“Reshaping the Metropolis” is designed to explore major forces, trends, and ideas that are shaping and reshaping American metropolitan communities. It will deal with “hard” forces such as economic restructuring, migration, real estate markets, and environmental change. It also deals with social and cultural factors such as racial segregation, environmental values, and attitudes about place. The intent is to take a long view and to explore the nexus between thinking globally and planning locally.

Jan 7 Thinking forward: 2020 and 2050

H. V. Savitch, What Makes a City Great? An American Perspective”
http://www.planetizen.com/node/46776

Carl Abbott, “Science Fiction Cities,”

Jan 14 Changing geographies of settlement

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kbenfield/does_the_housing_market_still.html

Timothy Egan. “Slumburbia,”
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/02/10/slumburbia/?_r=0

Joel Kotkin and Wendell Cox, “Poverty and Growth: Retro-Urbanists Cling to the Myth of Suburban Decline”

Jan 21 People and place: Population trends and persistent inequalities

John Logan, “Separate and Unequal in Suburbia,” 2014,


Jan 28 Cities in peril: Human and natural catastrophes

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/2961/1/cities-terrorism_and_urban_wars_of_the_21st_century.pdf

Feb 4 Professional futurists: hits and misses [first short paper due]
Dowell Myers and Alicia Kitsue, “Constructing the Future in Planning,”
*Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 19: 221-31

Feb 11     No group class: Instructor meets with individual teams, time
Feb 18     for team meetings.
Feb 25     Presentations
Mar 3      Presentations
Mar 10     Presentations
Mar 17     Presentations if needed
[Exam week] Second short paper and group presentation report due.

**Responsibility 1)** Read and respond to a book that claims to be forecasting the future.
Write a 4-5 page critique that considers the coherence of the author’s argument, validity and character of the evidence, and implications for planning. Critiques will be due Feb. 4 and will form the basis for class discussion that day. Here are some possibilities (*I’m very open to others*).

Stewart Brand, *Whole Earth Discipline*
George Church & Ed Regis, *Regenesis: How Synthetic Biology Will Reinvent Nature and Ourselves*
Peter Diamandis, *Abundance*
Joel Kotkin, *The Next 100 Million: America in 2050*
Ray Kurzweil, *The Singularity is Near*
Ramez Naam, *More Than Human: Embracing the Promise of Biological Enhancement*
Paul Gilding, *The Great Disruption: Why the Climate Crisis Will Bring On the End of Shopping and the Birth of a New World*
Richard Heinberg, *The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality*
Thomas Homer-Dixon, *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization*
Martine Rothblatt, *Virtually Human*
Martin Ford, *Rise of the Robots*
Peter Frase, *Four Futures: Life after Capitalism*
Erik Brynjolfson and Andrew McAfee, *The Second Machine Age*
Fred Pierce, *The Coming Population Crash*
Ilah Nourbakhsh, *Robot Futures*
John Markoff, *Machines of Loving Grace: The Quest for Common Ground between Humans and Robots*
Responsibility 2) Read a work of so-called “mundane” science fiction that is set on a near-future earth and draws on conceivable science and social trends (no warp drive or E.T.s). Write an analysis of the economic and social implications of this imagined future and reflect on the explicit or implicit role of urban planning in that future. Here are some possibilities, but you are welcome to check with me about alternatives. Due March 17.

Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Wind-Up Girl* or *The Water Knife*
Geoff Ryman, *Air*
Kim Stanley Robinson, *40 Signs of Rain, 50 Degrees Below*, or *60 Days and Counting*
Ken MacLeod, *The Star Fraction*
John Barnes, *Daybreak Zero*
Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower*
Charles Stross, *Rule 34*
Ian McDonald, *Dervish House*
Cory Doctorow, *Makers*
William Gibson, *Pattern Recognition, Zero History*, or *The Peripheral*
Neal Stephenson, *The Diamond Age*
Vernor Vinge, *Rainbows End*
James Howard Kunstler, *World Made by Hand*
Margaret Atwood, *Oryz and Crake* or *Year of the Flood*
Ernest Cline, *Ready Player One*
Nalo Hopkinson, *Brown Girl in the Ring*
Claire Vaye Watkins, *Gold Fame Citrus*
Liu Cixin, *The Three-Body Problem*
Susan Palwick, *Shelter*

Responsibility 3) Develop a group-based presentation on forward-looking planning responses to a key social, cultural, economic, environmental, or technical trend. I have some ideas, but we will co-produce some of the possible topics in discussion during the first two weeks of class. We will learn from each other during the second half of the term.

Here are the parameters:

- Three-person or four-person teams will prepare 45-minute presentations and be prepared to lead another 15 minutes of discussion.

- At least four days in advance of the presentation the team will provide 20-30 pages of reading for the other class members, preferably accessible online (TED talks and podcasts are OK as part of these materials).

- For the presentation, provide a two-page (front/back) handout with an outline, bibliography, and list of any technical definitions.
Final report, due March 20. This can take the form of a written document or it can take a less traditional form such as a website, video, or game, but the content drives the quality, so don’t get sucked into emphasizing bells and whistles.