

Planning Problems III: Regional Planning – URBP 211
San José State University – Fall 2007

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BBC 128

“Through fieldwork and laboratory assignments, the student applies theories and techniques of analysis to urban and regional planning problems.”

Course Description

Several regional programs in the San Francisco Bay Area dealing with transportation, conservation, infrastructure and housing are currently underway, coordinated to a degree unprecedented in the history of the region. With billions of dollars and the future contours of urban development at stake, we are living through a time during which decisions taken at the regional level will impact the overall quality of life in the Bay Area. In this course we will study these programs and evaluate them.

Primarily concerned with regions, regionalism and regional agencies, this course views the collective action problems facing metropolitan areas through three lenses— theory, history and policy analysis. Theory comprises the body of scholarship devoted to “normative” theories of city and regions, “positivist” theories, and a framework for thinking through what scholars have to offer regional planners. Without a historical context, these theories will not be useful; consequently we will consider the historical record as a setting for discussing how theories connect to policies.

Foremost among our tasks in this course is an extended discussion of policy development through research on infrastructures, economic development and regions as phenomena that we can study with regional indicators. The major project for this course is a class assignment in which students will identify the indicators that are most useful to assessing regions, obtain data and put together a professional quality report of those indicators, which will then be presented to senior staff at regional agencies.

Besides adding to your own understanding of the Bay Area and other regions through work on indicators, another desirable outcome of the course is that you will become more articulate with regard to arguing about policies, their antecedents and their consequences. Through participation in classroom debates about policy, students will hopefully be accomplished at arguing either side of an issue, backing up their claims with empirical evidence.

The reading load for this course is substantial, and students will be expected to discuss and debate the readings in class. Expect to be called upon.

Learning Objectives

Consistent with San Jose State University policy, this course incorporates several learning objectives.

By the end of this course, you will be able:

- To explain what regions are and how they develop
- To describe the social, economic and political ties linking the components of regions together and what sets them apart
- To discuss the pros and cons of various economic development techniques used in regional development
- To discuss the various dimensions of infrastructure and how they both support and undermine regionalism

Readings

Altshuler, Alan and David Luberoff. *Mega-Projects: The Changing Politics of Urban Public Investment*. Brookings 2003. This book is available as an “e-book” through the SJSU library
Orfield, Myron. *American Metropolitcs: The New Suburban Reality*. Brookings 2002
Watson, Sophie and Gary Bridge, *The Blackwell City Reader* London: Blackwell 2006
Other readings will be available through electronic reserve

Plagiarism

SJSU's Policy on Academic Integrity states: “Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct.”

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the department chair. It may also result in your failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in written work.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon possible, or see me during office hours. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the SJSU Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability.

You can find information about the services SJSU offers to accommodate disabled students at www.drc.sjsu.edu.

Assignments/Grading

Assignment	Percentage of grade
Class participation	30
Theory Pop Quiz	10
Infrastructure paper	20
Regional Indicators Report	40
Total	100

The policy on late work is as follows:

Work, exclusive of the Pop Quiz which will not be offered for make up, may be turned in late up until the following Tuesday for ten percent off the grade. After that, late work will not be accepted.

Class Participation

Preparation for class attendance is an essential component of participation, since you must be prepared in order to contribute to the class. Participation also consists of reading the assigned material before class, contributing relevant comments to class discussions, engaging in constructive criticism, assisting other class members, and communicating with the instructor and with other class members. While attendance cannot itself be graded, participation without it is impossible.

Theory Pop Quiz

A short quiz will be administered to gauge each student's absorption of theory as discussed in class.

Infrastructure Paper

Students will be responsible for writing a succinct analysis (three to four pages) of how a particular regional infrastructure system operates, how it is typically funded and what measures are used to track the performance of the system.

Regional Indicators Report

A collaborative effort with students working in teams to deliver a single professional report identifying regional indicators for several regions throughout the state. While more details will be provided in class, students will also be expected to comment on the work of team-members at the close of the semester.

Schedule

The schedule is subject to change and I will notify students of any changes in class.

8/29	Topics: Introductory stuff, urban morphology, regions, regionalism, regional agencies in US and elsewhere. Foundations of theory (Locke, Marx, Von Thunen).
Watson 14 (Harvey, the Urban Process under capitalism)	
Watson 15 (Castells, an Introduction to the Information Age)	
Watson 41 (de Certeau, the <i>Practice of Everyday Life</i>)	

Watson 42 (Benjamin, the <i>Arcades Project</i>)	
9/5	Topics: The norms of form—urban theory. Castells, Habermas, Harvey, Benjamin and de Certeau
Watson 17 (Soja, Six Discourses on the Postmetropolis) Watson 18 (Sassen, <i>Globalization and its Discontents</i>) Watson 26 (Burgess, Growth of the City) Watson 28 (Wilson, the <i>Truly Disadvantaged</i>)	
9/12	Topics: Urban theory—continued. Reading statistics, Soja, Tiebout, William Julius Wilson, Sassen, Burgess, Downs
Watson 37 (Jacobs, <i>Death and Life of Great American Cities</i>) Jonas, Andrew E.G. and Stephanie Pincetl. 2006 “Rescaling regions in the state. The New Regionalism in California” <i>Political Geography</i> 25 482-505 K. N. Bickers, L. Salucci, and R. M. Stein 2006 “Assessing the Micro-Foundations of the Tiebout Model” <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> , 42(1): 57 - 80	
9/19	Topics: Synthesizing theory: surprise pop quiz
Nelson, Marla K. 2005. “Rethinking Agglomeration Economies and the Role of the Central City” <i>Journal of Planning Education and Research</i> 24 331-341 Drew Klacik, Samuel Nunn, Carl Schoedel. 1996 “Strategic Planning Behavior and Interurban Competition for Airport Development.” <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> , Vol. 62	
9/26	Topics: Decisions taken at the margin: policy analysis, cost/benefit
Bartik, Timothy J. 1990 “The Market Failure Approach to Regional Economic Development Policy.” <i>Economic Development Quarterly</i> , Vol. 4, No. 4, 361-370 Buss, Terry. 1999 “The Case Against Targeted Industry Strategies.” <i>Economic Development Quarterly</i> , Vol. 13 No. 4, 339-356 Hausrath, Linda L. 1988. “Economic Basis for Linking Jobs and Housing in San Francisco.” <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> 54 No 2 Wallin, Bruce. 2005. Budgeting for Basics: The Changing Landscape of City Finances	
10/3	Topics: Economic Development and Fiscal Impact
Altshuler 3 (Mega-Projects and Urban Theory)	
10/10	Topics: Infrastructures: housing, commercial services, water, sewer, schools (FOCUS)
Altshuler 4 (The New Politics of Highways) Altshuler 6 (The Political Rebirth of Transit) Levine, Jonathan and Yaakov Garb. 2002. “Congestion Pricing’s conditional promise: promotion of accessibility or mobility?” <i>Transport Policy</i> 9 179-188 Flyvbjerg, Bent, Mette K. Shamris-Holm, and Soren L. Buhl. 2005. “How In(accurate) Are Demand Forecasts in Public Works Projects? The Case of Transportation. <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> 71 No 2	
10/17	Topics: Infrastructures: transportation (streets, congestion, access/mobility, finance) (RTP)
Altshuler 7 (Common Patterns) Altshuler 8 (Urban Theory Redux)	
10/24	Topics: Infrastructures
10/31 Topics: Infrastructure short paper due	
Metropolitics 1 (Schools and Tax Wealth: Leading Indicators of Community Health)	

	Metropolitics 2 The New Suburban Typology
	Metropolitics 3 A Comparative Analysis of Segregation, Fiscal Inequality, and Sprawl
11/7	Topics: Metropolitics
	Metropolitics 5 (Fiscal Equity)
	Metropolitics 6 (Land Use Reform)
	Wassmer, Robert W and Edward L Lascher. 2006. "Who Supports Local Growth and Regional Planning to Deal with its Consequences?" <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> 41 No 5
11/14	Topics: Metropolitics
11/21	No Class: Thanksgiving
	Metropolitics 7 (Metropolitan Governance Reform)
	Metropolitics 8 (Metropolitics and the Case for Regionalism)
11/28	Topics: Regional Indicators
12/5	Topics: Regional Indicators
12/10	Final Report Due