



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI  
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT  
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,  
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71  
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05  
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro  
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

## Syllabus

### Urban management and governance

Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Associate professor, PhD, Bogdana Neamtu. **Contact information:** email: [neamtu@fspac.ro](mailto:neamtu@fspac.ro); office hours: Monday, 12.00-14.00 or by appointment (preferably); mobile: 0040-728-88.35.73

#### Course description

This class is the foundation course designed to introduce second year Community Development and Urban Planning students to the field of urban planning. It offers a broad overview of the structure and process of contemporary planning practice throughout the world. It will briefly review the evolution of cities and current trends in urbanization, with a focus on the rise of megacities in the developing world. It will highlight both the theoretical debates and practical challenges that planners are likely to encounter within different substantive subfields of planning practice; and discuss problem-solving techniques and strategies used by practicing planners working in different institutional contexts. The course is organized into three major areas: I) Evolution of cities and urbanization trends throughout the world; II) Evolution of urban planning and its functions; III) Fields and topics in urban planning (*i.e.* urban design, historic preservation, downtown redevelopment).

**Learning objectives:** At the end of the class the students:

- Should have some introductory knowledge of the evolution of cities and their role in history.
- Be able to describe some of the social implications of urbanization, and compare and contrast the different views of several authors.
- Be able to describe the key features of the historic urban planning proposals of several key scholars.
- Be able to describe the evolution of master plans/comprehensive plans and the structure/functions of the planning process, with an emphasis on the role of the local governments.
- Be able to describe the contribution of some key authors to urban design.



- Be able to describe in some detail contemporary issues related to social justice, citizen participation, and resolving conflicts in planning.
- Should have a better understanding of the peculiarities of urbanization trends in some Eastern European cities.
- You should gain some practical skills regarding team work, presentation, comparative work as well as empirical observation of urban spaces in reference to some of the class readings.

### **Textbooks**

The main textbooks used for this class are listed below. Other materials will be assigned by the instructor for various classes/topics. These materials will be available for students at least 1 week in advance via the Moodle platform.

S. Campbell, S. Fainstein (eds.), *Readings in Planning Theory*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Blackwell Publishing, 2003.

A. Gallion, S. Eisner, *The Urban Pattern. City planning and Design*, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 1986.

R. LeGates, F. Stout (eds.), *The City Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Routledge, 2003.

J. Levy, *Contemporary Urban Planning*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2003.

B. Neamtu, *Introduction to urban planning*, Tritonic: Bucuresti, 2013.

### **Topics and course schedule**

#### **Week 1: Introduction to the course**

The instructor will introduce the students to the topics discussed throughout the class and will discuss with them important aspects regarding the way in which the course is organized, the structure of the lectures, assignments, etc. It will be emphasized the fact that it is very important that they come to classes prepared since the format is more similar to a seminar than to a classical lecture.



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI  
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT  
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,  
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71  
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05  
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro  
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

## **SECTION 1: Evolution of cities and urbanization trends throughout the world**

The first four classes which form section 1 of the course all deal with the process of urbanizations and the factors affecting urbanization. The course starts in week 1 by examining which are some of the urbanization trends in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a focus on the rise of megacities. It also looks into the connection between economic growth/development and urbanization. In week 2 we examine whether urban growth is a bad thing which needs to be stopped at all costs. Weeks 3 and 4 are dedicated to the examination of the cities throughout history. How did they evolve from the ancient times and until now? What changes exist depending on their location? Is their evolution in history relevant for nowadays urban planning?

**Week 1:** Urbanization trends worldwide. The connection between urbanization and economic prosperity/growth

**Week 2:** Factors which explain the expansion of cities. Should urban growth be contained at all?

**Week 3:** Evolution of Cities (I) - The classic city; the medieval town; the neoclassic city; cities in the new world (America); the city and the industrial revolution

**Week 4:** Evolution of cities (II) - The city in transition. Planning for a better city (urban utopians Ebenezer Howard, Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright)

## **SECTION 2: Evolution of urban planning and its functions**

The five classes which are part of section 2 examine the evolution of urban planning both as a profession and as an academic field. The first three classes explore issues regarding urban society and urban culture, through the lenses of various key figures in the development of the planning field. The emphasis is placed on a comparative approach – students are introduced to opposing views on how city life affects human behavior, to how cities develop and expand over time and are encouraged to express their own opinions on these topics. The last two classes of section 2 are focus on planning theory – the most significant paradigms/theory in planning are explored and discussed. The main focus is on identifying how traditional comprehensive planning and plans have evolved over the time under the influence of post-modern theories.



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI  
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT  
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,  
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71  
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05  
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro  
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

**Week 5:** Urban society and culture (I). Various viewpoints by Lewis Mumford, Louis Wirth, Jane Jacobs, and Sharon Zukin

**Week 6:** Urban society and culture (II). Integration of immigrants and their culture.

**Week 7:** Urban space. Factors which influence the configuration of cities

Ernest W. Burgess: *The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project*; Janet Abu-Lughod: *The Islamic City: Historic Myths, Islamic Essence and Contemporary Relevance*; R. French and I. Hamilton: *The Socialist City*, chapter 1.

**Week 8:** Theory of urban planning (I) - Contemporary approaches/paradigms in planning theory; Modernist versus post-modernist planning; Focus on advocacy planning and communicative planning

**Week 9:** Theory of urban planning (II) – How are master plans and master planning constantly reworked in light of post-modernist planning views?

### **SECTION 3: Fields and topics in urban planning**

The last four classes focus on different fields in urban planning. Given the fact that students have in the next semester several other courses dealing with urban planning, I decided to focus on several topics which are not approached in other classes. I decided to devote 2 classes to the topic of urban design because the group paper employs texts/authors from this section.

**Week 10:** Urban design (I). Main figures and trend in contemporary urban design; Focus on Camillo Sitte, William H Whyte, and Kevin Lynch, as well as on New Urbanism (movement)

**Week 11:** Urban design (II): Preparation of the group paper; Discussion of Oscar Newman's concept of defensible space and how it can be accomplished through urban design; Discussion of Jan Gehl's concept of human scale design principles and how these can be accomplished in various urban settings;

**Week 12:** Historic preservations. Strategies used in various cities worldwide.

**Week 13:** Culture as driver for urban redevelopment

**Week 14:** Wrap up of the class. Concluding remarks and brief discussion regarding the group presentations that will be scheduled during the final exams period



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI  
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT  
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,  
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71  
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05  
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro  
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

## Course methodology and requirements

**The class is organized and run as a seminar.** At the beginning of each class the instructor will provide a brief overview of the topics covered followed by in class discussions and/or student presentations. This means that all students need to come prepared (read the assigned materials) and be willing to engage in discussions.

**Attendance and active participation** are important requirements. Students need to attend at least 8 sessions in order for the instructor to grade their assignments and final paper.

**Plagiarism** as well as other forms of academic dishonesty will be sanctioned in accordance with the Ethical Code for Students available online at <https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/ro/resurse/administrative/regulamente>

**Assignments** need to be turned in on time. If students encounter major obstacles regarding the on-time completion of an assignment, please communicate with the instructor. Late submission can be arranged as well due to serious personal reasons but you need to obtain the instructor's permission in advance.

## Grading policy and structure

Your grade for this class will be made up of 3 different assignments:

a. **Group paper (1)** – For this paper you will need to form groups of two or three students who will work together. As a group you will need to select one author that will be discussed under the urban design topic (This year the recommended authors are Oscar Newman and Jan Gehl). Other authors can be selected but only after prior permission from the instructor). The purpose of the assignment is to make you observe, in a structured way, a public space from the city of Cluj-Napoca through the lens of urban design principles. **40% of your grade (30% the text and 10% the presentation) is represented by the group paper.**

### Structure of the paper:

- Brief overview of the author's contribution to the field of urban design, focusing on policy implications for nowadays urban planning (specific fields of planning). Please be aware that you need to place in a historical context the author's work.



UNIVERSITATEA BABES-BOLYAI  
BABES-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT  
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Științe Politice,  
Administrative și ale Comunicării

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71  
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400132

Tel.: 0264-43.15.05  
Fax: 0264-40.60.54

contact@fspac.ro  
www.fspac.ubbcluj.ro

- Brief overview of the main ideas on urban design that you are going to address in your paper.
- Description of the public place from Cluj Napoca chosen for your paper. You need to motivate the selection of the site and whether it is or not comparable with the site discussed by the author. Please use pictures, drawings, maps, or any other methods you find suited for describing the place.
- Methodology. How you conducted the observations or collected the data used in your analysis.
- Main findings. Discuss your main findings by comparing and contrasting them with the ones from your author of choice. Focus on providing explanations regarding why differences occur.
- Policy recommendations/implications for local authorities. Even though in some cases the authors did not focus on this aspect, you should derive at least some recommendations concerning how we could design better public spaces/places.

b. **Reflection pieces (2)** – Each student has to write two reflection papers. These are one page essays reflecting your opinion about the class readings. Imagine that you are a columnist for a magazine or journal and you need to state your opinion about a reading. The accent should be placed on critical thinking and analysis rather than restating the main ideas from the readings. You may address the entire text or an idea/concept from the text. You have to turn in your reflection the same day when the reading is discussed in class. Points will be deducted for reflections that are late. **30% of your grade (15%\*2)**

c. **In-class presentations (1)** – Each student will have to make one presentation on a topic of interest covered in the class. You are encouraged to select a very specific case study and to try to explain that case study in light of the concepts/theories covered in class. Ideally, the presentation should loosely match the topic of the week/class when you are presenting. Exceptions are allowed, however. Students should aim for a 15 minutes presentation followed by a Q and A session. The content of the presentation as well as the ability to stimulate in-class discussions is highly important. **30% of your grade**

**ATTENTION:** The entire class is designed to facilitate interaction and active learning. Provided that the students come to class unprepared, the instructor reserves the right to change the grading system by adding an in-class final exam. Students will be notified about this no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.