









remember, this is written to a general (not a student) audience and you aim is to be as persuasive in your tone, examples, and arguments as possible.

First essay due by

- [“Fruitvale Station”](#) -- a 2013 dramatic film based on events leading to the death of Oscar Grant, a young man who was killed in 2009 by a Bay Area Rapid Transit officer in Oakland

- [LA Plays Itself](#) – a light-hearted 2003 litany of the ways Los Angeles has been featured in films
- [“This Changes Everything”](#) -- Inspired by Naomi Klein’s book, the documentary presents portraits of communities on the front lines of the climate crisis, from Montana’s Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing
- [“Where To Invade Next”](#) -- Documentary filmmaker Michael Moore visits various countries to examine how Europeans view work, education, health care, sex, equality, and other issues.

Summary of assignment due dates:

- **Essays** Topic of your choice by **Friday, Feb. 19** Newspaper Editorial by **Thursday, March 25** Policy Recommendation by **Tuesday, April 20**
- **Reporting on two public events:** One prior to **Tuesday, March 23** one prior to **Thursday, April 8**
- **Film Review Paper:** Due **Tuesday, March 16**
- **Elected Official Interview** Due **Thursday, April 22**
- **All assignments are due by 9am PT on the due date**

### Writing Support Services

We can all use help sharpening our writing skills – and those skills get better with practice! I strongly encourage you to utilize the writing support services provided by the Writing Center:

<https://www.oxy.edu/writing-center>

### Academic Ethics

You should be familiar with the college’s policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. I take these issues very seriously and so should you.

- Paraphrase, i.e., restate the material in your own words: (a) the paraphrasing must represent a substantial change from the original, not just the changing of occasional words and phrases, and (b) you must provide a reference.
- Present material that is common knowledge, but borrow someone else's organizational pattern: you must acknowledge that borrowing in a reference.

Penalties for academic misconduct are severe (see "Academic Misconduct"), and ignorance of the principles and policies concerning cheating and plagiarism is not a defense. Students with any doubts at all about whether an action or piece of academic work involves academic misconduct should consult their instructors before committing the action or submitting the work.

### **Disability Services**

Please let me know if you need some kind of accommodation. Students with documented disabilities who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Students who experience significant physical or mental impairments can contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support.

### **Occidental Sexual Misconduct Policy and Resources**

Particularly in light of Oxy's history, I strongly support the efforts to ensure a safe environment, free from harassment and sexism. Please share your concerns and utilize the college's resources.

Policy: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-assault-resources-support/policies-procedures>

24/7 Confidential Hotline: (323) 341-4141

Campus Safety Emergency Line: (323) 259-2511

Dean of Students Office: (323) 259-2661

### **Web Sites**

The internet is a great way of connecting to the larger worlds of public policy. There are thousands of web sites that deal with social issues and thousands of advocacy organizations and political networks that have their own web sites. Here are several key sites with which you should be familiar. I encourage you to bookmark them so you can find them easily.

The Brookings Institution Metropolitan P



planning) from the point of view of planning tools for housing transportation, schools, economic development, public safety, and other issues. It also has a section on the “heroes” of community planning - some of the most important figures in the history of planning, architecture, organizing and other topics

The Campaign for America’s Future (<http://www.ourfuture.org>), the Economic Policy Institute (<http://www.epi.org>), and the Center for American Progress (<http://www.americanprogress.org>). These sites are a goldmine of policy ideas and data about economic and social policy from a liberal/progressive perspective. Similar organizations from a conservative perspective include the Cato Institute (<http://www.cato.org>), the Heritage Foundation (<http://www.heritage.org>), and the American Enterprise Institute (<http://www.aei.org>).

Community Organizing and Development (<http://comm-org.wisc.edu>) -- This site is a link with hundreds of groups involved in urban community development. If you want to find out what groups are working on different urban issues, this is the site. It also has many articles and reports on urban community development and community organizing

Next American City (<http://americacity.org>), CityLab (<http://www.citylab.com>), and Governing (<http://www.governing.com>) are interesting websites with provocative articles about livable cities, innovative practices, and debates over what cities are doing the best.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (<http://www.cnt.org>), the National Housing Institute ([www.nhi.org](http://www.nhi.org)), Poverty & Race Research Action Council (<http://www.prrac.org>), Planners Network (<http://www.plannersnetwork.org>), Sustainable Communities (<http://www.sustainable.org>), and Citistates (<http://www.citistates.com>) all focus on innovative research and programs that strengthen urban neighborhoods and metropolitan areas. Each site has links to many other resources about particular issues, programs, cities, and metropolitan areas. Two magazines -- (<http://www.nhi.org/online>) and (<http://www.citylimits.org>) -- provide examples of interesting urban politics and policy from a liberal/progressive perspective. (<http://www.city-journal.org>), published by the Manhattan Institute, provides interesting articles on urban issues from a conservative perspective.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has its own web site with information about its programs, policies, data bases, and many links. HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research (<http://www.huduser.org>) has its own site with a great deal of information about housing and urban problems, studies and publications, and available data. You reach can the HUD library, with many reports and publications about cities and housing problems, at this site.

(<http://www.prospect.org>), (<http://www.thenation.com>), and (<http://www.motherjones.org>). These are three of the most important magazines analyzing American politics from a progressive, grassroots perspective.

Demos (<http://www.demos.org>), the Center for Responsive Politics (<http://www.opensecrets.org>); Every Voice Center (<http://www.everyvoicecenter.org>); Good Jobs First (<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org>); and the California Budget and Policy Center

<http://calbudgetcenter.org> -- These think tanks all provide interesting policy ideas on such issues as tax policy, campaign finance, anti-poverty policy, economic development, citizen participation, housing and homelessness, voting rights, and others.

Newspapers, Magazines and Journals

If you want to keep up-to-date

## **TOPICS AND READINGS**

(Readings preceded by an \*asterisk are available on the class Moodle site.  
NYT = New York Times. LAT = Los Angeles Times).

### **PART I**

## **POLITICS AND POLICY ARE ABOUT VALUES AND CHOICES**

### **Thursday, January 21 / Our Stories of Place**

Starting with our stories:

What is your story of place? Where have you lived? How has that place shaped you?

Where have you traveled? What is your favorite place and why?

How have your experiences with place shaped your views on place?

## Tuesday, January 26/ How we got here 20th Century cities

Watch this movie before class

- \*[Citizen Jane: "The Fight for the City"](#) (92 minutes) Documentary tells the iconic story of the titanic clash between journalist and activist Jane Jacobs and "The Power Broker" Robert Moses over the development of Manhattan

Watch the first 6 minutes of this video before class:

- "The Selling of Sprawl" (9 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvN5kN5TCdY>

Read before class:

- \*[Cole, "Urban Design in our Individual and Civic Lives"](#) (Terrain, April 17, 1997)
- \*[Cole, "California Dreamin' 2020"](#) (LAT, July 23, 2007)
- \*[Gerckens, "10 Events That Shaped the 20th Century American City"](#) (Planning Commissioners Journal, Spring 1998)
- \*[Biles, Black Mayor's: An Historical Assessment](#) (The Journal of African American History Volume 77, Number 3, Summer 1992)

- Dreier, , Chapter 5, From FDR to Obama: A Brief History of Urban Policy, pp. 136-174
- [Andrews "How Ben Carson Tried to Destroy Fair and Affordable Housing" \(Curbed, August 17, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*The Biden Plan for Investing in our Communities Through Housing \(Biden Harris Campaign, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Steuteville, "What will Biden do for Urbanism?" CNU, November 9, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Baskin, "HUD Deserves Better Than Marcia Fudge" \(New Republic, December 14, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Katz "How Washington made itself irrelevant" \(Washington Post, December 4, 2014\)](#)

**Thursday, February 4/ What Makes Cities Livable? For Whom?**

Watch these videos:

- "Urbanized," before coming to class (optional) - Library has a copy of the film (HT166).

## Optional reading

- \*[Locke, “These are the World’s Most Livable Cities in 2019” \(CNBC, September 4, 2019\)](#)
- \*[Crostwaithe, “How Pope Francis’ Relates to City Planning” \(International Making Cities Livable, June 2016\)](#)
- \*[Davis, “The Prevalence of Slums” \(Chapter 2 of Planet of Slums, 2006\)](#)
- \*[Lennard and Lennard, “Principles of True Urbanism” \(2005\)](#)
- \*[Speck, “Making Better Places: Ten City Design Resolutions” \(Planetizen, January 10, 2005\)](#)
- \*[Arango, “Turn Off the Sunshine” Why Shade is a Mark of Privilege in Los Angeles” \(NYT, December 1, 2019\)](#)
- \*[Goodheart, “Madeline’s Amazing Cool Room: A Silver Lake Eviction Tale” \(Capital & Main, February 12, 2019\)](#)
- \*[“An Economy for the 99%” \(Oxfam, January 2017\), pages 1-8 only](#)
- \*[Philip Alston, “Statement on Visit to the USA” \(United Nations, Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, December 15, 2017\)](#)
- \*[de Haldevang, “There Are Ways to Let Cities Sprawl Without Destroying the Environment and Marginalizing the Poor” \(Quartz, October 15, 2016\)](#)
- \*



Read before class:

- Sonenshein "Los Angeles Structure of City Government (League of Women Voters, 2006) pp. 19-68

### **PART III**

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\*Kruse, "Seattle has decided what kind of city it wants to be – for better or worse" (Q13Fox, November 9, 2019)

\*Furillo, "When Big Money Votes, Wealth Gap Widens" (Capital & Main, November 13, 2019)

- [\\*"Common Issues and Pro/Con Arguments in Elections to Change Form of Government" \(Municipal Research and Services Center Fact Sheet\)](#)
- [\\*Hamey, "The Mayor Manager Conundrum" \(Governing Magazine, April 2004\)](#)

**Thursday, February 25 / The Battle for Power: Conservative, Liberal, & Progressive Cities**

Watch this video before class

- \*"The New Los Angeles" (56 minutes)
- Dreier, Chapter 7 – "Urban Politics Matters: Progressive, Liberal and Conservative Cities"
- Find and read

Optional reading

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**PART IV**  
**URBAN PLANNING & POLICY: WORK, POVERTY & INEQUALITY**





- [\\*Smith, 'No Going Back' To Racist Past, LA Civic Leaders Say of Post-COVID Future \(LAT, Sept. 9, 2020\)](#)

### **Tuesday, March 23/ Public Safety, Police, & Criminal Justice**

Watch these videos before class:

- "Philip McHarris on What Defunding the Police Actually Means" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5b-uroEBpA> (39 minutes)
- "Defunding the police is not the answer, Houston Police Chief Says" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siCzLV97JN8> (8 minutes)

Read before class:

- [\\*Lopez, "Want to End Mass Incarceration? Stop Blindly Reelecting Your Local Prosecutor" \(Vox, September 1, 2016\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [\\*Gonnerman, "Lary Krasner's Campaign to End Mass Incarceration" \(The New Yorker, Oct. 29, 2018\)](#)
- [\\*Mahony, "Tiffany Caban Knows Who the Bad Guys Are" \(Jacobin, May 23, 2019\)](#)
- [\\*Booker, George Gascon Implements Sweeping Changes to LA's District Attorney's Office \(NPR, December 28, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Florida, "The Great Crime Decline and the Comeback of Cities" \(CityLab, January 16, 2018\)](#)
- [\\*Rao, "Why Rising Police Budgets Aren't Making Cities Safer" \(Next City, July 19, 2017\)](#)
- [\\*Cobb, "The Death of George Floyd in Context \(The New Yorker, May 28, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Ray, "What Does 'Defund the Police' Mean and Does it Have Merit?'" \(Brookings, June 19, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Elmahrek, "Santa Ana Embrace 'Defund the Police' Then came the union backlash" \(LAT, September 3, 2020\)](#)
- [\\*Akinibi, "Cities Say They Want to Defund Their Police, But Their Budgets Say Otherwise \(CityLab, Jan. 12, 2021\)](#)

### **Thursday, March 25/ 21st Century Policing**

Read before class:

- "The Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing" pp 1-70 [https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce\\_finalreport.pdf](https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf)

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Renaud, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police

**Tuesday, March 30/ Promoting Equity: How Policy Gets Made**

Read before class:

- [\\*Santa Monica Policy Playbook](#)

Guest Speaker: Santa Monica Deputy City Manager Anuj Gupta

**PART VI**  
**URBAN PLANNING & POLICY: SUBURBANIZATION, SPRAWL**  
**& THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday April 1/ Cities, Suburbs & Regions**

Watch these videos before class:

- SCAG 2012 Compass Blueprint Intro (3 minutes) <https://vimeo.com/40259535>
- Bruce Katz: The Global Metropolitan Revolution (18 minutes) <https://youtu.be/SoubkgjVN4>

Read before class:

- Florida, pp. 87-166
- Dreier, Chapter 4, "The Roads Not Taken: How Government Policies Promote Economic Segregation and Suburban Sprawl"
- [\\*Fulton, The Long Drive \( \)](#)

**Tuesday, April 6/ America's Car Culture and Public Transportation**  
**How Do We Get From Here to There?**

Watch these videos before class:

- "Taken for a Ride" (60 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-I8GDklsN4>
- Change the Street, Change The World (45 minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMLnnFATeGg>

Read before class:

- [\\*Goodyear, "Why the Streets of Copenhagen and Amsterdam Look So Different From Ours" \(CityLab, April 25, 2012\)](#)
- [\\*Baca, "The Green New Deal's Huge Flaw" \(Slate, February 7, 2019\)](#)
- [\\*Dayen, "The Great Los Angeles Revolt Against Cars" \(American Prospect, Summer 2017\)](#)
- [Shoup, Parking Reform Will Save the City \(CityLab, September 19, 2019\)](#)
- [\\*Fitzsimmons, "Why the West Coast Is Suddenly Beating the East Coast on Transportation" \(NYT, January 1, 2019\)](#)
- [\\*Bary, "Should Public Transit Be Free?" \(NYT, January 14, 2020\)](#)



[\\*Gold, "Making Los Angeles Completely Water Self-Sufficient Won't Be Easy or Cheap, But It Can Be Done" \(LAT, March 19, 2018\)](#)

Pollution and Environmental Justice

[\\*California sues to recover costs for Exide lead cleanup, but community still wants justice \(LAT, December 19, 2020\)](#)

## **PART VII**

### **URBAN PLANNING & POLICY: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING & LAND USE**

**Tuesday, April 13 The Affordable Housing Crisis: Rent Burden & the Market**

Read before class:

- Phillips, pp. 1-60
- [Ellen, O'Regan, and House, "Housing Policy Must Change in Wake of COVID-19" \(Shelterforce, March 24, 2020\)](#)

Optional reading:

[\\*Out of Reach 2019 NLIHC](#)

[\\*"LA: Out of Reach in 2018" \(SCANPH\)](#)

[\\*Kimberlin, "California's Housing Affordability Crisis Hits Renters and Households With the Lowest](#)

\*Clark, “Should California Expand Rent Control: No” (CalMatters, Sept. 12, 2018) [\(on the same pdf as above\)](#)

### **Thursday, April 15/ Gentrification**

Watch slide show before class

- “50 Years of Gentrification: A Timeline” (The Next City)  
<http://nextcity.org/gentrificationtimeline#intro>

Watch these videos before class

- “City Rising” <https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising/city-rising-broadcast-episode> (one hour)

