

**Urban Planning and Policy**  
**Geog 3377; PA 3377; Soc 3377**  
**Fall 2005**

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Wednesday  
2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
SOM 2.112

Professor: Dr. Roxanne Ezzet  
Office: GR 3.530  
Telephone: (972) 883-4764  
Office Hours: Wed 12:00-1:00 pm, or by appointment  
E-mail: [rezzet@utdallas.edu](mailto:rezzet@utdallas.edu)

TA: Karabi Bezboruah  
Office: GR 2.512  
Office Hrs: Wed 5-6 pm  
email: [kbezboru@utdallas.edu](mailto:kbezboru@utdallas.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce you to important substantive areas and concepts in the field of urban planning and politics, and we will examine urban policies facing local governments. We will address some of the major issues facing urban planners and policy makers today, focusing on specific issues currently affecting the Dallas Metroplex. The course has the following objectives:

- 1) Provide an overview of the various fields within planning, such as housing, community development, transportation, environmental planning, urban sprawl and growth management. Our focus will be on the major policy issues and problems within each of the fields, both nationally and within the Dallas Metroplex.
- 2) Introduce some of the major debates and issues in urban policy and politics.
- 3) Learn how to develop and present convincing arguments.

To meet these goals, the course will cover the following four topics:

- 1) Should the Dallas-Fort Worth region adopt policies to discourage sprawl?
- 2) Should the Dallas Area Rapid Transit authority (DART) adopt a mass transit strategy based on bus transportation or light rail transit?
- 3) Should the Dallas Metroplex use congestion/road pricing to alleviate traffic congestion on the major highways (e.g., 635 and 75)?
- 4) Should the federal government expand the Housing Voucher Program or invest additional resources into public housing?

## **REQUIRED READING**

The two required books are available at the bookstore. There are also articles that are available online or are on reserve at the library.

Books:

Levy, John M. 2003. *Contemporary Urban Planning*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Hacker, Diana. 2004. *A Pocket Style Manual*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.

## **FORMAT AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A complete list of the lecture topics and readings is attached. During the first part of the course, readings are from the textbook *Contemporary Urban Planning*. For the second part, the majority of the readings are available online. A few readings that are not available online are on reserve at the McDermott library.

Your course grade will be comprised of one in-class exam, participation and presentations at the mock city council meetings, three policy briefs, and one research paper. Details on these elements are described below.

### **In-class exam**

There will be one exam on September 28 that covers all readings and lecture material through September 21. Material covered through September 21 will lay the foundation for the topics we will examine in greater detail during the rest of the semester. No make-up exam will be offered. A missed exam will receive a "0" score.

### **Mock City Council**

The Mock City Council meetings will give us a chance to experience policy making in action. Presenters will take information obtained from class lectures, activities and outside research on a specific topic and argue their cases in front of "city council members." City council persons will listen to presentations and vote on the issue presented that week. Active participation is expected from everyone during these city council sessions.

For example, October 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a session dealing with expansion of public bus versus light rail transit. Students choosing to write their research papers on bus/rail transit will come to class prepared to either argue for expansion of light rail transit or argue in favor of bus transit. City council members will listen to all presenters, and based on the persuasiveness of the arguments, will cast their votes to allocate city resources for either rail or bus transit expansion. All students, except those who are presenting in front of city council on bus/rail transit, will be required to turn in a short policy brief on the topic.

### Research Paper/Policy Briefs

You will select one topic from the following four in which you will write a research paper and give an in class presentation at the corresponding mock city council session. You will be required to write short policy briefs on the remaining three topics.

- 1) Should the Dallas-Fort Worth region adopt policies to discourage sprawl?
- 2) Should the Dallas Area Rapid Transit authority (DART) adopt a mass transit strategy based on bus transportation or light rail transit?
- 3) Should the Dallas Metroplex use road/congestion pricing to alleviate traffic congestion on the major highways (e.g., 635 and 75)?
- 4) Should the federal government expand the Housing Voucher Program or invest additional resources into public housing?

You will also sign up to act as a city council person at one session (excluding the session where you will be a presenter).

Example: You decide that you are interested in housing issues and decide to write a research paper on the affordable housing topic. You will write a 7-to-8 page research paper on affordable housing (due Nov 28). You will come to class prepared to present your housing research case to city council on Nov 23. You will write 3-page policy briefs on urban sprawl (due Oct 19), bus/rail transit (due Nov 2), and road pricing (Nov 16). You sign up to act as a city council person on urban sprawl and come to class on Oct 19 prepared to listen to presentations, ask questions, and vote on sprawl curtailment efforts.

**Policy briefs:** You will write three policy briefs -- each brief must be three pages in length. The briefs you write should summarize and synthesize the readings and lecture materials covered in class. No additional outside readings are required for the policy briefs. You should highlight the key issues of the debate. For example, what are the main reasons scholars argue for road pricing? What are the main arguments against road pricing? Each brief is worth 15% of your course grade. Your lowest policy brief grade will be dropped. You may not write a policy brief on the topic for which you make an in-class presentation and write a research paper.

Policy briefs on each topic are due at the beginning of the class session in which the mock city council and class discussion will take place. Papers turned in after class will be considered late.

- Policy briefs must be typed, and three pages in length (double-spaced).
- Policy briefs must include a bibliography and appropriate citation of references.

**Research papers:** You will select one of the four assigned topics for your research paper and presentation to the city council. Research papers must be typed, 7- to 8-pages in length (double-spaced). You must include outside resources, with at least five academic journal articles included in your paper. You should argue either for or against the particular issue. For example, you may want to argue against curtailing sprawl, but be sure to include your reasons and supporting points for that recommendation. The support must be grounded in the relevant

scholarly literature. A detailed (2-page) outline of your paper is due October 26. Your final paper is due by 4:00pm Monday, November 28.

There will be no final examination.

**Grading will be based on the following:**

Exam (September 28)	25%
Research paper (due November 28)	25%
Oral presentation to mock city council	15%
Three policy briefs	30%
Mock city council member participation	<u>5%</u>
	100%

**Note:** All assignments, except in-class exams, must be word processed or typed. No handwritten policy briefs, outlines, or papers will be accepted.

**LATE PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

All policy briefs, research papers and other assignments must be turned in at the beginning of lecture on the date indicated in the course syllabus. Work that is turned in after class is considered late. **Papers and assignments submitted late will be subject to the following penalty:**

- 1 day late – 25% reduction from total points possible**
- 2 days late – 50% reduction from total points possible**
- 3 days late – 75% reduction from total points possible**
- 4 days late – 100% reduction from total points possible**

**Note:** These are “calendar” days. (i.e., an assignment due on a Wednesday but turned in the following Monday will receive 0 points.)

Consideration of exceptions to this policy will be made only due to illness and with appropriate documentation from a medical professional.

**All policy briefs and research papers must be turned in to Professor Ezzet and uploaded to turnitin.com. Papers which are not uploaded to turnitin.com will not be graded or returned and will result in a “0” score for that assignment.**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Scholastic dishonesty is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable. The UTD website and catalog include information on scholastic dishonesty. Please familiarize yourself with the university's policy available at: <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/slfe/scholastic.html>

By turning in papers, assignments and exams, you are certifying that the work is your own and does not plagiarize or otherwise use other works without citing the appropriate reference. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. An “F” in the course and/or expulsion from the university will be the recommended penalty in most cases of academic dishonesty.

Most students are honest and seek to learn without copying or otherwise violating rules. We trust that students are obeying the precepts of academic honesty, but that creates an obligation on the part of students to uphold that trust. If you have any questions about scholastic honesty regulations, please consult the university's policy or contact the professor. Violations of scholastic honesty are serious matters, and will be handled in accordance with UTD policies.

### **DISCLAIMER**

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

**CLASS SCHEDULE, LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS**  
**Urban Planning and Policy**

Readings listed are required and should be done prior to the class meeting.

Levy = textbook Contemporary Urban Planning

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**PART I. Class Lectures**

**August 24: Introduction; Urbanization & the Evolution of the City**

Levy – Preface and Chapter 1, 2, 3 & 4

**August 31: Planning: Legal and Political Perspectives; Planning and the Environment**

Levy – Chapters 5, 6, 15

**September 7: Growth Management & Library Instruction Session**

Levy – Chapter 14

**September 14: Housing and Community Development; Transportation**

Levy – Chapters 7, 11, 12

**September 21: Metropolitan Regions**

Levy – Chapter 16

**September 28: Exam (Lecture material & Levy readings)**

## **PART II. Lecture, Debate, Discussion**

### **INTRODUCTION: URBAN POLICY**

October 5: Urban Policy

Wyly, Elvin K., Norman J. Glickman and Michael L. Lahr (1998). "A Top 10 List of Things to Know about American Cities," *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, v.3:3, 7-32.

<http://www.huduser.org/Periodicals/CITYSCPE/VOL3NUM3/article2.pdf>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2000). "Executive Summary," *The State of the Cities 2000. Megaforces Shaping the Future of the Nation's Cities*. (only pages i-xxv)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/states/socrpt.pdf>

Websites of interest on this topic:

*The Urban Institute*

[www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)

*The Brookings Institution*

[www.brook.edu](http://www.brook.edu)

*U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development*

[www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)

*Center for Urban Policy Research*

[www.policy.rutgers.edu/cupr/](http://www.policy.rutgers.edu/cupr/)

### **TOPIC 1 URBAN DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF SPRAWL**

October 5: Tentative Video: *Urbanism, Suburbanism, and the Good Life*

October 12: Sprawl and Urban Development

Burchell, Robert W., Naveed A. Shad, Davide Listokin, Hilary Phillips, Anthony Downs, Samuel Seskin, Judy S. Davis, Terry Moore, David Helton, and Michelle Gall (1998). "Defining Sprawl," and "Historical Overview" *The Costs of Sprawl Revisited*, Transit Cooperative Research Program, Report 39, Transportation Research Board, National Research Council. (pp 1-41)

[http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/tcrp/tcrp\\_rpt\\_39-a.pdf](http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/tcrp/tcrp_rpt_39-a.pdf)

Downs, Anthony (1999). "Some Realities about Sprawl and Urban Decline," *Housing Policy Debate*, 10(4): 955-974.

[http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_1004\\_downs.pdf](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_1004_downs.pdf)

Firestone, David (2001). "90's Suburbs of West and South: Denser in One, Sprawling in Other," *The New York Times*, April 17.

[http://inic.utexas.edu/~bennett/\\_\\_\\_cwg/UBC/Census+Suburbs.pdf](http://inic.utexas.edu/~bennett/___cwg/UBC/Census+Suburbs.pdf)

House Research Organization (2002). "Do Counties Need New Powers to Cope with Urban Sprawl?" Focus Report. Texas House of Representatives.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/hrofr/focus/sprawl.pdf>

What's so bad about sprawl?

Gordon, Peter and Harry W. Richardson (1997). "Are Compact Cities a Desirable Planning Goal?" *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 63 (1): 95-106.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

Ewing, Reid (1997). "Is Los Angeles-Style Sprawl Desirable?" *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 63(1): 107-126.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

Lang, Robert E., and Partick A. Simmons (2001). "Boomburbs: The Emergence of Large, Fast-growing Suburban Cities in the United States." *Census Notes and Data*, Fannie Mae Foundation Census Notes 06 (June 2001).

[http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/census\\_notes\\_6.shtml](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/census_notes_6.shtml)

Websites of interest on this topic:

<i>Congress for the New Urbanism</i>	<a href="http://www.cnu.org">www.cnu.org</a>
<i>National Resources Defense Council</i>	<a href="http://www.nrdc.org/default.asp">www.nrdc.org/default.asp</a>
<i>Planners Web</i>	<a href="http://www.plannersweb.com/sprawl/home.html">www.plannersweb.com/sprawl/home.html</a>
<i>Sierra Club</i>	<a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl">www.sierraclub.org/sprawl</a>
<i>Smart Growth Network</i>	<a href="http://www.smartgrowth.org">www.smartgrowth.org</a>
<i>Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse</i>	<a href="http://www.sprawlwatch.org">www.sprawlwatch.org</a>
<i>Reason Foundation</i>	<a href="http://reason.com/bisprawl.shtml">reason.com/bisprawl.shtml</a>

October 19	Mock COG meeting: Should the North Central Texas Council of Governments recommend that Metroplex cities adopt policies to discourage sprawl? <b>Policy Brief Due</b>
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## **TOPIC 2 URBAN TRANSIT: BUS VS. RAIL**

October 26: **Video:** *Taken for a Ride*

Pucher, John (2002). "Renaissance of Public Transport in the United States?" *Transportation Quarterly*, 56(1): 33-49.

<http://www.vtpi.org/tqtransi.pdf>

Garrett, Mark and Brian Taylor (1999). "Reconsidering Social Equity in Public Transit," *Berkeley Planning Journal*, 13: 6-27.

<http://www-dcrp.ced.berkeley.edu/bpj/pdf/13-GarrettTaylor.pdf>

Simon, Richard (2003). "For Nation's Drivers, Bumpy Roads Ahead," *Los Angeles Times*, 2003 February 3.

[http://www.sactaqc.org/resources/literature/funding/federal\\_funding\\_reduction.htm](http://www.sactaqc.org/resources/literature/funding/federal_funding_reduction.htm)



Arosemena, Martha and Maria Lane (eds.) (2000). "Point/Counterpoint Questions about the Future of Light Rail in America," *Planning Forum*, Community and Regional Planning Program, School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Austin, 6:79-90.

<http://www.ar.utexas.edu/planning/forum/vol6pdfs/v6pcp.pdf>

Kain, John (1990). "Deception in Dallas: Strategic Misrepresentation in Rail Transit Promotion and Evaluation," in *Journal of the American Planning Association*, pp 184-196.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

Pickrell, Don (Spring 1992). "A Desire Named Streetcar: Fantasy and Fact in Rail Transit Planning," in *Journal of the American Planning Association*, pp 158-176.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

O'Meara, Molly (1999). "How mid-sized cities can avoid strangulation," *Public Management*, 81(5): 8-15.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

Websites of interest on this topic:

*DART*

*NCTCOG Transportation Department*

*Bus Riders Union*

*Surface Transportation Policy Project*

*Reason Public Policy Institute*

<http://www.dart.org/>

<http://www.dfwinfo.com/trans/>

[www.thestrategycenter.org/](http://www.thestrategycenter.org/)

[www.transact.org/](http://www.transact.org/)

[www.rppi.org/](http://www.rppi.org/)

November 2	Mock COG meeting: Should DART (the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Authority) adopt a Mass Transit Strategy based on Bus Transportation or Light Rail Transit? <b>Policy Brief Due</b>
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### **TOPIC 3      URBAN TRANSIT: THE CASE OF CONGESTION PRICING**

November 2 & 9: Issues in Urban Transit & Congestion Pricing

Brownstone, David, and Kenneth A. Small. (2003) "Valuing Time and Reliability: Assessing the Evidence from Road Pricing Demonstrations" UCTC Working Paper, Fall 2003

[www.uctc.net/papers/668.pdf](http://www.uctc.net/papers/668.pdf)

Johnston, Robert A., Jay R. Lund, and Paul P. Craig. (1995) "Capacity-Allocation Methods for Reducing Urban Traffic Congestion" in *Journal of Transportation Engineering*; Jan/Feb95, Vol. 121 Issue 1, p27, 13p

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

“Drivers buy into congestion pricing.” (1996). *Planning*, 62(7): 24, Section: Planning News.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

Mead, Tom. (2003). “Buy your way out of traffic jams.” *Christian Science Monitor* on the Web 17 July 2003.

[www.csmonitor.com/2003/0717/p14s01-sten.htm](http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0717/p14s01-sten.htm)

Small, Kenneth A. (1997). “Economics and Urban Transportation Policy in the United States.” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 27 (6): 671-691.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

November 16 DEBATE: Should the Dallas metro area implement congestion pricing on the 635 and 75 highways to alleviate traffic congestion?  
**Policy Brief Due**

#### **TOPIC 4      SUBSIDIZED HOUSING: THE CASE OF SUPPLY-SIDE VS. DEMAND-SIDE POLICIES**

November 16: Affordable Housing

Hartman, Chester (1998). “The Case for a Right to Housing,” *Housing Policy Debate*, 9(2) 223-246.

[http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_0902\\_hartman.pdf](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_0902_hartman.pdf)

Carr, James H. (1998). “Comment on Chester Hartman’s “The Case for a Right to Housing”: The Right to ‘Poverty with a Roof’—A Response to Hartman,” *Housing Policy Debate*, 9(2): 247-257.

[http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_0902\\_carr.pdf](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_0902_carr.pdf)

Salins, Peter D. (1998). “Comment on Chester Hartman’s ‘The Case for a Right to Housing’: Housing is a Right? Wrong!” *Housing Policy Debate*, 9(2): 259-266.

[http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_0902\\_salins.pdf](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_0902_salins.pdf)

Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (1995). *National Study Finds Dallas-Fort Worth Low-Income Families in Sad Housing State*.

<http://www.texashousing.org/txlihis/pdfiles/harvard.pdf>

Federal Housing Policy

MacDonald, Heather I. (2000). “Renegotiating the Public-Private Partnership: Efforts to Reform Section 8 Assisted Housing,” *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 22(3): 279-299.

**UTD Electronic Journal access**

Crump, Jeff (2002). "Deconcentration by Demolition: Public Housing, Poverty, and Urban Policy," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 20: 581-596.

**Available on reserve at the UTD McDermott Library**

Epps, Gayle (1996). "Emerging Strategies for Revitalizing Public Housing Communities," *Housing Policy Debate*, 7(3): 563-588.

[http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_0703\\_epp.pdf](http://www.fanniemae.foundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_0703_epp.pdf)

Websites of interest on this topic:

HUD [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

HUD's Office of University Partnerships [www.oup.org](http://www.oup.org)

Dallas Housing Authority <http://www.dallashousing.org>

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us>

National Low-Income Housing Coalition [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

Texas Low Income Housing Information Service

<http://www.texashousing.org/txlihis/index.html>

November 23 DEBATE: Should the Federal Government continue to expand the Housing Voucher program rather than invest additional resources into public housing?  
**Policy Brief Due**

November 28: **Research papers due by 4:00pm to Dr. Ezzet's office (GR 3.530). No email papers are accepted. Paper must also be submitted to turnitin.com by November 28 at 11:00pm to receive full credit.**

Enjoy the winter break!

## **Important Due Dates**

September 28 – In class exam

October 19 – Urban Sprawl Policy Brief Due in class & uploaded to turnitin.com

October 26 – Detailed (2-page) outline of your research paper is due in class

November 2 – DART (bus vs. rail) Policy Brief Due in class & uploaded to turnitin.com

November 16 – Congestion Pricing Policy Brief Due in class & uploaded to turnitin.com

November 23 – Subsidized Housing Policy Brief Due in class & uploaded to turnitin.com

November 28 (Monday) – Research paper due to Professor Ezzet's office (GR 3.530) by 4:00 pm. & upload to turnitin.com