

Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:30 AM – 10:50 AM
Temple Buell Hall Room 19

Professor: Andrew Greenlee
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Office Hours: By appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays
M210 TBH; please email 24-48 hours in advance

Course Overview and Objectives

This seminar examines urban shrinkage – a phenomenon typically associated with population loss, but also characterized by obsolescence, disinvestment, and abandonment. While some cities thrive and struggle to house the global urban majority, other cities face the stark reality of shrinkage and decline. What should we do to envision and enact a viable future for our shrinking cities?

This seminar will draw upon literature from Planning, Economics, Sociology, and other areas to discuss the meaning of urban decline as set of social, economic, and spatial phenomena. Throughout the semester, we will question how cities and communities have responded to urban decline, and we will critically assess the effectiveness of these responses. While we will engage with the global literature on shrinkage, our focus will be on exploring the dynamics of shrinkage in U.S. cities. Can we envision cities in which no growth is expected? Amidst scarce resources, should some cities be allowed to “die”? Practically, how do communities that are not growing adapt to and plan for these realities?

This course will be taught as a seminar - we will use readings, student facilitated discussions, and lectures as a means for creating a shared understanding around urban shrinkage. Complementing our shared knowledge development, you will spend time thinking about how to analyze demographic, social, and economic change phenomena associated with urban shrinkage. By the end of the semester, you will develop a portrait of shrinkage for a city of your choice as well as a vision for an aspect of that city’s future. In order to develop your analytical skillset, we will devote a portion of our seminar schedule to “lab” sessions in which we learn about qualitative and quantitative methods for examining the externalities of urban shrinkage.

By the end of this course, we will:

- 1) Develop an understanding of the role that assumptions regarding growth play within city plans and urban politics;
- 2) Establish a working knowledge of strategies for measuring, describing, and analyzing urban change phenomena, particularly those associated with urban shrinkage;
- 3) Gain hands-on experience engaging with these planning-related questions in a city of your choice.

Prerequisites

UP 494-AG: Shrinking Cities is designed as a seminar which will compliment engagement and discussion within the classroom with independent work and research outside of class. This course has no prerequisites aside from upper-level undergraduate or graduate-level standing. Students will benefit

from some prior knowledge of urban planning theories, concepts, and analytical techniques, although these are not a required prerequisite. Please see me if you have any questions regarding whether this course is right for you.

Schedule and Readings

The sequence of course sessions is designed to help you quickly develop a working knowledge of important concepts and theories related to urban shrinkage. As we learn more about these theories and concepts, you will begin to examine them within a real-world context.

We will spend substantial time in class and one-on-one engaging with analysis and tools. For a portion of the semester, we will compliment reading sessions (Tuesdays) with in-class “lab” sessions (Thursdays) which may be devoted to further discussion of readings, instruction on data collection and analysis, and workshopping your assignments. We will work together as a class to decide how we will use our lab time. Some sessions may involve continued discussion and extension of readings from our Tuesday session, and other sessions may involve me introducing a new data source, analytical tool, or other descriptive strategy. The benefit from these lab sessions will depend largely upon your feedback- let me know what you are interested in doing or following up on, and we’ll see if we can fit it into a lab session!

Some class sessions will also be devoted to individual work or advising on your individual assignments. You will be responsible for managing how you use this time, however, please note that my expectation is that you use it as an opportunity to invest in your class work products.

Assignments, Grading, and Attendance

This course requires your engagement both within and outside of the classroom. Grading criteria include contribution to the course environment, quality of writing, and depth of analysis. Your work will be graded on a 100-point scale:

A	90 – 100 points	Outstanding work
B	80 – 89 points	Good work, needs minor revision
C	70 – 79 points	Work needs some revision
D	60-69 points	Work needs significant revision
F	0 – 59 points	Work does not meet minimum standards

Consistent contributions to class, thoughtful engagement with course material, and other achievements may lead to overall adjustments in your course grade.

For undergraduate and Master’s students, your course grade will consist of the following assignments:

10 Percent **Discussion Facilitation**

You will facilitate a discussion around assigned readings for a particular day in class. You will need to come prepared with a series of discussion questions and a plan for engaging fellow students a 30-minute discussion around course material.

- 15 Percent **Intersection Assignment**
You will write a short analytical piece in which you describe one dimension of urban shrinkage and then examine the intersection between that phenomenon and a theme of your choice. You will also present on your intersection to the class.
- 25 Percent **Preliminary Place Description**
Building upon your Intersection Assignment, draw from historical, demographic, social, and economic data to construct a preliminary place description for a shrinking city of your choice. We will devote time in class to presenting and workshoping each of your place analyses.
- 50 Percent **Final Analysis and Policy Proposal**
Building upon your Intersection Assignment and Preliminary Place Description, present a finalized assessment of issues within your chosen shrinking city, and then propose a series of policy interventions focused on addressing these issues. In addition to your written analysis and policy proposal, you will present your proposal to the class at the end of the semester.

For Ph.D. students, your course grade will consist of the following:

- 10 Percent **Discussion Facilitation**
You will facilitate a discussion around assigned readings for a particular day in class. You will need to come prepared with a series of discussion questions and a plan for engaging fellow students a 40-minute discussion around course material.
- 15 Percent **Intersection Assignment**
You will write a short analytical piece in which you describe one dimension of urban shrinkage and then examine the intersection between that phenomenon and a theme of your choice. You will also present on your intersection to the class.
- 75 Percent **Term Paper**
You will produce a term-length paper on a topic of your choice that draws upon the academic literature to engage with a theme related to shrinking cities. Based upon your interests and needs, this paper could include original empirical analysis of a phenomenon, could be theory-based, or could be focused on synthesizing literature. In addition to preparing your term assignment, you will present your paper to the class at the end of the semester.

All assignments should be submitted in the appropriate COMPASS 2g assignment dropbox as a PDF file (unless otherwise noted in the assignment). Late work will be automatically graded down by 5 points per

24-hour period your assignment is late, and will only be accepted if you have made arrangements with me *prior* to the assignment due date.

The learning environment in this seminar depends upon your presence and participation. Full participation is expected for all course sessions (which are listed within the course schedule below). For each course session that you are absent from (excluding excused absences), 2 percent will be deducted from your final course grade. Excused absences will be granted on a case-by-case basis, but must be approved by me *prior* to the course session which you are absent from.

Honor Code and Learning Environment

The Illinois Student Code states: “It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions.” Note that you are subject to the Honor Code, as well as procedures for addressing violations to the Code, regardless of whether you have read it and understand it. According to the Code, “ignorance is no excuse.”

To meet this standard in this course, note the following: in written work, all ideas (as well as data or other information) that are not your own must be cited. Note that ideas that require citation may not have been published or written down anywhere. While you are free—and indeed encouraged—to discuss assignments with your peers, all of your analysis, and writing should be your own. The consequence for violating these expectations may include receiving no credit for the assignment in question, and at the discretion of the instructor, may include automatic failure of the course.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is rooted in the goals and responsibilities of professional planners. By enrolling in a class offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, students agree to be responsible for maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect in all DURP activities, including lectures, discussions, labs, projects, and extracurricular programs. See Student Code Article 1-Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part 1. Student Rights: §1-102.

Course Schedule

There are no required texts for this class. All readings will be provided online via the course COMPASS 2G website. A summary of each course session is provided below:

Session 1	1/19/2016	Tuesday	Course Introduction
Session 2	1/21/2016	Thursday	How can we Define Urban Shrinkage?
Session 3	1/26/2016	Tuesday	Perspectives on Urban Decline – Part 1
Session 4	1/28/2016	Thursday	Perspectives on Urban Decline – Part 2

Session 5	2/2/2016	Tuesday	Can Planning Manage Decline?	
Session 6	2/4/2016	Thursday	Restructuring Urban Spaces	
Session 7	2/9/2016	Tuesday	Theories of Disinvestment, Abandonment, and Obsolescence	
Session 8	2/11/2016	Thursday	Lab: Measuring Population Change	
Session 9	2/16/2016	Tuesday	Intersection Assignment Presentations	
Session 10	2/18/2016	Thursday	Intersection Assignment Presentations	Intersection Assignment Due Friday 2/19/2016 by 5:00 pm
	2/19/2016	Friday	Potential Field Trip to Peoria?	
Session 11	2/23/2016	Tuesday	Land Use and "Smart Growth"	
Session 12	2/25/2016	Thursday	Lab: Narrative Analysis	
	2/26/2016	Friday	Potential Field Trip to Peoria?	
Session 13	3/1/2016	Tuesday	Labor and Economic Development Impacts	
Session 14	3/3/2016	Thursday	Lab: Analysis of Employment Trends	
Session 15	3/8/2016	Tuesday	Race	
Session 16	3/10/2016	Thursday	No Class - Independent Work Day	
Session 17	3/15/2016	Tuesday	Lab: Analysis of Residential Segregation	
Session 18	3/17/2016	Thursday	No Class - Independent Work Day	
Session 19	3/22/2016	Tuesday	No Class - Spring Break	
Session 20	3/24/2016	Thursday	No Class - Spring Break	

Session 21	3/29/2016	Tuesday	Preliminary Analysis Presentations	
Session 22	3/31/2016	Thursday	Preliminary Analysis Presentations	Preliminary Analysis Due Friday 4/1/2016 by 5:00 pm
Session 23	4/5/2016	Tuesday	Housing	
Session 24	4/7/2016	Thursday	Environment	
Session 25	4/12/2016	Tuesday	The State, Governance	
Session 26	4/14/2016	Thursday	Arts, Culture, and Identity	
Session 27	4/19/2016	Tuesday	Lab: Individual Meetings	
Session 28	4/21/2016	Thursday	Lab: Individual Meetings	
Session 29	4/26/2016	Tuesday	Final Presentations	
Session 30	4/28/2016	Thursday	Final Presentations	
Session 31	5/3/2016	Tuesday	Course Wrap-Up	Final Assignment Due Friday 5/13/2016 by 5:00 pm
