



# INTERNATIONAL HONORS PROGRAM

comparative study around the world

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## **International Honors Program (IHP) Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments**

**URST 3500 (4 Credits)  
Spring Semester 2010**

### **Course Overview**

Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments (UP&SE) provides an overview of planning practice within different political, geographic, socio-economic and environmental contexts, and a framework for understanding complex relationships between the built and natural environments. Heavy emphasis is placed on mutual learning – the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills among students, faculty, community residents, country coordinators, guest lecturers and other participants in the program.

Although UP&SE largely focuses on the physical characteristics of cities, such as land use and infrastructure, and relationships between the built and natural environment, these characteristics and relationships are shaped by a complex web of political, economic, social, and cultural conditions and decisions. Students will find that issues, concepts and approaches studied in UP&SE relate closely to those covered in Politics and Development (P&D) and Culture and Society (C&S), and that readings and discussions in all three courses are closely interlinked, providing a comprehensive, integrated framework for analysis of contemporary urban issues.

### **Course Objectives**

- To provide an understanding of the interrelationships between various elements or functions of the city and between cities and the natural environment;
- To instill appreciation for the role that planning can play in promoting socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development, and;
- To enhance listening, observation, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and facilitation skills.

### **Course Concepts**

UP&SE is aimed at a comprehensive, integrated study of cities through an urban planning lens. We'll be looking at each city from four different but interrelated perspectives during the course of the semester – urbanization (movement from rural to urban areas); the shaping of cities (land use ownership and control); urban infrastructure (critical physical, economic, political and social networks); and sustainability (environmental, economic, and social) - making comparisons as we move along and looking at relationships in each case to urban planning, specifically the role of planning and of planners in shaping urban environments.

### **Components**

**A. Faculty sessions:** Discussions; guest lectures; site visits; presentations (individual/group); skills/methods workshops.

**B. Readings (required, recommend, toolkit):** Background theory, city specific examples, tools/skills.

**C. Assignments:**

1. New York City - Mapping assignment (physical/social/cultural networks) – observation, analytical and presentation skills. Individual assignment. (10 points)
2. Sao Paulo/Curitiba – Essay (600 words), based on observations, site visits, readings, and field trips. Research, reading, analysis, writing/communication skills. Individual assignment (25 points)

3. Cape Town – Sustainability interview (homestay interviews; analytical paper). Primary research, survey methods, collaboration, interview skills, analytical skills, communication. Partner-based assignment. (30 points)
4. Hanoi – Debate. Research, collaborative, analytical, communication, debating skills. Group assignment. (15 points)
5. Participation – class discussions, engagement, collaboration on group and partner assignments, etc. (20 points)

Separate assignment sheets will be handed out for each assignment, with detailed instructions and evaluation criteria.

**D. Notebooks:** Notebooks are an essential tool in UP&SE. It is there that students will record lectures and site visits as well as observations and information for their assignments. Although notebooks will not be graded and are not expected to be handed in, they are considered an integral part of the course and will serve as an important reference throughout the semester. Students should use them freely to jot down thoughts and ideas, directions and contact information as well as sketches and diagrams.

### Grading

Faculty will give grades in the form of points and will return assignments with written comments. Faculty will describe the range of points received for the assignment so that a student will know how his/her work compares with the rest of the class. At the end of the semester, your cumulative point score will be calculated in order to determine the final letter grade for the course. Point grades on individual assignments are not directly correlated to letter grades. The final letter grades will be determined on the basis of cumulative points on assignments completed across countries.

For *final* grades in IHP *Cities* courses it is useful for both faculty and students to think of letter grades in the following way. An "A" represents truly outstanding work that exemplifies thorough analysis, superior insight, and crystal clear presentation. A "B" signifies highly competent work that accomplishes the task at hand very well, through considerable thought, reasonable analysis, and an organized presentation. A "C" represents adequate work that meets basic requirements but demonstrates no distinction in terms of analytical insight or organization. A "D" is characterized by poorly or partially completed work that reflects a lack of initiative, inconsistent analysis, and/or erratic presentation. Plus and minus indicate relatively better or poorer work within each category. There is no A+.

### Course Policies

**Attendance and Participation:** All students are expected to be present at every class session, with the only exceptions being illness (written note required from a non-IHP adult, e.g. homestay parent, or preferably, health care professional). Unexcused absences and habitual lateness *will* result in penalties reflected in your participation grade. Please inform the instructor if tardiness is anticipated. **All students are expected to come to class on time.**

**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 start of class on the due date. Unexcused absences will also result in a lower grade.

**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 on IHP for plagiarism may be "...expulsion from the program or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Program Director, subject to 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.

The International Honors Program is offered in affiliation with the School for International Training, the accredited higher education institution of World Learning.

## COURSE CHRONOLOGY

### NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

19 – 29 January 2010

**Session 1- Course introduction** (Course outline; Urban planning and sustainability concepts, approaches; Course themes (urbanization; the shaping of cities; urban infrastructure; sustainability)

- Kihato, Caroline, “African Urbanism,” in *The Endless City*. Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, eds. London: Phaidon Press Ltd., 2007. pp. 214-7.
- Newman, Peter and Jeffrey Kenworthy, *Sustainability and Cities. Overcoming Automobile Dependence*. Island Press, 1999. Chapter 1, “The Concept of Sustainability and its Relationship to Cities.” pp. 1-7.
- *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*, Robert, D. Bullard, ed. Sierra Club Books, 2005. Appendix A. “Principles of Environmental Justice,” pp. 299-301; Appendix B, “Nongovernmental Organization Language on Environmental Racism,” pp. 303-305.
- Stollman, Israel, “The Values of the City Planner,” in *The Practice of Local Government Planning*. International City Management Association, 1979. pp. 7-20.

**NYC assignment:** Field mapping exercise. Due Monday, January 27.

**Toolkit:** Dandekar, Hemalata, C., “Field Methods of Collecting Information,” in *The Planners Use of Information*, (*Environmental Design Series*, V2), Hutchinson Ross Publishing Company, 1982. pp. 15-31.

### SÃO PAULO AND CURITIBA, BRAZIL

30 January – 7 March 201

**Session 2A: Research Methods** (Combined methods session with P&D and C&S)

**Toolkit:** Nishikawa, Nancy I., “Survey Methods for Planners,” in *The Planners Use of Information*, (*Environmental Design Series*, V2), Hutchinson Ross Publishing Company, 1982. pp. 32-55.

**Session 2B- Urbanization and the growth of cities** (Combined history session with P&D and C&S)

- *State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Human Growth*. UNFPA, 2007. pp. 5-13.
- Lee, Kai N. “An Urbanizing World,” in *2007 State of the World: Our Urban Future*. The Worldwatch Institute. W.W. Norton & Company, 2007. pp. 3-21.

**Brazil assignment:** Essay. Due in Sao Paulo, upon return from Curitiba.

**Session 3- The shape of cities: Urban development patterns and trends**

- Burgess, Ernest W (1925) “The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project,” in *The City Reader*. Third Edition. Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, eds. The Routledge Urban Reader Series, 2003. pp. 156-163.
- Ramos Schiffer, Sueli, “Economic Restructuring and Urban Segregation in São Paulo,” in *Of States and Cities: The Partitioning of Urban Space*. Peter Marcuse and Ronald van Kempen, eds. Oxford University Press, 2002. pp. 143-169.

**Session 4- Role of the public sector in promoting sustainable urban environments** (Combined sustainable development session with P&D)

- Rabinovitch, Jonas and Josef Leitman (1996) “Urban Planning in Curitiba,” in *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. Stephen M. Wheeler and Timothy Beatley, eds. Routledge, 2004. pp. 237-248.
- Hawken, Paul, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*. Little, Brown and Company, 1999. pp. 285-308.

**Session 5- Planning and development interventions: Land use policies and controls, bottom-up vs top down planning**

- Arnstein, Sherry (1969) “A Ladder of Citizen Participation,” in *The City Reader*. Third Edition. Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, eds. The Routledge Urban Reader Series, 2003. pp. 244-255.

- de Souza, Marcelo Lopez, “Alternative Urban Planning and Management in Brazil: Instructive Examples for Other Countries in the South?” in *Confronting Fragmentation: Housing and Urban Development in a Democratizing Society*. Philip Harrison, Marie Huchzermeyer and Mzwanele Mayekiso, eds. University of Cape Town Press, 2003. pp. 190-208.

## CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

8 March – 12 April 2010

**Session 6A- Survey Methods** (Combined methods session with P&D and C&S)

**Toolkit:** Nishikawa, Nancy I., “Survey Methods for Planners,” in *The Planners Use of Information*, (*Environmental Design Series, V2*), Hutchinson Ross Publishing Company, 1982. pp. 32-55.

**Assignment:** Sustainability interviews. BoKaap interview due in second week; Langa interview due in third week; final paper due in fourth week just before vacation.

### Session 6- Infrastructure and services: Issues of equity and access

- McDonald, David, A., *World City Syndrome: Neoliberalism and Inequality in Cape Town*. Routledge, 2008. Chapter 5: Respatializing Cape Town, pp. 135-173. (SKIM)
- McDonald, David, A., “Environmental Racism and Neoliberal Disorder in South Africa,” In *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*. Ed. Robert D. Bullard. Sierra Club Books. 2005. pp.255-278.

### Session 7- Balancing environmental conservation and development needs

- Katzschner, T., Oelofse G., Wiseman, K., Jackson, J., and D. Ferreira, (2005) ‘The City of Cape Town’s Biodiversity Strategy’, in *The Urban Imperative: Urban outreach strategies for protected area agencies*, Trzyna, T. (ed.), proceedings of a workshop at the Fifth World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa, 8-17 September 2003, IUCN World Parks Congress Series.
- Swilling, M. (2005) Rethinking the Sustainability of the South African City (Published [minus the CT case study] in popular development journal *Development Update*, 5, April 2005. To be republished on request by accredited academic journal *Development Southern Africa* in the next edition.)

### Session 8- Managing urban growth and development. (Informal settlement upgrades; desegregation efforts and challenges)

- Watson, Vanessa. “Planning for Integration: The Case of Metropolitan Cape Town.” in *Confronting Fragmentation: Housing and Urban Development in a Democratizing Society*. Philip Harrison, Marie Huchzermeyer and Mzwanele Mayekiso, eds. University of Cape Town Press, 2003. pp. 140-153.
- Pieterse, Edgar, *City Futures: Confronting the Crisis of Urban Development*, UCT Press, Cape Town; Zed Books Ltd., London and New York, 2008. pp. 1-13.
- Huchzermeyer, Marie. “Appropriate Informal Settlement Intervention: prospects and challenges for South Africa.” In *Unlawful Occupation: Informal Settlements and Urban Policy in South Africa and Brazil*. Africa World Press. 2004. pp. 227-236.

## HANOI, VIETNAM

13 April – 17 May 2010

**Session 9- Urban transformations** (Agents of change: regional, national and global contexts; Reflections on New York City, Sao Paulo, Curitiba, Cape Town and Hanoi)

**Assignment:** Group debates

- Quang, Nguyen and Hans Detlef Kammeier, “Changes in the political economy of Vietnam and their impacts on the built environment of Hanoi,” in *Cities*, Vol. 19, No. 6, Elsevier Science Ltd., 2002. p. 373–388.
- Surborg, Björn, “Advanced services, the New Economy and the built environment in Hanoi,” in *Cities*, Vol. 23, No. 4, Elsevier Ltd., 2005. pp. 239–249.
- Sassen, Saskia. (1996). “Cities and Communities in the Global Economy.” In *The Global Cities Reader*. Eds. Neil Brenner and Roger Keil. The Routledge Urban Reader Series. 2006. pp. 82-88.

**Session 10- Managing Urban Growth and Development in Hanoi** (Responding to urbanization pressures; Megaprojects and Master Plans)

- Leaf, Michael, "Vietnam's urban edge: The administration of urban development in Hanoi," TWPR, 21 (3) 1999, pp. 297-315.
- "Hanoi: the first sustainable capital by 2030" (<http://www.strangesystems.com/blog/hanoi-the-first-sustainable-capital.html>)
- "Experts surprised by audacity of proposed Hanoi master plan," VietNamNet/VNE/TTXVN.

**Session 11- Group debates**

**Readings:** Individual /group research related to topics and issues.

**Session 12- Sustainable urban futures – need for a new planning paradigm.** (Combined session with P&D and C&S)

- "Urban Challenges and the Need to Revisit Urban Planning," *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009*, (Abridged Edition), UN Human Settlements Program, UN Habitat, Earthscan, 2009. Chapter 1, pp. 1-8.
- Bullard, Robert, D, Glenn S. Johnson, and Angel O. Torres. "Addressing Global Poverty, Pollution, and Human Rights." In *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*. Ed. Robert D. Bullard. Sierra Club Books. 2005. pp. 279-297.
- Duerksen, Chris, "Saving the World through Zoning: The sustainable community development code comes to the rescue," *Planning*, American Planning Association, January 2008.