

URP 571: COMPARATIVE URBAN POLICY

Instructor: Martin Murray

Thursday: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with current debates dealing with urban planning theory and practice both domestically and internationally. The course revolves around an exploration of city-builders and city-building processes. The readings and lectures are drawn from a wide variety of disciplinary fields, including urban planning, architecture, sociology, geography, cultural studies, and anthropology. The themes considered in the course include (1) the built environment and architectural design of cities as they evolve over time; (2) the changing form and function of cities; (3) modernist city-building and postmodern urbanism; (4) the entrepreneurial city and privatized urbanism; (5)) and urban decline and shrinking cities; (6) post-public space; (7) urban management and the regulation of urban space; (8) the urbanization of suburbia; (9) the New Urbanism.

Learning Goals:

1. To introduce students to the role of urban policy from a comparative perspective
2. To develop an understanding of what are the driving forces behind divergent trajectories of global urbanism
3. To examine the role of city builders in shaping divergent urban environments
4. To be able to speak informatively about how and why cities are different
5. To be able to explain what roles various stakeholders play in constructing the built environment
6. to gain an understanding of the connection between policy decisions and social justice and the sustainable city.

Course Expectations: The class will be conducted in a seminar format, and students will also engage in in-class debates on controversial issues, including how and why cities take the form they do. Each student will give an individual presentation to the entire class at the end of the term.