Purpose and Objectives: We live in an urban world. The number of urban residents worldwide is already more than half, and it is constantly growing. The lives and activities of public policy analysts, planners, government officials, real estate developers, community organizers, and business leaders are shaped by this metropolitan world.

This course examines the twentieth and twenty-first century urban world as the context for policy and planning. We will explore the historical development of the urban world, its spatial and economic structure, its natural and human environments, the demographic and social processes that drive the ongoing transformation of the places we live, and the policies and regulations that mediate our dreams and aspirations.

Students will leave the course with:

- General knowledge of history, economics, politics, and policy-making of the urban world;
- Ability to relate the American urban society to that of the surrounding world;
- A better understanding of the evolving spatial structure of the urban place;
- An expanded comprehension of how race, gender, and class shape urban society.

Required Texts and Readings: All readings are required and on reserve. Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. A Loukaitou-Sideris & R Ehrenfeucht, *Sidewalks: Conflict and Negotiation over Public Space* KM Kruse & TJ Sugrue, eds., *The New Suburban History (TNSH)*. Other readings are pdfs on Blackboard (BB) or linked to the journal. The links MUST be activated while at a USC computer or you must sign in at the Library remote access portal (https://shibboleth.usc.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword).

Course Format: The course meets twice a week. Attendance and participation are mandatory. I take roll so that I can get to know your names. You should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. The class is intended to be an interactive experience, where we all learn from each other.

Office Hours: My office is in 313 Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall. My office phone is (213) 740-5768, home phone (310) 577-7907. Please call me at home only after 10:00 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m. My email is dsloane@usc.edu. My office hours will be Tuesday, 3:00-4:00 pm. I am also available by appointment. I look forward to talking with all of you.

Disabilities: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP). I encourage you to do it early in the class so we can plan your semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. The DSP phone number is (213) 740-0776.
SYLLABUS REVIEW AND REVISION. During the course of the semester I will regularly review student progress, and may revise the syllabus to meet class needs.

EXPECTATIONS: Your grade will be determined by a combination of participation and the completion of written and oral assignments. A person who does not attend class regularly will fail notwithstanding the delivery of written assignments. Your grade will be calculated using the following table.

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Participation (150 points): Participation is evaluated by involvement in class interactions and in structured discussions around book and specific topics.

Two Short Papers (300 points): The papers are short (4-6 page). The first topic requires that you consider the role of public space in the modern city by choosing a specific space, observe life within it, then discuss what you found using the related readings. The second asks you to create a map of your neighborhood then use stories from Calvino to discuss it.

Group Presentation (100 points): I will break you into groups for you to prepare a presentation on an issue related to downtown Los Angeles.

Midterm (200 points): The midterm will be split into two sections, identifications and an essay. The exam will cover the lectures, discussions, and readings up to that date.

Final Exam (250 points): The final will have three sections, identifications, a short essay, and a long essay that will cover lectures, discussions, and readings after the midterm.

INTEGRITY: Students should maintain strict adherence to standards of academic integrity, as described in SCampus (http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/). In particular, the University recommends strict sanctions for plagiarism defined below:

**11.11 Plagiarism**
A. The submission of material authored by another person but represented as the student’s own work, whether that material is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near-verbatim form.
B. The submission of material subjected to editorial revision by another person that results in substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style.
C. Improper acknowledgment of sources in essays or papers.
Note: Culpability is not diminished when plagiarism occurs in drafts that are not the final version. If any material is prepared or submitted by another person on the student’s behalf, the student is expected to proofread the results and is responsible for all particulars.
Class Schedule/Assignment Due Dates
DUE DATES ARE FOR THAT CLASS

Part 1: From Urban to Suburban

August 24  An Urban World
We go on a tour through the urban world. An introduction to the course goals and objectives, its structure, five areas of concern, and our mutual responsibilities
Reading: Blackboard: Kostof

August 26  Birth of Downtown and Urban Economies
Downtown has played a critical, and confusing role in urban economies. Long the focus of redevelopment, it was earlier the center of activity – the birthplace of the modern city.

August 31  Governing the Industrial City
The industrial city was a crowded, messy place. Reformers were so worried about the physical, economic, social, and political consequences of the mess that they created the foundation for the 20th century city.
Reading: http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5030/

September 2  Economics and Politics of Growth
How have scholars imagined the form of the city as a manifestation of it economic activity?
Reading: Molotch and Vicari: http://uar.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/24/2/188
Video: CRA EXPO Park visualization

September 7  Emergence of a Federal Policy
Cities were of little concern to the federal government until the 20th century. The industrial city, though, created such havoc that a policy gradually emerged.
Reading: TNSH: Freund, 11-32 and Wiese, 99-119

September 9  Cars and Highways
In the 1950s, a new city emerged built on speed, credit, and single-family homes.
Reading: TNSH: Self, 144-160 and Siskind, 161-182

September 14  Malls and Disneyland
The emergence of a consumer culture led to a culture of entertainment, with shopping malls and amusement parks the destinations of a new suburban society.

September 16  Immigrant America, Then and Now
Immigration has been a difficult policy issue for the US since the 1880s. How we have dealt with it over the decades is informative of our policy debates today.
Reading: TNSH: Jones-Correa, 183-204

September 21  GROUP PRESENTATIONS
Today we hear from your groups about downtown, past, present and future.
Reading: Related to your presentation
September 23  
Sprawl  
Sprawl has emerged as the major planning problem of the 21st century, tied to health, economic, and environmental issues, in the US, and abroad.  
Reading: BB: Galster; Orange County, China

September 28  
Homelessness and Hopelessness in the City  
Many homeless people are working people trying to find housing, how do we do that?  
Reading: City Mayors: http://www.citymayors.com/society/homeless_usa2.html

PART II Public Space and Social Order

September 30  
Public Life and Social Spaces  
An urban life is a public life, suggesting public space is critical to the urban condition.  
Reading: BB: Sennett and Banerjee

October 5  
Monumental Cities  
Cities are places filled with memories and monuments. How do we think about memory and the city?  
Reading: L-S/E: 1-60; BB: Sloane (required) and Smithsimon (optional)

October 7  
MIDTERM

October 12  
Transformations of the Public Realm  
The public realm is considered endangered by many commentators. Who cares?  
Reading: L-S/E: 61-122; Blackboard Crawford

October 14  
Public Order and the Street  
The street is America’s primary public space; let’s look at its history and complexity  
Reading: L-S/E: 123-188; 243-274

Part III: Today and Tomorrow’s Cities

October 19  
City in Crisis  
The suburbs left the late 20th century city in crisis, confronted with white flight and deindustrialization.  

October 21  
Safe Cities: “Just the Facts Ma’am”  
Fear of crime and crime has affected urban policy as cities were viewed as less safe.  
Reading: BB: Klein and Maxson

October 26  
Suburban Blues and Rebirth  
So called “inner suburbs” are struggling almost as much as the central cities. Rethinking the suburb, combating sprawl and creating a new urbanism are what some say is needed.  
Readings: Kotkin (Policy Summary at the bottom of the page), http://reason.org/news/show/older-suburbs

October 26  
PUBLIC SPACE PAPER DUE
October 28  Governing the New Metropolis
How do city governments cope with a new set of economic and social problems?
Video: Jeff Jarvis, "Reinventing Government: What Would Google Do?"

November 2  Downtown’s Rebirth in the New Metropolis
Downtown has made a resurrection. Today we examine urban revitalization and regeneration.
Reading: Birch: [http://ann.sagepub.com/content/626/1/134.full.pdf+html](http://ann.sagepub.com/content/626/1/134.full.pdf+html)

November 4  NO CLASS

November 9  Imagining the City, Past and Future
How does Calvino’s portrayal of the city provide insights into the ways to read the city?
Reading: Calvino, entire book

November 11  Charter Schools and Standardized Tests
No issue is tied as closely to Americans dissatisfaction with the city as education.

November 16  What Role Does Art Play?
When we think of cities we typically think about big assembly plants and banks. Some argue artist salons and fashion shows are as important as any bank. How do we tell?

November 18  Healthy Cities: Healthy Environments
In recent years developers, planners, and policymakers have increasingly tried to design and sustain healthy places. What strategies are they using?

November 23  Healthy Cities: Urban Food Systems
Food is something we often take for granted. Yet, for many Americans, food is scarce resource, especially healthy foods. What is a urban food system? How do we define it, plan for it, and create policies to sustain it?

**November 23**  CALVINO PAPER DUE

November 25  Thanksgiving

November 30  Calvino Maps
We will spend some time discussing the ways that you imagined your neighborhoods

December 2  Is the Sustainable Global City Our Future?
What does it mean that a growing number of world residents are living in global cities?
What is a global city? Will they continue to grow?
Reading: None, prepare for the final

**December 14**  Final Exam, 8:00-10:00 AM