

PA 512 - The Metropolitan Area (#02447)

Spring 2009

Th 4:00-6:40 Room: SH 244A

Dr. Antoninetti

Office: PSFA 155

Office hours: Tu 3:30-4:30 and Th 11:00-12:00 (in-person, e-mail, telephone) and by appointment

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### Overview

Since cars became the preferred mode of transportation for generations of Americans, urban areas across the country have grown outwards through low-density, sprawling developments, where unsustainable land uses practices have created socio-ecological inequalities. Today, a growing attention toward regional planning and reforms seems to counteract such negative trends. However, it is also true that locational decisions, development projects, and place-making efforts conducted at the local scale have obtained useful results.

This course will explore themes and policy approaches as they apply to the local region. The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) published in 2004 by SANDAG will be used as a working document for in-class and fieldwork activities.

### Format and requirements

- A. Four tests have been scheduled for this course. They will be taken during the first hour of the following Thursdays: February 19, March 26, and April 23. The last test, scheduled for May 21, will last longer but it will not be comprehensive. Each test will include true/false and m/c questions as well as short essays. Total value: 140 points (30+30+30+50).
- B. Five exercises have also been scheduled throughout the semester. Information specific to each exercise will be announced in class and made available on Blackboard (Course Documents folder) on a timely manner. Exercises must be completed and returned by the following Thursday. One point will be taken off the overall grade for each day exercises are overdue. Total value: 80 points (5+15+20+20+20).
- C. Final Paper for Graduate Students. Graduates students from any discipline enrolled in the course must concord with the instructor a topic to be researched during the semester. Such research will produce a 10-page final paper to be turned in not later than May 7. Throughout the semester, periodical reviews of papers-in-progress will be possible during office hours. Please, contact me as soon as possible. Value: 40 points.
- D. Attendance and Participation. A classroom response system (aka clickers) will be used in this course. Clickers are small handheld devices used to foster interaction, active learning, and quick feedback for faculty and students. All students are required to obtain a clicker as a learning resource (just like a required text). Use of a clicker is part of the course participation requirement. Students must purchase and register the clicker prior to the third class meeting, and bring the clicker each time class meets prepared to participate. For this class, students will register the clicker via Blackboard. More information on the registration process for the clickers can be found by going to <http://clicker.sdsu.edu>. Students may not use other students' clickers; doing so is a violation of academic integrity. Value: 20 points.

### Required Readings and Material

1. Lucy and Phillips (2006) *Tomorrow's Cities, Tomorrow's Neighborhoods*. Planners Press
2. SANDAG (2004) *Regional Comprehensive Plan*. Free download at: <http://sandag.org/index.asp?projectid=1&fuseaction=projects.detail>
3. An additional suite of readings is available online (PDF format): <http://ecr.sdsu.edu> - The password to access such material is "metroog" (lowercase only!). Such articles are identified in the Course Outline below with an asterisk (\*).

4. One CPS RF clicker is required for this class. New and used clickers are available for purchase or rent at the Aztec Bookstore

### Class Policies

Tardiness is not acceptable. Time is just enough to cover the material. I will do my best to be ready to start at 4:00 sharp. I ask you to do the same.

Food in class is not allowed. Also, remember to mute cell phones and pagers.

Surfing the web or texting during lectures is very rude and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism. Through the years, I have developed a very keen ability in detecting even very sophisticated forms of plagiarism. Papers containing traces of plagiarism will receive an F.

Students who necessitate accommodation of particular needs should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you need accommodation due to a disability but have not registered with Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

Clickers. Students may not use other students' clickers; doing so is a violation of academic integrity.

Grading. Coursework will be graded according to the following scale:

Grade	%
A	92 to 100
A-	90 to 92
B+	87 to 89
B	83 to 86
B-	80 to 82
C+	77 to 79
C	73 to 76
C-	70 to 72
D+	67 to 69
D	61 to 66
F	60 and below

### Course outline and reading assignments

- Jan 22 Course synopsis introduced by the video *The Sprawling of America*
- Jan 29 Learning from the past (Lucy & Phillips, 3-41)  
Introducing SANDAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan - Speaker: Midori Wong, SANDAG (RCP, 21-37)
- Feb 5 Urban populations (Lucy & Phillips, 45-62)  
Policy implications of current conditions and future trends in the San Diego region (RCP, 45-55)  
How to use SANDAG Data Warehouse and online mapping - Speaker to be announced  
First exercise: selecting two Smart Growth Opportunity Areas (SGOAs) to analyze (SANDAG SGOA map and list available on Blackboard - Course Documents)
- Feb 12 Urban diversity (Lucy & Phillips, 63-91, Frey\*, 1-8 and 79-91)  
First exercise due
- Feb 19 First Test  
RCP's 2030 Vision and the Smart Growth Opportunity Areas (SGOA) (RCP, 57-97)

- Feb 26 Suburban ascendancy and dominance (Lucy & Phillips, 92-121)  
Second exercise: Using mass transit to tour two SGOAs (RCP, 99-123)
- Mar 5 Suburbia: jobs, mobility, and personal income (Lucy & Phillips, 122-168, SANDAG 2000\*, SANDAG 2004\*)  
Second exercise due
- Mar 12 Why are suburbs getting poorer nowadays? (Lucy & Phillips, 169-188, Berube\*)  
Housing needs and housing reality in the SD region (RCP, 125-144)
- Mar 19 Older suburbs, better suburbs? (Lucy & Phillips, 189-227)  
Healthy environments: focus on walkability (Frank\*, and Larsen and Gilliland\*)  
Third exercise: Testing SGOA's walkability
- Mar 26 Second Test  
Linking patterns, beliefs, and policies (Lucy & Phillips, 231-247)  
The role of public facilities (RCP, 207-231)  
Third exercise due
- Spring Recess
- Apr 9 Housing markets and settlement patterns (Lucy & Phillips, 248-265, Johnson\*)  
Inclusionary housing. Speaker: Prof. Nico Calavita, SDSU (Calavita\*)  
Fourth exercise: A look at the present using SANDAG's estimates
- Apr 16 Video: *Point of View: Farmingville*  
Safety in suburbs: perception and reality (Lucy & Phillips, 266-295)  
Social equity and environmental justice (RCP, 283-305)  
Fourth exercise due
- Apr 23 Third Test  
McMansion vs. the Bungalow: does size matter? (Lucy & Phillips, 296-313, Brooks 2004\*)
- Apr 30 Can local policies make a difference? (Lucy & Phillips, 314-327)  
The implementation of the RCP - Summary (RCP, 355-393)  
Fifth exercise: A look ahead using SANDAG's Regional Growth forecasts
- May 7 What next, and where? (Lucy & Phillips, 328-337, Arieff\*, Brooks 2008\*, Luft\*, Dubner\*, Lang\*)  
Fifth exercise due  
Graduate students' final papers due
- May 21 Fourth Test (from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

### Come to see me

Please, take advantage of my office hours or call me to set up an appointment. But do not call if you can use the office hours, just come and knock at the door!

NOTE: The syllabus is not a binding document. I reserve the right to make adjustments to the course design during the semester following notification.

