

**PLCY 1700Q – Urban Policy Challenges:
Spatial Inequality in Metropolitan America**
Research Seminar (WRIT), Fall 2017

Section: S01

Class Room: Sayles Hall 105

Office: Watson Institute 354

Office Hours: Weds 10 – 11

Instructor: Dr. Anthony Pratcher II **Email:** anthony_pratcher@brown.edu

<https://professorpratcher.com/>
<https://realphxphenom.tumblr.com/>

CRN: 17389

Class Time: Thurs 4 – 6:30

Office: CSREA 206

Office Hours: Thurs 10 - 11

Course Summary

In this class, we will read, analyze, and discuss seminal texts within American urban history to examine the historic relationship between social policy and spatial inequality in 20th century American metropolitan development. By the end of the course, students will have a passing familiarity with how the conflation of federal policies, regional economies, and local politics has constructed metropolitan landscapes with inequitable distributions of both public and private resources. Furthermore, students will gain experience in oral and written analysis of how housing policies have historically influenced the interaction and engagement of disparate identity groups within metropolitan American civic institutions. This course will be of interest to students with concentrations in History and/or Public Policy as well as practitioners of Africana, American, Ethnic, and Urban Studies.

Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in class discussion and in written assignments. Moreover, students will have the opportunity to engage in peer grading of written assignments. Course activities will help prepare students for written synthesis, research analysis, and oral discussion of circulated materials.

Participation and Assignments

Students are expected to attend all classes as well as actively participate in class discussion and peer grading. Students are also expected to submit all written assignments prior to the ascribed due date. Likewise, students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to the start of class. Additionally, students are expected to provide the instructor with advance notice of any tardies or absences. Finally, students should plan to spend appx. 12 hours per week on exercises.

Weekly Responses: Students are responsible for responding to assigned selections posted on Canvas for six (6) select weeks of the semester. These responses should be appx. 250-words on what students find interesting, compelling or puzzling about assigned materials. Responses are to be posted to Canvas by Monday at 11:59pm; students will then be expected to elaborate upon their comments during the class discussion the upcoming week.

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Book Reviews: There are four (4) book report assignments for the class, due by the deadlines indicated below. Each will be appx. 1000 words—a 500-word synopsis and a 500-word analysis of how the author relates social policy to spatial inequality. Students will receive further instruction on review requirements during the first month of the course and additional instruction on how to conduct peer grading prior to the second review.

Final Exam: The final exam will be a 1500-word review essay of the four monographs. Students will be expected to synthesize two key themes among the texts and explain the policy imperatives of those themes. The Exam is due via email before 2pm on December 16.

Grading

The class grade will be compiled as follows: 10% Participation (including attending office hours, performing peer grading, active engagement in class, and weekly attendance in class), 20% Final Exam (through a thematic synthesis of assigned texts) 30% Responses to Canvas materials and 40% Book Reviews.

Class Texts

Students must either purchase, or loan from the library, the following titles. They will be available at the Brown Bookstore as soon as possible. Students should be willing to pay up to \$300 for their texts; however, the Amazon.com Marketplace also has numerous used titles available for *much* cheaper purchase. The use of electronic versions of these titles is also acceptable.

Weekly Readings:

Walter Greason and Anthony Pratcher II, eds., *Planning Future Cities*, (Dubuque, IA, Kendall-Hunt, 2017)

Monographs:

David M.P. Freund, *Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010)

N.B.D. Connolly, *A World More Concrete: Real Estate and the Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016)

Becky M. Nicolaides, *My Blue Heaven: Life and Politics in the Working-Class Suburbs of Los Angeles, 1920-1965*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002)

Kevin M. Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2007)

Additional Materials:

Weekly Readings will be noted on Canvas. Additional materials will be made available directly through the Canvas site will be marked (CANVAS) or directly online if freely available. Readings marked [RESERVE] will be on in-library reserve.

Class and Assignment Schedule

SECTION I: Housing Policy and Metropolitan Development

- Sep 7 **Course Introduction**
Readings
Colored Property Ch. 9
Weekly Readings Due Next Monday
- Sep 14 **Spatial Identity**
Readings
Colored Property Ch. 1-2
Weekly Readings Due Next Monday
- Sep 21 **Public Capital and Private Subsidies**
Readings
Colored Property Ch. 3-4
Weekly Readings Due Next Monday
- Sep 28 **The Politics of Racial Exclusion**
Readings
Colored Property Ch. 5-6
- Oct 5 **Civic Activism and Racialized Protest**
Readings
Colored Property Ch. 7-8

Review of *Colored Property* Due Before Class

Section II: Real Estate and Racial Capitalism

- Oct 12 **“White Spatial Imaginary”**
Readings
A World More Concrete Intro – Ch. 3
Weekly Readings Due Monday
- Oct 19 **The Profitability of Racial Segregation**
Readings
A World More Concrete Ch. 4-6
- Oct 26 **The “Black Tax”**
Readings
A World More Concrete Ch. 7- Conclusion
Peer Grading Due Monday

Review of *A World More Concrete* Due Before Class

Section III: Spatial Racialization in Suburban America

Nov 2 **Quotidian Suburbia**

Readings

My Blue Heaven Intro – Ch. 3

Weekly Readings Due Monday

Nov 9 **The Politics of Emergent Affluence**

Readings

My Blue Heaven Ch. 4 - 5

Nov 16 **Spatial (Dis) Integration and the Origins of “White Flight”**

Readings

My Blue Heaven Ch. 6 - Epilogue

Peer Grading Due Monday

Review of *My Blue Heaven* Due Before Class

Section IV: Identity Politics and Racial Segregation

Nov 23 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 30 **Accountability, Governance, and Reform**

Readings

White Flight Intro – Ch. 4

Weekly Readings Due Monday

Dec 7 **Community Participation and Involvement**

Readings

White Flight Ch. 5 - Epilogue

Review of *White Flight* Due Before Class

Section V: Final Paper

Dec 16 – Final Due via email @ 2pm

Students are strongly advised to access and print/download readings to their devices (if required) at least a week in advance.

Additional Class Expectations:

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Students are expected to abide by University policies on academic honesty. Papers will not be accepted without appropriate citations and a complete bibliography. Incidents of plagiarism will be referred to the Dean's Office, and may separately result in a grade of N/C for the class.

CLASS ETTIQUETTE: Class discussions will abide by mutual respect among members, and shall accommodate intellectual diversity and respectful disagreement concerning the subject matter.

PAPER SUBMISSION: Papers should be submitted via Canvas by the due date. In the event of a technical problem with Canvas uploading, papers may instead be submitted to anthony_pratcher@brown.edu.

Extensions will ordinarily be considered only in circumstances of family or medical emergency. Students should plan to allocate adequate time to complete their assignments by the assigned deadline(s).

Late Penalties: papers submitted after the due-date will be subject to a penalty of one full letter grade per day or part-day late.

PAPER FORMATTING

- **FILE TYPE:** Papers should be submitted as Microsoft Word (or compatible) editable documents (no PDFs please).
- **DOCUMENT FORMATTING:** Papers should be formatted as follows: Times New Roman 12pt, double-spaced, 1" margins, with the student's name and the class number clearly displayed in the header.
- **CITATIONS:** All evidence used is to be completely cited in Chicago style. Full bibliographic information for each source must also be appended as a works cited list. An introduction to the Chicago format can be found at [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#) site.

TECHNOLOGY USE: Phones should be turned off/silent/ to airplane mode during class and should not be used, out of respect to the instructor and other students. Laptops must be used strictly for note-taking, Canvas use, and pertinent research. Laptops are to be powered down at the instructor's request for class discussions. **Students should avoid social media use or recreational web browsing (words with friends, sports games, news sites etc.) during class.**

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students requiring special accommodations should talk with the instructor privately and are expected to have identified and discussed their needs with SEAS staff. Details: <http://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/accessibility-services/>