

UPPP 109: Housing & Urban Development Policy

Spring 2021



Peri-urban Mexico

Class Schedule: Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:50 am

Location: Remote/Zoom

Professor: Alejandra Reyes, Ph.D.

Contact: lreyesru@uci.edu

Remote Office:

Office Hours: By appointment

Course description

Over the last several decades, the rates of global urban development and expansion – importantly fueled by housing production – have attracted the attention of several disciplines. With more than half of the world’s population living in cities, housing affordability issues have also become a matter of concern. Further, poor housing conditions and inadequate access to infrastructure, services, and opportunity continue to affect vast segments of society. This course will thus introduce students to the socioeconomic and political forces that have driven recent housing finance and development throughout the globe. Yet, our assignments and final project will have a strong focus on housing policy and implementation in California. In particular, we will study the interactions between housing

policy (at the federal, state, and local levels) and market forces. We will also examine the paradoxical convergence of housing production booms and housing displacement and discuss the role that housing production and development has played in fueling economic booms and busts. In doing so, we will revisit the ways in which housing access is promoted and restricted throughout these cycles, the issues that have stemmed from such housing practices (e.g. housing insecurity, foreclosure, homelessness...), and some of the civic and institutional responses that have emerged to address such issues.

Tangentially, this course will review socioeconomic and political (decision-making) inequities in cities, the external (global) and internal (local) factors that them, their implications, and alternative development strategies. Although a large portion of this class will center geographically on the U.S., we will also discuss the housing and urban development experiences of other world regions, the implications of such development patterns, and the ways in which different governments and civic societies have addressed them. Lastly, we will review arguments for treating housing as a right, rather than a commodity, both in the Global North and South.

Summary of Course Requirements and Assignments

1. In-class and Canvas participation (15 points).

- Class attendance is not mandatory this quarter, but it is encouraged.
- Focus on the Canvas Discussions to earn participation points.
- In-class participation will count as **extra credit**.

2. Two paper summaries (15 points each/30 points total):

- Each paper should summarize 1 class readings/content (e.g. newspaper article, podcast, film...) of your choice. Due dates will vary depending on your selected readings (1 day before they are assigned).
- Format: 2-3 paragraphs each (about 1-page/300-400 words, 1.5 spacing, 12-point font & 1" margins).

3. Final project prep (25 points):

- We will evaluate Orange County cities in their efficiency to promote affordable housing production and gauge the influence of recent state and assembly bills in the revision process of Housing Elements (plans), which are reviewed every 8 years (and are currently being reviewed!). For more info on this project read the last paragraph on my [faculty website](#).
- You will attend a **remote** and related event (e.g. town hall meeting), take, and submit very good notes.

- You will also identify (look for) the Housing Element webpage of one OC city, a contact person and email, its past 5th cycle Housing Element, and its Site Inventory (often an appendix within the HEs).

4. Final project (30 points):

- You will use the 5th cycle Housing Element Site Inventory to identify (**online, e.g. google earth, city websites...**) whether these sites have been developed or approved for development, what are their existing uses, and whether they are suitable for development (e.g. are they in fire prone areas, landfills...?).
- You will also analyze where that city is at on its 6th cycle Housing Element revision process (i.e. Request for Proposals for Consultants, Outreach, First Draft Released, Adopted by Planning Commission, Adopted by City Council).

*All readings/content will be posted on the Canvas course website.

**Email/contact me for any accommodations you may require to complete any assignment or course requirement. Students who require accommodations should also register with the [Disability Services](#).

Grading

This class is not curved, and the grading scale is based on 100 points.

A 100-93	A- 92-90	B+ 89-87	B 86-83	B- 82-80	C+ 79-77
C 76-73	C- 72-70	D+ 69-67	D 66-63	D- 62-60	F 59-0

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments

Week 1. Intro to Housing & Urban Development

Watch/Read (3/29):

- Soja, E. (2014). **Inside Exopolis: Views of Orange County (1990–1996)**. In *My Los Angeles: From Urban Restructuring to Regional Urbanization*. Published by California Scholarship Online.

- [New Deal Housing Projects: Housing in Our Time](#) (20-min video/archival footage).

Watch/Read (3/31):

- [Our Journey to Fair Housing](#) (17-min video).
- Von Hoffman, A. **Ch 2: The lost history of urban renewal.** In Tighe, J. Rosie., and Mueller, Elizabeth J. (Eds). *The Affordable Housing Reader*. London: Routledge, 2013.

Week 2. Housing Affordability & Access

Watch (4/5):

- [American Divided: A House Divided](#) (44-min film).

Listen (4/7):

- A Little Louder. Episode 34: [“President Biden’s Executive Orders On Housing”](#) (26-min podcast-scroll down).
- A Little Louder. Episode 4: [“Home matters”](#) (30-min podcast-scroll down).

Week 3. Homeownership

Read (4/12):

- Krueckeberg D. A. **Ch 12 The grapes of rent: A history of renting in a country of owners.** In Tighe, J. Rosie., and Mueller, Elizabeth J. (Eds). *The Affordable Housing Reader*. London: Routledge, 2013.

Read (4/14):

- Eligon, J. (2020, November 5). [Residents Feared Low-Income Housing Would Ruin Their Suburb. It Didn’t.](#) *The New York Times*.
- Bryan, B. (2019, December 9). [Criminal Justice Contact, Homeownership, and Implications for the Black-White Wealth Gap](#) (blogpost). *Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University*.