USP 567: Urban Housing Policies  
Winter 2010

Thursday 1-3:50 pm  
Urban Center 311  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4  
or by appointment

Prof. L. Bates  
lkbates@pdx.edu  
Urban Ctr 370E

Course description

The Housing Act of 1949 declared

that the general welfare and security of the Nation and the health and living standards of its people require ... the realization as soon as feasible of the goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family, thus contributing to the development and redevelopment of communities and to the advancement of the growth, wealth, and security of the Nation.

Sixty years later, what challenges do we face in achieving this lofty goal? In USP 567, we will learn about the scope and extent of housing problems and critically assess the capacity of the current housing delivery system to meet needs.

Key Themes

• Housing policies have intended and unintended consequences; in order to choose the most appropriate policies, we must consider all the potential repercussions.

• “It depends.” The economic, policy, and political context matters for the adoption and outcomes of housing policies.

• Housing policy and planning involves judging values, preferences, and tradeoffs among positive and negative outcomes. There are no simple solutions.

Course Objectives

• Understand the current context of housing problems and policies in the U.S.

• Gain a working knowledge of existing housing policies and programs and considerations of local housing planning

• Understand housing
  As a market good, which can be analyzed through microeconomic tools
  As an ethical issue, where political and social values matter
  As a political issue, to develop arguments for policies and programs

• Ultimately, develop a viewpoint about defining housing problems and developing solutions, backed by facts
  market theory
  a values stance
  and translated into a persuasive argument
Requirements

Readings

- The required readings are noted in plain text; optional additional readings in italics. Readings not in Schwartz are available on Blackboard.


Overview of Assignments

- Group project: Housing Policy in Portland 30% of grade
- Individual paper 40% of grade
- Attendance and Participation 30% of grade

Grading Policies

You must complete all assignments on time as outlined in the syllabus. All assignments will be submitted in a hard copy. *No late assignments will be accepted, unless arrangements have been previously made. No assignments will be accepted by email.*

The general grading rubric is as follows:

- An A assignment is one that demonstrates original thought and synthesis of ideas, sophisticated, cogent analysis, and is clearly written or presented. Outstanding work.
- A B assignment presents above average analysis with appropriate evidence to support the ideas and is clearly written or presented. Very good work.
- A C assignment shows a basic level of understanding, with analysis limited to the most obvious arguments. Writing is competent. Adequate work.
- A D assignment misunderstands or misrepresents the material, or is so poorly written or presented as to obscure the analysis. Inadequate work.

In academic discourse, your opinions must be supported with appropriate evidence and logical arguments. I will not discriminate against you on the basis of your well-formed and articulated viewpoints. Your grade will reflect the quality of your work and fulfillment of the expectations outlined in this syllabus, and nothing else.

Individual paper 02/26 5 pm
Housing Policy in Portland
Presentation tbd
Written analysis 03/19 5 pm
## Schedule overview

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<td>01/07</td>
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<td>R Housing in Neighborhoods</td>
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<td>02/25</td>
<td>R Weak Links: Fair Housing, Natural Disaster</td>
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<td>03/04</td>
<td>R The Politics of Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>tbd</td>
<td>Housing in Portland presentations</td>
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## Class Schedule and Readings

### The Problems, The Players 01/07

Schwartz, Ch. 1-2 and Ch. 9


HUD Office of Community Planning and Development. Guidelines for Preparing a Consolidated Plan Submission for Local Jurisdictions.


### Housing in Neighborhoods 01/14


Berry, Brian J. L. 1999. Comment on Wyly and Hammel.


Marcuse, Peter. 1999. Comment on Wyly and Hammel.

**Housing and the Economy**

Schwartz Ch 3


**Tenure and Borrowing**


www.iceclt.org and www.policylink.org/EDTK/CLT for information on Community Land Trusts


Public Housing

Schwartz, Ch. 6


Vouchers and Mobility

Schwartz, Ch. 8


Briggs, X. “Maximum Feasible Misdirection: A Reply to Imbroscio.”


Imbroscio, D. “Rebutting nonrebuttals: a rejoinder to my critics.”


Roberts, Benson and F. Barton Harvey. 1999. Comment on Cummings and DiPasquale.


**Weak Links: Fair Housing, Disasters**


HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. “Fair Housing: Equal Opportunity for All.”


**The Politics of Housing Policy**


Sudhir Venkatesh, NYT op-ed “To Fight Poverty, Tear Down HUD” and comments by Xav Briggs and Peter Dreier, found on planning-research.com blog.


Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. Addressing Community Opposition to Affordable Housing Development.


Other readings and resources
A short list of additional texts for further reading


