The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
URBPLAN 720: Urban Development Theory for Planning
Spring 2023
Tuesdays, 11:30AM – 2:10PM , AUP 345 (In-person)

Instructor: Atticus (Attie) Jaramillo
Email: atticus@uwm.edu
Office: AUP 338 and Teams
Office Hours: T / TH 2:30PM – 3:30PM, in person

Course Objectives:

This course introduces students to economic, social, and political theories that seek to explain the growth and development of cities and regions. Understanding of such theories is important for developing appropriate public policies in transportation, economic development, housing, social policy, and environmental regulation. These theories form the basis for modeling the likely impacts of alternative urban policies at the local, state, and national levels.

You will be called upon to think critically about urban problems, and you will criticize or defend plans/positions on the basis of both theory and facts. To put this another way, this course will teach you to think critically, to use and apply standard analysis tools, and to articulate your arguments. Often, we will find that the problem has more than one possible solution. A successful planning professional applies an understanding of theory, history, and the known facts of the situation to reach a conclusion about the most likely result of different ways of addressing problems or of shaping the urban environment.

Texts and Readings

All Readings will be available on Canvas
Readings subject to change, so please regularly check Canvas for change announcements

GRADING

Data Assignments 10% (-1% for each late submission)
Participation 10%
Metro Area Report Part I 30%
Metro Area Report Part II 50%

The two reports will be composed of multi-faceted elements, many of which are researched and discussed through data assignments. Instructions for preparing each data assignment is given to you at least one week before we discuss it in class, and you need to do all the research before the class. Your discussion of the data assignments will be graded in “class participation and discussion”. After the class, you will summarize the findings for the data assignments and eventually compile them into your metro reports.
Late reports will be marked down, unless students have documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances.

**Special Accommodation**

Students with limitations due to disability, including learning disability, may request for any reasonable accommodations. Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance. In case of special accommodations are needed in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Conduct**

The University, as an instrument of learning, is predicated on the existence of an environment of integrity. The faculty has the primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining an atmosphere and attitude of academic integrity such that the enterprise may flourish in an open and honest way. Students share this responsibility for maintaining standards of academic performance and classroom behavior conducive to the learning process. Please review Chapter UWS 14 and Faculty Document No. 1686 at the following webpage for both UWM’s and the expectations of appropriate student academic conduct:

https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

**Original Work and Plagiarism**

All work in this course should be your own. In written work, cite your sources for quotes, facts, and opinions, both in the body of your work and in the bibliography. Do not copy word for word unless you place the words in quotation marks. Any plagiarism will be dealt with as a serious ethical breach. If you have questions about whether you are crossing an ethical line, ASK ME. Here is a link to some good information on plagiarism from the Harvard Guide to Using sources: [http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054)

**Other Course Policies**

This course adheres to campus policies regarding students with disabilities, religious observances, active military service, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, complaints about the course, grade appeals, and firearms. For details about these policies, see: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf)

**Other Policies and Acknowledgements**

The Department of Urban Planning is committed to addressing systemic racism across all of its dimensions in our curriculum. Towards this goal, the Department acknowledges the historical roles of urban planning in creating and replicating racial inequities in the built environment. We are committed to developing pedagogical approaches and curricular content to train urban planners on anti-racist planning strategies.
We desire to foster and reinforce an inclusive culture in which democratic principles embrace the richness of our diverse society. This course facilitates and advances respectful dialogues among class participants of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

We also expect all course projects to be cognizant of the role of planning choices on our planet's climate future. The Department of Urban Planning adopted the 2010 Commitment when it was first launched by Architecture 2030 in 2010. [https://architecture2030.org/](https://architecture2030.org/) The 2010 Commitment commits faculty to include consideration and solutions for sustainability, especially climate mitigation, in requirements for all course projects to effectively train students to address climate and sustainability in their work.

Consistent with both these values, we acknowledge in Milwaukee that we are on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America’s largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin’s sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Week 1**

1/24 **Introduction**

Optional Readings


**Week 2**

1/31 **The City in Theory: Location Theory and Economic Geography**

Assignments:

- Hand out Data Assignment 1
- Hand out Metro Report I assignment

Readings:


**Week 3 2/7 Residential Location**


*Desmond, Matthew, “Epilogue: Home and Hope”, from Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, pp.293-313, 2016*

Discussion: Data Assignment1: Describe the residential location characteristics of your metro area. Why might you choose where to live? How might your housing choice be different if you were a different sort of person?

**Week 4 2/14 Residential Location II, Employment Location I**

Assignments: Hand out Data Assignment 2: Employment Location


The Economic Base Model, [http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/base.htm](http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/base.htm)

Discussion: Data Assignment 2: Do you still see monocentric regions in the U.S.? Is your metro area one? If not, what are the major sub-centers? How do you think the sub-centers affect your metro area?

**Week 5 2/21 Employment Locations II**

Assignments: Hand out Data Assignment 3: Metropolitan Growth Patterns

Readings: Giuliano, Genevieve and Kenneth Small, “The determinants of growth of employment subcenters”, Journal of Transport Geography, 7, 189-201,
1999.


Discussion: Describe the employment location characteristics of your metro area. In which industry is your metro area specialized? How does the specialized industry affect the urban structure?

Simulation: Make plans for the central city or the suburbs

Week 6 2/28 Are Cities Dying?


Discussion: Data Assignment 3: Is your metro area growing or shrinking in population?

Debate: What factors drive the decline of cities? What factors keep cities prosperous? What is the prescription for shrinking cities?

Week 7: 3/7 Fiscal and Economic Challenges and Metropolitan Equity

Assignments: **Metro Report I DUE**


**Discussion:**

Look for information related to the follow questions: What is the revenue structure of the central city in your metro area. What are the principal revenue sources? Is your central city fiscally strained? If so, what are the factors contributing to that strain? If not, why is your city not strained by fiscal shortages?

**Week 8   3/14   Cities and Their Natural Resource Base**

**Assignments:**

Hand out Data Assignment 4: Socially Disadvantaged

**Readings:**

European Environment Agency, “Urban Sustainability Issues--What is a Resource-Efficient City?” (Links to an external site). 2015, pp. 8-12, 16, 23-36. The final section, pp. 37-71 concerns sprawl and promoting compact cities. We will discuss these topics throughout the course. A quick skim of this long final section is not required, but it has a lot of good information. The European context makes it especially interesting from our US perspective.


Circular urban wood, Minneapolis, [https://meetingoftheminds.org/from-waste-to-wealth-developing-and-financing-an-urban-wood-economy-part-1-30407?omhide=true&utm_source=Meeting+of+the+Minds+Newsletter+List&utm_campaign=c5c363e1ae-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_cdb70a5ce7-c5c363e1ae-57862593&mc_cid=c5c363e1ae&mc_eid=bd87fb40db](https://meetingoftheminds.org/from-waste-to-wealth-developing-and-financing-an-urban-wood-economy-part-1-30407?omhide=true&utm_source=Meeting+of+the+Minds+Newsletter+List&utm_campaign=c5c363e1ae-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_cdb70a5ce7-c5c363e1ae-57862593&mc_cid=c5c363e1ae&mc_eid=bd87fb40db)

Milwaukee, Comprehensive Policy Plan, “Natural Resources” (Links to an
Menomonee Valley: Past, Present, Future
Menomonee Valley Partners, “Valley History” (Links to an external site.)

Menomonee Valley Partners and Sigma Group (2004), “Sustainable Guidelines for the
Menomonee Valley (Links to an external site.)

Public Policy Forum (2014), "Redevelopment in Milwaukee’s River Valley: What Worked and
Why?" (Links to an external site.) Pages 3-17 required; remainder of report recommended.


SPRING BREAK

Week 9  3/28  Metropolitan Politics and Social Disadvantage


David Riemer: Spotlight on Poverty & Opportunity; Wisconsin Examiner; Urban Milwaukee

Johnson, “Off-Track: The Failure of Light Rail in Milwaukee,” e.polis,

Discussion: How does Orfield’s description of “metro politics” offer an accurate (or inaccurate) explanation for the debates in the Milwaukee metro area around transit? How do the urban-rural differences play a role? Are these political dynamics still relevant to transit issues today in the Milwaukee metro area?

What do you know (what can you find out with some quick research) about city-suburb conflicts in your metro area?
Is the shift in suburban voting patterns seen in the 2016 and 2018 elections a sign that the political strains between large cities and their suburbs are likely to abate soon? Why or why not? What evidence can you point to?

**Week 10  4/4  Sociological Perspectives on Segregation**

**Assignments**
- Hand out Metro Report II Assignment
- Hand out Data Assignment 5: Globalization

**Readings:**

**Discussion:**

Which indicators of social disadvantage did you find most useful? Why? How does your metro area compare to the United States as a whole? Which group is particularly disadvantaged in your metro area? Do the indicators correlate (positively or negatively) as you would expect them to? If not, what explanations do you have?

**Week 11  4/11  Regional Planning in Wisconsin: New contexts and new strategies (Guest lecturer: Kevin Muhs and Lynn Nelson; online)**

**Week 12  4/18  Apr 13 (Week 11) Globalization**

**Readings:**

Sparke, Matthew and Owain David Williams, “Neoliberal disease: COVID-19, co-pathogenesis and global health insecurities”, EPA: Economy and Space 2022, Vol. 54(1) 15–32

Week 13 4/25 Integrated Transportation and Land Use Planning
Assignments: Hand out Data Assignment 6: Smart Growth


Discussion: Do you observe/experience a strong connection between transportation and land use? How should we adopt integrated transportation and land use planning?

Week 14 5/2 Housing Policies, Urban Design, and Smart Growth

**Charter of the Congress of the New Urbanism** (summary), Congress of the New Urbanism

Smart Growth Network,

- “Why Smart Growth?”
- “Smart Growth Principles”

Discussion: Data Assignment 6: Present the case study and discuss your assessment of the case.

**Week 15 5/9  Economic Policies and Regionalism**


**Metro Report II DUE MAY 16**