

Syllabus - PUP494 / PUP598 Digital Communities and Urban Development*

V1.0 – May 30, 06

Schedule Line Numbers: PUP494B – 64887 / PUP598H - 50159
Summer 2006 Online Course (May 30 - June 30)
School of Planning @ Arizona State University

Carlos Balsas, PhD, AICP

1. Brief Description

Technology has always influenced the way we live and build cities. The most recent communication technologies (internet, email, GPS, wireless networks, etc.) are directly shaping urban areas in very profound and pervasive ways. In this new online course we will study how technology is creating new communities, generally called digital communities, and how people (urban planners, development professionals, business owners, etc.) are coping and taking advantage of new technological tools. We will explore a wide range of technological developments from infrastructure and utility placement, e-government, new live-work environments, new technological districts, teleworking, telecommuting, intelligent transportation systems, e-commerce, new entertainment districts, wireless networks in public spaces, video surveillance, the digital divide, etc.

2. Learning Goals and Objectives

Upon the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize the pervasive role of new technologies in urban development
2. Know the evolution of technological developments over time
3. Assess how new technologies influence economic development
4. Discuss major planning methods and technologies
5. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of E-government strategies
6. Characterize how new technologies influence where and how people live, work, shop, move and recreate
7. Analyze how planners can narrow the digital divide phenomenon
8. Summarize the main characteristics of technologically advanced cities

3. Course Policies

This is a fully online course. The course is organized in ten modules. Materials are uploaded on the course's blackboard website prior to the beginning of the course. Students should read all required materials from the list provided below; and where indicated, they should also listen and/or watch media clips/shows and online lectures. Please pace yourself appropriately. You should read/prepare two modules a week.

You are bound by the student code of conduct (see: <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/sta/sta104-01.html>) and will be held responsible for any infringements to it (e.g. academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, etc.). My office hours are on Mondays from 8:30 to 9:30 AM or by appointment. Questions can be asked by email but they should preferably be posted on blackboard.

4. Required Readings

Readings are available online in PDF format on the class blackboard on MyASU.

5. Evaluation

Your final grade will be the result of the following matrix:

Responses to the readings	45%
Final exam	40%
Class participation	15%
TOTAL	100

A+ 99-100%
A 93-98%
A- 90-92%
B+ 88-89%
B 83-87%

B- 80-82%
C+ 78-79%
C 70-77%
D 60-69%
E 0-%59%

1. Responses to the readings:

Each write-up / critic should be between 700 and 750 words. In these short essays I am interested in your analyses of the readings and discussion topics and not in summaries or synthesis of those same readings. You are asked to discuss how those topics relate to your previous personal and professional experiences. Undergraduate students should submit 4 write-ups and graduate students are required to submit 5 write-ups. You should upload your write-ups in the electronic digital drop-box on Fridays before 5:00 PM.

2. Final exam:

The final exam comprises essay questions. Undergraduate students should answer 4 out of 6 questions and graduate students should answer 5 out of 6 questions. The questions will be uploaded on blackboard on Wednesday, June 28 at 5:00 PM and the answers are due on Friday, June 30 at 5:00 PM. This exam is cumulative. Responses should be between 450 and 500 words per question and demonstrate not only knowledge of the readings but also critical thinking.

3. Class participation:

All students are required to actively participate in online discussions. Students should answer questions posted by the instructor and by other fellow students. Participation should be meaningful, respectful and well argued with personal, professional and/or online examples and evidence. All students should post a comment / answer a question at least once a week and share additional resources that promote more effective online learning. Postings with new websites, books, articles, online videos, audio clips are particularly welcome as a way to complement (not to replace) more in-depth discussions.

6. Course Organization

Module 1. Introduction to Cybercities

Required reading:

- Graham, S. Introduction to the Cybercities Reader. (pp.3-23). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Klosterman, R. Planning in the information age. (pp.41-57). In: Hoch, C.; Dalton, L. and So, F. – Ed. (2000) *The Practice of Local Government Planning*. Washington DC: ICMA.

Suggested readings:

- Hall, P. The City of the Coming Golden Age. (pp.960-989). In: Hall, P. (2001) *Cities in Civilization*. New York: Fromm International.
- Aurigi, A. and Graham, S. Cyberspace and the City: The “Virtual City” in Europe. (pp.489-502). In: Bridge, G. and Watson, S. – Eds. (2004) *A Companion to the City Blackwell Companions to Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Kaylor, C. and Steins, C. (2004) Today’s Scheme for Tomorrow’s Technology. *Planning*, July: 32-35.

Other online resources:

- [Video] Intel Digital communities.
http://www.intel.com/business/bss/industry/government/digital_demo/flash.htm
- [Video] The Digital Community Vision - Case studies from around the globe and discover how cities are transforming with innovative technology.
<http://www.govtech.net/digitalcommunities/toolkit.php>
- Comprehensive reference list on Digital Cities, Urban Processes and Urban Futures in the Information Age - <http://h2obeta.law.harvard.edu/59013>

Module 2. E-Planning and E-Government

Required reading:

- Castells, M. Spaces of Flows, Space of Places: materials for a theory of urbanism in the information age (pp.82-93). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Fang, Z (2002) E-Government in Digital Era: Concept, Practice, and Development. *International Journal of the Computer, the Internet and Management*, 10(2): 1-22.

Suggested readings:

- Simpson, D. Use of Web Technology by US Planning Agencies – Results from a National Benchmarking Survey (pp.22-26). In: ICMA (2005) *The Municipal Year Book*. Washington DC: International City/County Management Association.
- Cecchini, A. (1999) New information and communication technologies and the professions of town and regional planners. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, 23(3): 151-172.
- Gales, D. (2006) Design and the Digital Age. *Urban Land*, March: 48-54.
- Steins, C. (2002) E-Government: The Top 10 Technologies. *Planning*, September.
<http://www.urbaninsight.com/virtual/egov0902.html>
- Evans-Cowley, J. and Conroy, M. (2004) *E-Government Planning Advisory Service Report* (pp.1-20). Washington DC: American Planning Association.

Other online resources:

- DGCommunities on E-Government
<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/egovernment/>
- E-Planning Programme Blueprint
<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1090430708443.html>

Module 3. Global Issues – New Technologies and Economic Development

Required reading:

- Dixon, T. et al. Ch.2 The social, economic and political context of ICT transformation. (pp.43-83). In: Dixon, T. et al. – Eds. (2005) *Real Estate and the New Economy*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

- Florida, R. (2005) The world isn't flat: it's amazingly spiky. *Atlantic Monthly*, October, pp.48-51.

Suggested readings:

- Sassen, S. Agglomeration in the digital era (pp.195-198). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Mosco, V. Webs of myth and power: connectivity and the new computer technopolis (pp.199-204). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Zook, M. Cyberspace and local places: the urban dominance of dot.com geography in the late 1990s (pp.205-211). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Other online resources:

[VIDEO] - Online keynote speech by Richard Florida at the National Competitiveness Summit – *Flight of the Creative Class* on October 25, 2005 <http://cmi.streamuk.com/summit/>

[VIDEO] - Online lecture by Thomas Friedman at MIT - *The World is Flat* on May 16, 2005 <http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/266/>

Module 4. Local Issues – Urban (Re)Development in the New Economy

Required reading:

- Dixon, T. et al. Ch.6 Real estate spaces. (pp.199-225). In: Dixon, T. et al. – Eds. (2005) *Real Estate and the New Economy*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Dixon, T. et al. Ch.9 New directions and policy implications: the future of real estate in the new economy. (pp.331-371). In: Dixon, T. et al. – Eds. (2005) *Real Estate and the New Economy*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Suggested readings:

- Moss, M. (1998) Technology and Cities. *Cityscape: a Journal of Policy Development and Research*, 3(3): 107-127.
- Audirac, I. (2002) Information Technology and Urban Form. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 17(2): 212-226.
- Kotval, Z. (1999) Telecommunications: a realistic strategy for the revitalization of American cities. *Cities*, 16(1): 33-41.
- Fernback, J. (2005) Information technology, networks and community voices, social inclusion for urban regeneration. *Information, Communication & Society*, 8(4): 482–502.

Other online resources:

- Urbanicity is a web portal partnership with UN Habitat Best Practices and Local Leadership - <http://www.urbanicity.org/>

Module 5. Cybercity Mobilities and Telecommuting

Required reading:

- Plaut, P. Do telecommunications make transportation obsolete? (pp.162-166). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Sheller, M. and Urry, J. The city and the cybercar. (pp.167-172). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Gillespie, A. and Richardson, R. Teleworking and the city: myths of workplace transcendence and travel reduction (pp.212-217). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Suggested readings:

- Robinson, N. (2004) Freed from Their Cubicles, Where Will Commuters Go Instead? *The Next American City*, 6 http://www.americancity.org/article.php?id_article=18
- Handy, S. and Yantis, T. (1997) *The Impacts of Telecommunications Technologies on Nonwork Travel Behavior*. Research report for the Southwest Region University Transportation Center. http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/TC_Report.pdf

Other online resources:

- Flexibility, New Ways of Working - <http://www.flexibility.co.uk/index.htm>

Module 6. Cybercities and E-Commerce

Required reading:

- Dodge, M. Geographies of e-commerce: the case of Amazon.com. (pp.221-225). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Murphy, A. The web, the grocer, and the city. (pp.226-230). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Sclove, R. Cybernetic Wal-Mart: will internet tax breaks kill main street USA? (pp.360-362). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Suggested readings:

- Geenhuizen, M. (2004) Cities and cyberspace: new entrepreneurial strategies. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 16(1): 5-19.
- Evans, R. (2002) E-commerce, competitiveness and local and regional governance in Greater Manchester and Merseyside: A preliminary assessment, *Urban Studies*, 39 (5-6): 947-975
- Zook, M. (2002) Hubs, nodes and by-passed places: a typology of e-commerce regions in the United States. *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, 93(5), 509-521.

Other online resources:

- Online planning bibliography on Retailing, Leisure and Transport (including Home Shopping) <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sbe/planbiblios/bibs/sustrav/refs/ST33.html>

Module 7. Municipal Wireless Networks and Public Spaces

Required reading:

- Mitchell, W. From City of Bits: Space, place and the Infobahn. (pp.52-59). In: Bridge, G. and Watson, S. – Eds. (2002) *The Blackwell City Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Shein, D. (2005) *Municipal Wireless: a primer for public discussion*. A white paper sponsored by CASCI at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Suggested readings:

ASU's WP Carey School of Business 3 part series (Spring 2006):

<http://knowledge.wpcarey.asu.edu/>

Part I - New Kid on the Block: Will WiMax Bump WiFi in Municipal Coverage Plans?

Part II - Cities Peg Wi-Fi as Next Must-Have Amenity

Part III - Municipal Networks Spark Wi-Fi War in Washington

- Baker, L. (2004) Urban renewal, the wireless way. *Salon*, November 29.

http://dir.salon.com/story/tech/feature/2004/11/29/digital_metropolis/index.html

- Bret Dougherty (2005) *The Reactivation of the Public Space*.

http://bretdougherty.com/Reactivation_of_the_Public_Space.pdf

Other online resources:

[Audio Clip] - kjzz.org show "Here and Now: Wi-Fi in the Valley" – Mayor of Tempe Hugh Hallman, January 25, 2006. <http://kjzz.org/news/arizona/archives/200601/hereandnow20060125>

Module 8. Digital Divide

Required reading:

- Sipior J. and Ward B. (2005) Bridging the Digital Divide for e-Government inclusion: A United States Case Study. *The Electronic Journal of e-Government*, 3(3): 137-146.
- Chavan, A. and Steins, C. (2003) Doing the Right Thing, How to build socially responsible web infrastructure. *Planning*, July. <http://www.urbaninsight.com/virtual/planmag0703.html>

Suggested readings:

- Ching, C.; Basham, J. and Jang, E. (2005) The legacy of the digital divide: gender, socioeconomic status, and early exposure as predictors of full-spectrum technology use among young adults. *Urban Education*, 40: 394-411
- Edmiston, K. (2003) State and local e-government: prospects and challenges. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 33: 20-45.
- Moutinho, J. and Heitor, M. Digital Cities and the Opportunities for Mobilizing the Information Society: Case Studies from Portugal. (pp.417-436). In: Besselaar, P.; Koizumi, S. – Ed. (2005) *Digital Cities III: Information Technologies for Social Capital: Cross-cultural Perspectives*. Berlin: Springer.
- Williamson, T. (2003) Catalytic Communities in Rio: Virtual and Face-to-Face Communities in Developing Countries. *Journal of Urban Technology*, 10(3): 85-109.

Other online resources:

[Audio Clip] - NPR Show April 17, 2006 – *Closing the Gap on Internet Inequality* by Mario Armstrong. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5345718>

[Audio Clip] - NPR Show October 24, 2005 - *Reversing Technology's Racial Divide* by Ed Gordon. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4971267>

Module 9. Technology and Social Organization/Mobilization

Required reading:

- Rheingold, H. Intro - How to recognize the future when it lands on you (pp. xi-xxii) and Ch1. Shibuya Epiphany (pp.1-28). In: Rheingold, H. (2002) *The Next social Revolution*. Cambridge: Basic Books.
- Lyon, D. Surveillance in the City. (pp.299-305). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Suggested readings:

- Boden, D. and Molotch, H. Cyberspace meets the compulsion of proximity (pp.101-105). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.
- Luke, T. The co-existence of cyborgs, humachines and environments in postmodernity: getting over the end of Nature (pp.106-110). In: Graham, S. – Ed. (2004) *The Cybercities Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Other online resources:

[Video] - Online lecture by William Mitchell at MIT – *ME++ The cyborg self and the networked city*, November 13, 2003 <http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/170/>

[Video] - Online lecture by Howard Rheingold at MIT – *Smart Mobs: the next social revolution*, November 13, 2003 <http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/22/>

Module 10. The Future of Digital Cities

Required reading:

- Ishida, T.; Aurigiand, A. and Yasuoka, M. World Digital Cities: Beyond Heterogeneity. (pp.188-203). In: Besselaar, P.; Koizumi, S. – Ed. (2005) *Digital Cities III: Information Technologies for Social Capital: Cross-cultural Perspectives*. Berlin: Springer.
- *Intel Digital Community Best Practices*
<http://www.intel.com/business/bss/industry/government/digital-community-best-practices.pdf>

Suggested readings:

- Moss, M. Kaufman, S. and Townsend, A. (2006) The relationship of sustainability to telecommunications. *Technology in Society*, 28(1-2): 235-244.
- Lai, B. and Brewer, G. (2006) New York City's broadband problem and the role of municipal government in promoting a private-sector solution. *Technology in Society*, 28(1-2): 245-259.
- MIT's Project New Century Cities Case Studies:
<http://web.mit.edu/CRE/research/ncc/proceedings/ncc-casestudies.pdf>
- Urban, F. (2002) Small Town, Big Website? Cities and their representation on the internet. *Cities*, 19(1): 49-59.

Other online resources:

- Digital communities
<http://www.govtech.net/digitalcommunities/toolkit.php>
- [Audio Clip] - NPR Show May 26, 2006 – Science Friday – The Future of the Internet.
http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2006/May/hour2_052606.html

* Note: This syllabus and the course organization can be changed depending on class needs.