
Course Title:	European Cities and Planning
Course Number:	UAP 5624
Term:	Spring 2009
Credit Hours:	1

Class Time:	04/17, 5pm-9pm & 04/18, 9am-5pm
Class Location:	TBA

Instructor:	Sonia A. Hirt, Ph.D.
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Course summary:

This graduate seminar provides students with the opportunity to explore some fundamental spatial characteristics of contemporary European cities and discuss how planning policies have shaped them. Although the course focuses on Europe, it does so within a quasi-comparative framework. Scrutinizing the distinctive spatial characteristics of European cities (and the planning systems within which they develop) makes sense insofar as we compare them to what we are most familiar with—American cities and their planning. Thus, the instructor's primary intent is to encourage discussion which juxtaposes the European and the American urban planning traditions.

At the end of the course, students will be able to compare and contrast the main planning schools of Europe, and identify the primary planning trends common to all European countries. They will also be able to construct a critical juxtaposition between planning in Europe and planning in North America.

Readings:

There is one required book, which contrasts European and American urban policies:

Nivola, Pietro. 1999. *Laws of the Landscape: How Policies Shape Cities in Europe and America*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institutions Press.

Course structure and requirements:

The course consists of presentations on various topics related to European cities and planning by the primary instructor (please see the schedule on p. 3), as well as student presentations on topics suggested by the students and approved by the instructor.

Each student is required to select a topic, prepare a brief written report (about 15 double-spaced pages, excluding graphics and references) and present a summary of the report in front of the class with the aid of visuals (e.g., PowerPoint slides, handouts, posters, etc.). Student presentations should last around 30 minutes each, followed by a 10-minute discussion, and will be scheduled between 1:40 pm and 4:40 pm on Saturday, April 18. Students are expected to choose either a major European city or metropolitan region and investigate elements of its spatial structure; or, alternatively, select a European country and study an important aspect of its planning system. Each report must have a clearly formulated research focus (e.g., a report may discuss the growth of the suburbs of Paris during the 20th century, or the impact of the Olympic Games on urban development in Athens or Barcelona; alternatively a report may focus on the system of urban land-use regulation in the Netherlands, or transportation planning in Russia).

Students are encouraged to suggest topics early on (no later than February 18) because the instructor will aim to ensure that a diverse group of cities/states are presented in class. Draft reports should be sent to the instructor by March 11. Final reports are due May 6.

Grading:

Attendance and participation:	50%
Presentation:	20%
Final report:	30%

Time Schedule:

Friday, 17 April 2009, 5:00-9:00 pm

5:00-6:00 pm	Introduction to European urbanism
6:00-7:00 pm	Historic overview
7:00-7:20 pm	Break
7:20-9:00 pm	Contemporary planning systems of Europe

Saturday, 18 April 2009, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

9:00-10:00 am	Pan-European trends
10:00-12:00 am	European-North American comparison
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-1:40 pm	East European urbanism
1:40-2:20 pm	Case study (student)
2:20-3:00 pm	Case study (student)
3:00-3:20 pm	Break
3:20-4:00 pm	Case study (student)
4:00-4:40 pm	Case study (student)
4:40-5:00 pm	Case study (student)