

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAXINE GOODMAN LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES

UST 419 Neighborhood Planning

Spring 2009

Schedule: Tues/Thurs 1:00 – 2:50 pm  
Room: UR 326 Urban Affairs Building  
Instructor: Philip Star  
Office: UR 348  
Office Hours: Thursday 12:00 –1:00 or by appointment  
Telephone: 687-2241  
E-mail: p.star@csuohio.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the concept of neighborhood planning and the practice of neighborhood planning today. The primary focus will be on urban neighborhoods located in older industrialized cities like Cleveland.

The course will cover such topics as:

- the definition and importance of neighborhoods
- the relationship between neighborhood and community
- the difference between urban planning and neighborhood planning
- the neighborhood planning process
- community asset mapping
- community capacity building for implementing a neighborhood plan
- neighborhood planning activities in Cleveland today
- challenges in neighborhood planning

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Increase student's knowledge and understanding of neighborhoods
2. Expose students to current neighborhood planning activities
3. Provide students the opportunity to hear from neighborhood planning practitioners
4. Understand the neighborhood planning process, principles of neighborhood planning and goal of neighborhood planning
5. Understand the challenges, constraints and issues in neighborhood planning

## REQUIRED READINGS

1. Bernie Jones: Neighborhood Planning: A Guide for Citizens and Planners, Planners Press, 1990
2. William Peterman, Neighborhood Planning and Community-Based Development: The Potential and Limits of Grassroots Action, Sage Publications, 2000.
3. Robert J. Chaskin, Prudence Brown, Sudhir Venkatesh, and Avis Vidal, Building Community Capacity, Aldine De Gruyter, 2001.
4. William Morrish and Catherine Brown, Planning to Stay, Milkweed, 2000.

Additional readings (optional)

W. Dennis Keating, Norman Krumholz, & Philip Star: Revitalizing Urban Neighborhoods  
Leo W. Jeffres: Urban Communication Systems: Neighborhoods and the Search for Community

Jim Diers: Neighbor Power Building Community The Seattle Way, University of Washington Press, 2004

Peter Medoff and Holly Sklar, Streets of Hope, The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighborhood, South End Press 1994

## COURSE FORMAT, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The course is a seminar style with a minimum of lectures and an emphasis on class discussion supplemented by movies, presentations by guest practitioners, presentation of student group projects, and a field assignment in a neighborhood including a photographic essay. Student participation in class discussion is required as part of the grade. It is expected that students will read assignments and be prepared for class discussion.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- Photographic essay documenting a neighborhood (due Tuesday, March 3) (20%)
- Group project and class presentation: neighborhood planning in other cities (April 16)(20%)
- Midterm essay: Planning exercise: Description of the neighborhood using census data analysis to describe neighborhood assets and trends (due March 31 (20%)
- Final exam: Tuesday May 12 (30%)
- Class participation (10%)

**Class Schedule:**

Orientation and Overview

Tues. January 20: Review Syllabus and assignments

Thurs. January 22: Overview of the history of neighborhood planning: Theories of neighborhood change

Comparison to city planning, urban planning, comprehensive community planning, strategic planning

Read: Jones: Word of Inspiration; How to use this Guide, pp. 1- 7

Peterman: pp. 1-8 and 21-30

Neighborhood and Community

Tues. January 27: Community

John W. Gardner, On Leadership, Chapter 11 Community (handout)

Carl Moore, What is Community (handout)

Thurs. January 29: Significance of Neighborhood/ Defining a Neighborhood

Jones: pp. 1-10

Jeffres: The Continuing Significance of Neighborhoods (handout)

Mark Abrahamson, Urban Enclaves: Identity and Place in America: Chapter 3

Back of the Yards Chicago and Other Working Class Enclaves (handout)

Planning to Stay: pp. 13-16

Tues: February 3: CDCs and neighborhood development

Brophy and Shabecoff: A Guide to Careers in Community Development

CDC timeline in Cleveland (handout)

Video: Building Hope: Community Development in America

Tues. February 5: Community asset mapping

John P. Kretzman: Building Communities from the Inside Out (handout)

Read: Peterman: pp. 9-20

Video: Mobilizing Community Assets

Field assignment: Photographic essay

Neighborhood Planning Process

Tues. February 10: The steps in the planning process

Jones: 34- 38

Planning to stay: pp. 97-116

Thurs. February 12: Democratic Neighborhood Planning

Jones: pp. 11-32

Peterman: pp. 35-58 and 59-70

Principles of neighborhood planning (handout)

Field Assignment: Discussion of neighborhood selection

Tues. February 17: Field assignment

Neighborhood walk to document neighborhood conditions

Thurs. February 19: Collecting Information

Jones: 39- 70

Planning to Stay: pp. 23-29

Tues. February 24: Field assignment: take photographs

Thurs. February 26: Planning elements: housing and streets; business and institutions

Planning to stay: pp. 31-54

Speaker: a neighborhood plan in Cleveland

Tues. March 3: Class presentations and discussion

**Photographic Essay due and class presentation**

Thurs. March 5: Planning elements:

Class presentation and discussion

Tues. March 10: Making Sense of the Information and Putting the Plan Together

Jones: pp. 71-81; 82-100

Planning to Stay: pp. 91-96

Midterm essay assignment

Speaker: NODIS

Thurs. March 12: Implementing the plan

Jones: pp. 101-105

Peterman: pp. 153-162

**Group research assignment on national models of neighborhood planning**

Tues. March 17: No class: Spring Break

Thurs. March 19: No class: Spring Break

Tues. March 24: Impact of foreclosures on neighborhood development

Guest Speaker: Professor Dennis Keating

Thurs. March 26: National models of neighborhood planning

Video

Group project meeting

Tues. March 31: National models of neighborhood planning

**Midterm due**

Thurs. April 2: Group meeting for project presentation

Tues. April 7: Current neighborhood planning models

Speaker: NPI Strategic Initiative Areas

Thurs. April 9: Neighborhood planning in Cleveland

Speaker: Director of a Cleveland CDC

Tues. April 14: Group project research meetings

Thurs. April 16: **Class group project presentation on national models**

Tues. April 21: **Class group project presentation on national models**

Building Community Capacity

Thurs: April 23: Community Capacity- Definitional Framework and Leadership  
Development: Community Involvement

Chaskin: Chapter 1 and 2

Peterman: 59-67

Tues. April 28: Organizational Development

Chaskin: Chapter 3

Speaker: Cleveland Neighborhood Partnership Program

Thurs. April 30: Community Organizing and Collaboratives, Partnerships,  
Organizational Networks

Chaskin: Chapter 4 and 5

Comprehensive Neighborhood Plans

Chaskin: Chapter 6

Issues in Neighborhood Planning

Tues. May 5: Gentrification and Historic Preservation

Peterman: p. 71-87, 91-105

Peterman: pp. 129-146

Thurs. May 7: Doing Planning for Grassroots Neighborhood Development

Peterman: pp. 163-174

Course Summary

Final Exam: take-home assignment

**Final exam due: Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> no later than 5 pm.**