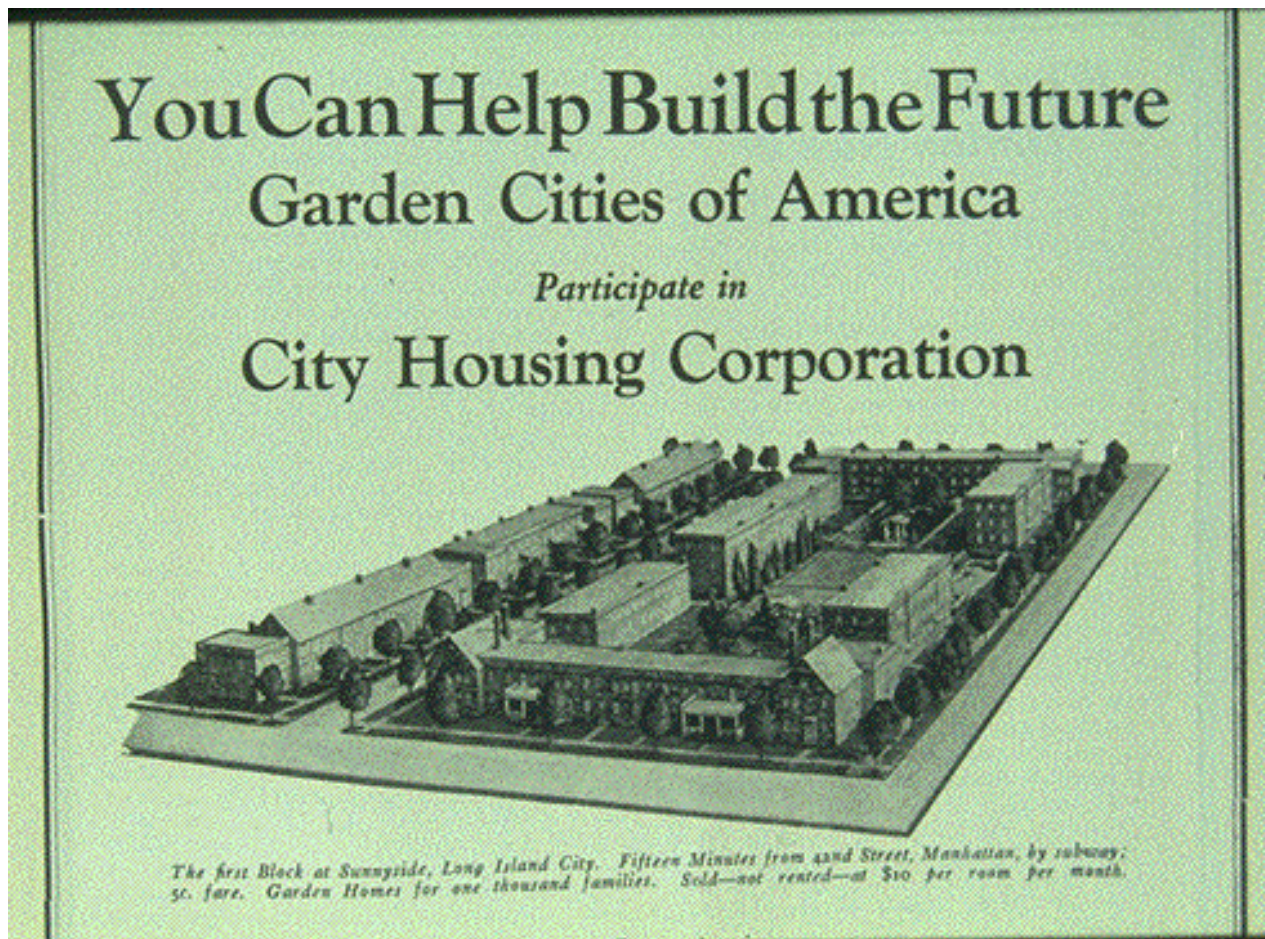


## **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to urban housing and development. Urban housing is inextricably linked to the growth of cities and towns. A vast proportion of the fabric of any city is made up of residential space. As cities and metropolitan areas grow in number and scale an understanding of urban housing is therefore essential to understand the forces shaping not only patterns of urbanization, but also the future of American society—and more broadly, the interconnected global urban system. From this perspective it is clear that the measure of “good” urban housing is the extent to which it supports healthy families and healthy communities.

The first part of the course reviews the current state of the nation’s housing. Next we consider the social history of American housing, drawing on the required text, *Building The Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*, by Gwendolyn Wright. The course concludes with an analysis of recent debates and issues in urban housing and development, with a focus on how these play out in Portland neighborhoods. Students should come away from the course with an understanding of how housing embodies the changing architectural and ideological models of the “American Dream;” the ideas, innovations, events and programs that have shaped American housing and development patterns; and some of the trends and issues framing current debates about American housing design and policy.



## Course Format and Requirements

This class emphasizes lectures and discussions focused on the assigned readings, but there will also be classroom exercises, videos, and in-class work on the term-long project. In order to earn the four credit hours for this course you are required to attend class regularly, prepared to participate in the discussions, presentations and exercises, and earn a passing grade on the assignments and the mid-term exam.

### Readings

#### Required Text:

Wright, Gwendolyn. (1983, 1992 ed.) *Building The American Dream*. MIT Press. Cambridge.

Additional required readings are available via D2L and/or the Internet

#### Recommended Text, Graphics and Video:

Resources that add another dimension to the text are available via D2L and/or the Internet.

You are responsible for checking the course D2L page on a regular basis to keep up with new assigned readings, changes in the schedule, and postings of additional resource material or study guides.

You should come to class prepared to discuss the required readings and be prepared to answer the questions on the reading guide for that week if called on in class.

### OVERVIEW OF FOUR PART ASSIGNMENT

There is on term-long assignment for this course that consists of four parts. The purpose of these assignments is to analyze housing conditions in a Portland census tract—serving as a proxy for a neighborhood—and how they change over time by studying the factors that affect housing supply (housing stock characteristics) and demand (demographic characteristics), as well as the inter-relationships (dynamics) of the change in supply and demand characteristics (trends). Based on this analysis, feedback from key informants and insights from class readings and discussion, each student will propose a strategy to address the key housing problem(s) in the study neighborhood.

Assignment	Date Assigned	Date Due
1. Neighborhood Housing Profile	10/3/14	10/21/14
2. Neighborhood Housing Trends	10/16/14	10/30/14
3. Neighborhood Housing Field Survey	10/23/14	11/13/14
4. Neighborhood Housing Proposal	10/30/14	12/4/14

#### Grading Breakdown:

Participation/Attendance	15 %		
Assignment 1	10 %		
Assignment 2	15 %		
Assignment 3	15 %		
Assignment 4	20 %		
Mid-Term Exam	25 %	11/6/14	11/11/14

No incomplete grades will be given without a substantial cause. Students experiencing difficulty should seek help from the professor as soon as possible.

100 Point System (used to calculate FINAL grade):

Points	0	48	52	58	63	68	73	78	83	88	93	100
Grade	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

## Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week One		
Tuesday 9/30	<b>OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE</b> <u>In Class Reflection:</u> Think about the homes and neighborhoods you have lived in. <i>What is most memorable (good or bad) about them?</i>	<i>Overview of Term-long Assignment</i>  <i>Pick first and second choice of census tract to study by end of class Thursday 10/2</i>
Thursday 10/2	<b>INTRODUCTION continued</b> <u>Required Reading:</u> <i>Building the Dream:</i> pages xv-xix  <i>State of the Nation's Housing: 2014</i> "Executive Summary" <u>SKIM (on D2L)</u>	<b>Assignment 1: Housing Profile</b> Handed out and discussed in class.  <b>Submit choice of census tract to study</b>
Week Two		
Tuesday 10/7	<b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b> <b>Charles Rynerson</b> , PSU State Data Center "How to use Census Data and the PSU Population Research Center."	NEIGHBORHOOD CENSUS TRACTS TO BE STUDIED ARE ASSIGNED
Thursday 10/9	<b>Foundation for a Social Order</b> <u>Required Reading:</u> <i>Building the Dream:</i> pages 3-40 Ch. 1: The Puritan way of life Ch. 2: Row upon row in the commercial city	[Recommended Readings on D2L]
Week Three		
Tuesday 10/14	<b>Structures of American Nationalism</b> <u>Required Reading:</u> <i>Building the Dream:</i> pages 41-89 Ch. 3: The "big house" and the slave quarters" Ch. 4: Housing factory workers Ch. 5: Independence and the rural cottage	[Recommended Readings on D2L]
Thursday 10/16	<b>In Class Work Session—Assignment 1</b>	<b>Assignment 2: Housing Trends Analysis</b> Handed out and discussed in class.  <u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u>
Week Four		
Tuesday 10/21	<b>Accommodations for an Industrial Society</b> <u>Required Reading:</u> <i>Building the Dream:</i> pages 93 - 151 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 6: Victorian suburbs and the cult of domesticity</li> <li>• Ch. 7: Americanization and ethnicity in urban tenements</li> <li>• Ch. 8: The advantages of apartment life</li> </ul>	<b>Assignment 1 DUE</b>  [Recommended Readings on D2L]
Thursday 10/23	<b>In Class Work Session—Assignment 2</b>	<b>Assignment 3: Neighborhood Field Survey</b> Handed out and discussed in class. Recommended Readings on D2L

Week Five	
Tuesday 10/28	<p><b>Domestication of Modern Living</b></p> <p>Required Reading: [Recommended Readings on D2L]</p> <p><i>Building the Dream</i> pages 154 - 214</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 9: The progressive housewife and the bungalow</li> <li>• Ch. 10: Welfare capitalism and company towns</li> <li>• Ch. 11: Planned residential communities</li> </ul>
Thursday 10/30	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b> <i>Assignment 2 DUE</i></p> <p><b>Bill Cunningham</b>, Urban Planner, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  <i>"The Infill Project"</i></p>
Week Six	
Tuesday 11/4	<p><b>Government Standards For American Families</b></p> <p>Required Reading: [Recommended Readings on D2L]</p> <p><i>Building the Dream:</i> pages 215 - 261</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 12: Public housing for the worthy poor</li> <li>• Ch. 13: Suburban Expansion and the American Dream</li> </ul>
Thursday 11/6	<p><i>Review of Required Readings</i></p> <p><b>MID-TERM on D2L starts 3:00 pm</b></p> <p><i>Assignment 4: Neighborhood Housing Proposal Handed out and discussed in class.</i></p>
Week Seven	
Tuesday 11/11	<p><b>VETERENS DAY —NO CLASS</b> <b>MID-TERM on D2L ends 12:00 pm</b></p>
Thursday 11/13	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b> <i>Assignment 3 DUE</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Sy Adler</b>, PSU Professor of Urban Planning and Policy  <i>"Oregon's Statewide Goals for Housing"</i></p>
Week Eight	
Tuesday 11/18	<p><b>IN CLASS EXERCISE</b></p> <p><b>New Directions in Housing Policy</b></p> <p>Required Reading — on D2L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Rethinking Affordable Housing Strategies: Lessons From 70 Years of Policy and Practice." (Brookings Institute, 2003).</li> <li>▪ Potential Effects of Housing Programs on Housing Policy Goals (chart)</li> </ul>
Thursday 11/20	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b></p> <p>Uma Krishnan, Demographer Central City Team, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability</p>
Week Nine	
Tuesday 11/25	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b></p> <p><b>Eli Spevak</b>, Orange Splot LLC (a PSU MURP alum!) [Recommended Readings on D2L]  <i>"Co-housing Development in Portland — what, where, why and how" + new work</i></p>
Thursday 11/27	<p><b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b></p>

Week Ten			
Tuesday 12/2	<b>Informal Student Presentations</b>		
Thursday 12/4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Informal Student Presentations</b></td> <td><i>Assignment 4 DUE</i></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Informal Student Presentations</b>	<i>Assignment 4 DUE</i>
<b>Informal Student Presentations</b>	<i>Assignment 4 DUE</i>		

THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE REVISED DURING THE TERM  
KEEP UP WITH CHANGES ON D2L!