Course Overview and Objectives

Housing represents a fundamental human need and a critical element of human settlements. Within the planning context, housing represents one of the ways in which planning intervention has sought to ensure the health and safety of residents, while also bearing influence on the spatial and economic relationships between housing and other land uses. Within this class, we will explore the policies and practices that constitute housing policy in the United States and abroad, in order to understand where and how planning strategies have been effective (and ineffective) at shaping physical, economic, social, and political dimensions of the global housing landscape.

By the end of this course, we will develop:
1) An understanding of the housing production and regulation system in the United States,
2) An understanding of the intersection between housing and urban policy initiatives
3) Strategies for empirical investigation and description of local housing conditions
4) A heightened understanding of items 1-3 facilitated by engagement with a “real world” housing assessment in our community.

Prerequisites

UP 473 is designed as a seminar which compliments engagement and discussion within the classroom with a major field-based project. This course has no prerequisites aside from upper-level undergraduate or graduate-level standing. Students will benefit from some prior knowledge of urban planning theories, concepts, and analytical techniques, although these are not a required prerequisite. Please see me if you have any questions regarding whether this course is right for you.

Schedule and Readings

Readings will be posted and available on Illinois Compass: https://compass2g.illinois.edu/

Throughout the semester, there may be several special opportunities to go on optional field visits related to our course. These will be added to our schedule as the semester progresses.

Assignments, Grading, and Attendance

This course requires your engagement both within and outside of the classroom. Grading criteria include contribution to the course environment, quality of writing, depth of analysis, and thoughtful engagement with the subject matter and each other. You work will be graded on a 100-point scale

A  90 – 100 points  Outstanding work
Consistent contributions to class, thoughtful engagement with course material, and other achievements may lead to adjustments in course grades. For Undergraduate and Master’s students, your course grade will consist of the following assignments and exercises:

20 Percent  **Individual Assessment of Neighborhood Housing Conditions**
Working individually, develop criteria and a framework for assessing neighborhood housing conditions in the King Park neighborhood.

Due Date: October 6, 2017

10 Percent  **Course Discussion Facilitation**
You will facilitate a discussion around assigned readings for a particular week in class. You will need to come prepared with a series of discussion questions and a plan for engaging fellow students in a 40-minute discussion around course material. You will sign up for a discussion facilitation day within the first two weeks of the class.

50 Percent  **Group Neighborhood Housing Implementation Plan**
The final deliverable at the end of our class will be a neighborhood housing Implementation plan in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County. The class will split into three groups. Each group will work to produce a plan for Habitat that recaps neighborhood housing needs and existing interventions, and recommends new interventions which Habitat might take as part of their Neighborhood Revitalization strategy. At the end of the semester, you will present your findings to Habitat and community stakeholders.


20 Percent  **Individual Reflection on The Future of Housing Policy**
Housing policy currently stands at a crossroads in the United States, and in many other countries throughout the world. New types of housing problems are influenced by both local and global economic and population trends. Many governments are struggling to allocate the resources necessary to address worsts-case housing needs or to stimulate housing market activity for certain population groups. Reflect upon an existing or emerging issue related to housing. Drawing upon the course themes and readings, describe the issue and
relationship, describe the current policy interventions (or the lack thereof), and then present a proposal to revise or change the policy approach to meet emerging or future needs.

Due Date: December 18, 2017

For Ph.D. students or other graduate students who have made prior arrangements, your course grade will consist of the following:

10 Percent Discussion Facilitation
You will facilitate a discussion around assigned readings for a particular day in class. You will need to come prepared with a series of discussion questions and a plan for engaging fellow students a 40-minute discussion around course material. You will sign up for a discussion facilitation day within the first two weeks of the class.

15 Percent Individual Reflection on The Future of Housing Policy
Housing policy currently stands at a crossroads in the United States, and in many other countries throughout the world. New types of housing problems are influenced by both local and global economic and population trends. Many governments are struggling to allocate the resources necessary to address worsts-case housing needs or to stimulate housing market activity for certain population groups. Reflect upon an existing or emerging issue related to housing. Drawing upon the course themes and readings, describe the issue and relationship, describe the current policy interventions (or the lack thereof), and then present a proposal to revise or change the policy approach to meet emerging or future needs.

Due Date: October 6, 2017

75 Percent Term Paper
You will produce a term-length paper on a topic of your choice that draws upon the academic literature to engage with a theme related to housing policy. Based upon your interests and needs, this paper could include original empirical analysis of a phenomenon, could be theory-based, or could be focused on synthesizing literature. In addition to preparing your term assignment, you will present your paper to the class at the end of the semester.

Due Date: December 18, 2017

All assignments should be submitted in the appropriate COMPASS 2g assignment dropbox as a PDF file (unless otherwise noted in the assignment). We will discuss how best to submit your final group assignment as we progress in the class. Late work will be automatically graded down by 5 points per 24-hour period your assignment is late, and will only be accepted if you have made arrangements with me prior to the assignment due date.
The learning environment in this seminar depends upon your presence and participation. Full participation is expected for all course sessions. For each course session that you are absent from (excluding excused absences), 2 percent will be deducted from your final course grade. Excused absences will be granted on a case-by-case basis, but must be approved by me prior to the course session which you are absent from.

**Honor Code and Learning Environment**
The Illinois Student Code states: “It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions.” Note that you are subject to the Honor Code, as well as procedures for addressing violations to the Code, regardless of whether you have read it and understand it. According to the Code, “ignorance is no excuse.”

To meet this standard in this class, note the following: in written work, all ideas (as well as data or other information) that are not your own must be cited. Note that ideas that require citation may not have been published or written down anywhere. While you are free—and indeed encouraged—to discuss the assignments with your peers, all of your data collection, analysis, and writing should be your own. Sharing of data sources you have been assigned to collect is a violation of the honor code in this course. The penalty for failing to meet the principles or spirit of the honor code may include automatic failure of the assignment or the class, at the discretion of the instructor.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is rooted in the goals and responsibilities of professional planners. By enrolling in a class offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, students agree to be responsible for maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect in all DURP activities, including lectures, discussions, labs, projects, and extracurricular programs. See Student Code Article 1-Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part 1. Student Rights: §1-102.

**Course Sessions**
Please note that course sessions, readings, and assignments are subject to change at my discretion. Please refer to the course Compass site for a more extensive overview of our course schedule and readings.

**Week 1 (Week of 8/28): Course Introduction**
- Course Introduction
- Framework for Investigation and Analysis

**Week 2 (Week of 9/4): How Well Are We Housed?**
- No Class – Labor Day
- How Well are we Housed? Who Gets What Housing?

**Week 3 (Week of 9/11): Government Intervention in Housing**
The Rationale for Government Intervention in Housing
Housing Needs and Market Analysis

**Week 4 (Week of 9/18): Homeownership**
Homeownership and Mortgage Lending
Homeownership and Market Failures

**Week 5 (Week of 9/25): The Housing Crisis**
The Housing Crisis

**Week 6 (Week of 10/2): Public Housing**

**Week 7 (Week of 10/9): Federally Assisted Housing**
HOPE VI / Mixed Income Housing
Housing Vouchers

**Week 8 (Week of 10/16): Neighborhood Change**
Gentrification
Eviction

**Week 9 (Week of 10/23): State Intervention in Housing Policy**
How do States Intervene in Housing Policy?
Tax Credits and Housing Production Strategies

**Week 10 (Week of 10/30)**
The Nonprofit Role in Housing
Urban Renewal and Regeneration

**Week 11 (Week of 11/6): Fair Housing**
Fair Housing and Housing Market Discrimination
No Class – Professor Greenlee out of Town

**Week 12 (Week of 11/13): Housing Special Populations**
Race and Housing
Homelessness, Ageing, Disability

**Week 13 (Week of 11/20): No Class - Fall Break**

**Week 14 (Week of 11/27): Other Housing Needs, Trends, and Issues**
International Housing Trends and Issues
“Green” Housing
Week 15 (Week of 12/4): Final Presentation Preparation

Week 16 (Week of 12/11): Final Presentations and Course Wrap-Up
   Final Presentations
   Course Wrap-Up