from the emergence of the concept (Ruth Glass) to more recent explorations of concepts like global and planetary gentrification. We will also look at the relationship between gentrification, displacement and land rent, and discuss the kinds of resistance emerging to combat processes of gentrification in Barcelona and beyond.

Required readings:
- Slater, T. 2011. Gentrification of the City. Chapter 50. *The New Blackwell Companion to the City*, ed. G. Bridge and S. Watson. Blackwell: 571-585.
- Janoschka, M., Sequera, J. and Salinas, L. (2014) Gentrification in Spain and Latin America? A Critical Dialogue, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(4): p. 1234-1265.

Recommended readings:
- Lees, L. (2012) The geography of gentrification: thinking through comparative urbanism, *Progress in Human Geography*, 36:2:155-171.
- Valli, Chiara 2015. A sense of displacement: Long-time residents' feelings of displacement in gentrifying Bushwick, New York. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 39(6): 1191-1208.
- Smith, N. (1979). Toward a Theory of Gentrification A Back to the City Movement by Capital, not People. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 45(4), 538-548.

SESSION 6: THE EVOLUTION OF URBAN PLANNING: EXPLORING PLANNING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE URBAN COMMONS

This session aims to put urban planning in perspective by first explaining how the profession has evolved both in theory and practice, the latter drawing upon examples from Barcelona and other cities across the world. We will then focus on different approaches to social justice in urban planning practice, and what this has meant for urban spaces and residents. Finally, we will explore the recent emergence of the urban commons in relation to urban planning, discussing the continuities and divergence from planning approaches focusing on social justice.

Required readings:
- Marcuse, P. (2009). From Justice Planning to Commons Planning. In P. Marcuse, J. Connolly, J. Novy, I. Olivo, C. Potter and J. Steil (eds): Searching for the Just City: Debates in urban theory and practice. New York: Routledge.
- Fainstein, S. 2005. Planning Theory and the City, Journal of Planning Education and Research, 25:121-130.

Recommended readings:

- Monclús, FJ. (2004) The Barcelona model: and an original formula? From 'reconstruction' to strategic urban projects (1979–2004). Planning Perspectives, 18(4): 399-421.
- Degen, M. and García, M. (2013). The Transformation of the 'Barcelona Model': An Analysis of Culture, Urban Regeneration and Governance. International Journal or Urban and Regional Research
- Marshall, Tim (2000). Urban Planning and Governance: Is there a Barcelona Model? International Planning Studies, 5(3): 299-319.

SESSION 7: INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE/SUSTAINABLITY PLANNING: THEORIES AND REALITIES

Cities are increasingly starting to plan and take action to address climate change and sustainability challenges. But how do climate adaptation, mitigation and other resilient/green interventions relate to social and spatial justice/equity considerations in urban areas? This session provides an overview of the rise of the urban sustainability and climate change agenda and introduces key concepts to think critically about the climate emergency. At the end of this session the case study topic and groups will be introduced, with the final UPSE session in Barcelona setting the scene for the case study exercise.

Required readings:
- Campbell, S. (1996). "Green cities, growing cities, just cities?: Urban planning and the contradictions of sustainable development." Journal of the American Planning Association 62.3: 296-312.
- Wamsler, C., Brink, E. and Rivera, C. (2013). Planning for Climate Change in Urban Areas: From Theory to Practice. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 50(1): 68-81.

Recommended readings:
- Agyeman, Julian, Robert D. Bullard, and Bob Evans. "Exploring the nexus: Bringing together sustainability, environmental justice and equity." Space and polity 6.1 (2002): 77-90.
- Anguelovski, I., Shi, L., Chu, E., Gallagher, D., Goh, K., Lamb, Z., ... Teicher, H. (2016). Equity Impacts of Urban Land Use Planning for Climate Adaptation: Critical Perspectives from the Global North and South. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *36*(3), 333–348.
- Fainstein, S. (2015). Resilience and Justice: Debates and Developments. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *39*(1), 157–167.

SESSION 8: CLIMATE CHANGE/SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING IN BARCELONA: WHAT ROLE FOR SOCIAL AND SPATIAL JUSTICE?

Building from the previous session, this session will focus on Barcelona's Climate Plan and key sustainability / green interventions in the city. We will debate where and how justice and equity considerations are made in the climate plan. Half of the session will be dedicated to set up the UPSE case study on climate change planning in Barcelona, including time for preliminary questions and discussions about the case study activity.

Required readings:
- Barcelona's Climate Plan (in English): http://lameva.barcelona.cat/barcelona-pel-clima/sites/default/files/documents/eng_climate_plan_def.pdf

<u>CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA</u>

GENERAL SESSION: THE PLANNING SYSTEM: SPATIAL PLANNING IN CAPE TOWN

This is a guest session by Alicia Fortuin on the history of spatial planning in Cape Town. Alicia will introduce students to the unique nature of apartheid city planning, and how the political ideology of apartheid is still inscribed into South African cities before moving on to discuss the current nature of urban planning in Cape Town. Whilst this is not a formal UPSE session, it is nevertheless directly relevant to the remainder of the UPSE course.

Required readings:

- Turok, I. and Watson, V. (2001): "Divergent Development in South African Cities: Strategic Challenges Facing Cape Town". Urban Forum, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp.119-138.

SESSION 9: GENTRIFICATION AND SPATIAL JUSTICE IN CAPE TOWN

This session explores some of the property markets trends in Cape Town in more detail, in particular the impact of gentrification in parts of the inner city. The aim is to interrogate the tension that emerges from neighbourhood transformation and the more specific need to enable the development of affordable housing in the inner city.

Required readings:

- Development Action Group. 2018. Re-imagining Woodstock and Salt River: A Community-centred approach to neighbourhood regeneration. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- G. Visser, & N. Kotze. (2008). The state and new-build gentrification in central Cape Town, South Africa. *Urban Studies*, *45*(12), 2565-2593.

Recommended readings:
- L. Wenz. (2012). Changing tune in Woodstock: Creative industries and local urban development in Cape Town, South Africa. *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement*, *5*, 16-34.

SESSION 10: PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN CAPE TOWN – PROSPECTS FOR RESTRUCTURING THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE-LED SPATIAL PLANNING?

This session will focus on the relationship between public transport and urban settlement patterns in Cape Town. A significant proportion of the population of the city is reliant on public transport on a daily basis, and it is thus a key part of the city's public infrastructure. The City of Cape Town has recently adopted a new development rationale and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) approach to urban planning through the 2018 Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework Review. As part of this, the municipality is attempting to reform the public transport system through the

implementation of a new bus system and an Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN). The public transport system includes so-called "formal" and "informal" services, the latter of which responds quickly to new urban development, and acts as an essential service, particularly to the urban poor, yet few formal provisions are made for this system through the City's various transport and planning policies. Key discussions in this session will explore the extent to which public transportation, and the informal economy can contribute to urban restructuring and what the prospects are for that in Cape Town.

Required readings:

- City of Cape Town. *(2018).* Chapter 4: Directing Spatial Transformation. *Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework Review.* Cape Town: City of Cape Town.
- Schalekamp, H. (2017). Lessons from building paratransit operators' capacity to be partners in Cape Town's public transport reform process. *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice.* 104: 58 – 66

Recommended readings:
- City of Cape Town. (2016). Chapter 2: Problem Statement. *Transit Oriented Strategic Framework.* Cape Town: City of Cape Town. 8-11.
- Pádraig Carmody & Alicia Fortuin (2019) *"Ride-sharing", virtual capital and impacts on labor in Cape Town, South Africa*, African Geographical Review, DOI: 10.1080/19376812.2019.1607149

SESSION 11: UNDERSTANDING THE SPATIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE (SHOCK?) AND HOW TO PLAN FOR IT

The recent drought in Cape Town has forced all levels of government to reevaluate their existing policy responses to climate 'shock'. This session looks at the need to consider climate change in spatial planning; using the City of Cape Town's current policy framework to explore the issue from an interdisciplinary perspective. The emphasis is on the spatial impacts of climate change as well as the livelihood implications. How could/should spatial planners address these issues through practical policy interventions resulting in tangible results? Various arguments in relation to recent framings of climate change will be presented and discussed as a class.

Required readings:

- Joubert, L. and Ziervogel, G. 2019. Day Zero: One City's Response to a Record-Breaking Drought. Creative Commons: June 2019. Available: www.dayzero.org.za
- P. Mukheibir and G. Ziervogel. 2007. "Developing a Municipal Adaptation Plan (MAP) for climate change: the city of Cape Town. "*Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 19, No.1. pp 143-158

Recommended readings:

- E. Wilson. 2006. "Adapting to climate change at the local level: the spatial planning response." *Local Environment*, Vol. 11, No. 6. pp 609-625.