

METU FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, DEPARTMENT OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

CRP 372 Planning Theory, Spring 2012

Instructor: Assoc.Prof.Dr.Bahar Gedikli

Time: 9.40-12.00, Thursday

This is an increasingly urban world: During the last 100 years, the share of urban population raised from ~14% to ~51%. Obviously, this process is neither a naïve population increase nor a simple expansion of cities. It is a dramatic transformation of urban areas physically, economically and socially. Obviously the changes that the urban areas face cannot (and should not) be left on its own; an organized intervention and a disciplined effort is needed. That is why the planning profession showed its early signs in the late 19th century.

The purpose of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the evolution of planning theory starting from the late 19th century until today. The course starts with discussing how the planning thought had emerged, and then continues with how and why it has evolved through time. It elaborates past and present core theories, which have shaped thinking within the field of city and regional planning. The emphases will be on both planning process and substantive outcomes. Students are expected to identify how changing theories have guided planning practice and research.

Week 1: Introduction to the Planning Theory

Course Description

Circumstances that led to the planning thought: The poor conditions of the industrial city at the turn of the 20th Century

Week 2: An emerging urban agenda

The 1927 film "Metropolis" (Fritz Lang): Metropolis is set in a futuristic urban dystopia; where wealthy capitalists rule society, segregating themselves entirely from the labor class. The students are expected to discuss what they gather from the movie.

Week 3: Theory and Planning Theory

Theory; planning theory; general planning; urban planning; distinctions of urban planning than the general mode of planning

Week 4: The Pioneering Figures in Planning: Utopians

Utopian Thinkers: Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier

Assignment: Review of readings on utopian planners to be submitted in the 5th week

Week 5: Utopias continued

Discussion of assignments

Case Study: Le Corbusier's Chandigarh

Week 6: Early Planning Schemes

Patrick Geddes: Introduction of "region" into urban planning

Neighbourhood Unit, Radburn Plan

Assignment: Review of readings on Patrick Geddes, Neighbourhood Unit, Radburn Plan to be submitted in the 7th week

Week 7: Early Planning Schemes

Discussion of assignments

City Beautiful Movement

Week 8: Midterm Examination

Week 9: Instrumental Rationality and Rational Thought in Planning

A paradigm shift in planning from design-based thinking to rational thinking

The Rational Comprehensive Planning

Week 10: Criticisms towards the Rational Comprehensive Planning

Disjointed Incrementalism (Charles Lindblom)

Week 11: Criticisms towards the Rational Comprehensive Planning

Advocacy Planning (Paul Davidoff)

Assignment: Review of readings on Advocacy Planning and Disjointed Incrementalism to be submitted in the 12th week

Week 12: Communicative Rationality and Collaborative Planning

Discussion of assignments

How communicative planning has emerged and evolved

Week 13: Contemporary approaches: Strategic Spatial Planning and Participation

Theory and practical examples

Week 14: Contemporary approaches: New Urbanism, Smart Growth, Sustainable Urban Development

Theory and practical examples

EVALUATION

* Midterm Examination (35%); 3 Assignments (15% total); Final Examination (40%); Attendance (10%)

** Homework assignments will be prepared by groups of 2 students. For each assignment, a group will be responsible for only one article.

*** Only medical reports given or approved by the Medical Center of METU are accepted to have a make-up exam.