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School of Urban & Public Affairs
Urban Studies Inst.110
Office Hours: Mon-Fri. by appointment

Urban Theory & Public Affairs: UPA 610

Idea of the Seminar: Our guiding principle is to demonstrate how theory and interpretive history illuminate the contemporary nature of the city. By urban theory we mean an interrelated set of explanations, axioms and laws which explain why cities came into existence, how cities or actors within them behave, and what constitutes their principal dynamics. We use this theory to develop both an understanding of urban problems and explore its use through examples in development, political economy and social problems.

The seminar is divided into distinct segments which analyze the underlying ideals of the city, its development through normal cycles, prosperity and crises, and its dynamics. Included within these segments are works which impart a knowledge of how to discover and identify research as well as understand its application to the resolution of social problems. While these works contain a strong theoretical component, many are also relevant to the application of public policy. Students will note, the content of the seminar is interdisciplinary. Collectively, the segments incorporate the philosophy of science, urban history, economics, sociology and political science.

Approach of the Seminar: The seminar takes the perspective of how to think about social science, and we do this through nomological explanations and the use of paradigms. Nomological explanations are essentially deductive generalizations that can be used to establish interrelated laws about a phenomenon. A paradigm can be construed as a framework, a model, or a pattern of essential ingredients through which problems are addressed. Most notable works attempt to resolve a problem—either through clarification or nomological causal explanations. In doing so, they develop a set of principles (theory) or, more broadly, a paradigm which serves as the fundamental instrument through which research is conducted. Our approach is to rely on paradigm breaks or shifts as a means of exploring urban theory. We use paradigmatic shifts to identify theoretical contributions, illustrate their utility in conducting research, understand various conceptions of the city, and evaluate how fact and theory are united to arrive at "proofs". Not the least, the exercise is intended to enable students to conduct their own scholarship. Accordingly, students will be expected to discourse upon different theories, assess their applications and eventually embark upon their own project which links nomological explanation to the development of a paradigm.

Objectives of the Seminar: As a rule the seminar seeks to 1) impart an understanding of how scholars approach urban research 2) inculcate an appreciation for the use of concepts, paradigms and theory 3) illustrate major theories in the field of urban and public affairs, and 4) demonstrate how those theories are used to analyze urban life.

A Word about Books and Articles: The readings have been selected because of their paradigmatic value. While many of these might be classified as "great books", others cannot be placed in that category and have been selected because they clearly portray a particular paradigm. This is not necessarily a course in urban masterworks, but one that stresses, theoretical explanations and result

synthesis. The accompanying articles have been chosen either because they provide theoretical underpinnings for basic paradigms or show how paradigms are operationalized in research. Please purchase the following books and/or be prepared to read them in the Ekstrom Library.

Books

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| Kuhn, T. | <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> (1970) |
| Pirenne, H. | <i>Medieval Cities</i> (1956) |
| Jacobs, J. | <i>Cities and the Wealth of Nations</i> (1985) |
| Banfield, E. | <i>The Unheavenly City</i> (1974) |
| Peterson, P. | <i>City Limits</i> (1981) |

The following articles have been placed on reserve or are available at the Ekstrom Library or on-line.*

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| Hempel, C. | "Studies in the Logic of Explanation" <i>Philosophy of Science</i> (April, 1948) |
| Savitch, H.V. | "Does 9-11 Portend a New Paradigm. <i>UAR</i> (September, 2003) |
| Dear, M. | "Los Angeles and the Chicago School" <i>City & Community</i> (March, 2002) |
| Ricci, D. | "Receiving Ideas in Community Power Structure Analysis, <i>WPQ</i> (1980) |
| Hunter, F. | "Community Power" in <i>Search for Community Power</i> (ed.) Hawley & Wirt (1968) |
| Dahl, R. | "Who Governs" in <i>Search for Community Power</i> (ed.) Hawley & Wirt (1968) |
| Stone, C. | "Preemptive Power... Community Power Structure Reconsidered" <i>AJPS</i> (1988) |
| Molotch, H. | "The City as a Growth Machine" <i>AJS</i> (1976) |

Outline

This course is conducted by objective rather than by specific calendar dates. The sections listed below do not always conform to a week's work, and sometimes one section may overlap with another. Readings will be announced in class prior to each week, but students who are not sure should ask the instructor.

* The full names for abbreviated journals are UAR: *Urban Affairs Review* WPQ: *Western Political Quarterly* APSR: *American Political Science Review* AJS: *American Journal of Sociology* AJPS *American Journal of Political Science*

1. Epistemology and the Paradigm: How do we know what we know and how do we know it?

Kuhn, Preface and Ch 1-7
Hempel, all

2. Paradigms: When I believe it I will see it.

Kuhn, Ch 8-13 and Postscript
Savitch, all

3. Political Sociology: Elitists versus Pluralists

Ricci, all
Hunter, all
Dahl, all
Stone, all

4. Geographers and Planners: Chicago versus Los Angeles

Dear, all

5. History: The long View

Pirenne, all

6. Political Economy: The long view of urban development

Jacobs, Ch. 1-7

7. Political Economy: The richness and flexibility of the marketplace

Jacobs, Ch. 8-14

8. Laws of Urban Gravity: Who's Political Economy?

Molotch, all
Peterson, Preface and Ch. 1-4

9. Political Economy and Public Policy: What cities might do?

Peterson, Ch. 6-9 and 11

10. Realpolitik and Social Realism: Is there a problem out there?

Banfield, Introduction and Ch 1-7

11. Realpolitik or Folly: Your paradigm or mine?

Banfield, Ch. 8-12
In-Conclusions and Conclusions

Assignments and Grading

Three written assignments are required. More will be said about each of these in class, but a brief word is in order. The first of these assignments, an essay of approximately 12 typewritten pages asks students to identify and analyze key paradigms as well as illustrate them through the readings. In a second assignment of approximately 5 pages students will be asked to submit a research design based on the interpretation or use of a paradigm and explain the reasons for a paradigmatic shift. A third and final assignment will consist of a major research paper of roughly twenty five pages. All papers must be properly footnoted and contain a bibliography. Students should maintain duplicates of all work submitted. Papers submitted after announced deadlines will be penalized, and in no case will a paper be accepted more than one week after a deadline.

Grading for the course follows:

Informed Participation: 20%
Analytic Essay: 20%
Research Design/Essay: 10%
Research Paper: 50%

Numerical and Letter Grade Equivalents are used as follows:

93+	A	77-79	C+
90-92	A-	73-76	C
87-89	B+	70-72	C-
83-86	B	60-69	D
80-82	B-	59 or less	F

Please Note

This is a seminar and students play an especially important role in carrying discussion. Students are expected to be prepared for each session, and be able to discourse on the readings in an informed manner. Students who would like to be apprised of the quality of their participation, should inquire

by mid semester. Policies regarding Graduate School Procedures, Student Rights and Responsibilities and the like can be found in the Graduate School Catalogue and also at <http://campuslife.louisville.edu/cloffice/conduct/index.html>. Regarding academic honesty, I will be enforcing the University of Louisville's code of student rights and responsibilities. It can be found at <http://www.louisville.edu/student/services/registrar/GI-5-30%20.pdf> beginning on page 26."

Important Dates

Labor Day: September 6

Last Day to Withdraw: October 14

Thanksgiving Break: November 24-28

Research Paper Due: November 30: