

USP 312 Urban Housing and Development Online Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Yiping Fang

“Housing is a human right. There can be no fairness or justice in a society in which some live in homelessness, or in the shadow of that risk, while others cannot even imagine it.”

— [Jordan Flaherty, *Floodlines: Community and Resistance from Katrina to the Jena Six*](#)

USP 312U is a 4-credit course that provides an introduction to urban housing and development. Several versions of this course are offered in different terms with a different focus in the Urban Studies and Planning program. This version offered in Spring 2024 will take a comparative perspective to approach housing and development. This class is a U-class for all PSU undergraduate students. The class is an introduction to urban housing and development.

Course Learning Objectives:

To be truly livable a city requires a rich repertoire of urban housing. As an introduction to the field of housing and urban development, by completing this course, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of:

- major issues and challenges surrounding housing in urban areas, including topics like affordable housing, homelessness, gentrification, suburbanization, and urban planning policies.
- different types of housing development, driven by different stakeholders, in different parts of the world.
- how cities have evolved and the factors that have shaped housing patterns in different parts of the world.
- the economic, social, and political forces that influence housing markets and development decisions.
- Develop critical thinking skills to analyze complex urban housing issues and propose potential solutions.
- critically evaluate the successes and failures of different approaches to urban housing development.
- propose and advocate for policies and practices that promote sustainable, equitable, and affordable housing in urban environments.

COURSE MANAGEMENT and READINGS

This online course uses Canvas to organize all learning materials into accessible modules. Each week, you'll complete assigned readings and participate in two discussion forums. In each discussion forum, you are required to post your initial posts, and then reply to at least two of your classmates. Additionally, you have four essay assignments every 2-3 weeks (4 total). Expect to dedicate 10-12 hours weekly to coursework.

- Readings for this course are provided by the instructor with links listed in each week's course module. we will engage with a diverse array of readings, including articles from prominent newspapers, reports from planning organizations, and legal documents.
- For understanding of the housing related concepts, please refer to the [Encyclopedia of Housing \(EOH\)](#). Portland State University library has access to this Encyclopedia's E-book version.
- The instructor prefers Economist Magazine, and Financial Times to gather international cases for our comparative discussions. You are all welcome to share articles in this course.
- Regular internet access and a computer/laptop/Chromebook are essential for participation in this course.

WEEKLY MODULES TOPICS

Each week we will examine a specific aspect of urban planning. Here are the weekly topics:

- Module 1: Housing & Home
- Module 2: Housing Tenure
- Module 3: Neighborhood
- Module 4: Basic Concepts
- Module 5: Housing market
- Module 6: Housing Policy
- Module 7: Housing Poverty
- Module 8: Housing Welfare
- Module 9: Affordable Housing
- Module 10: Future of housing

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Your course grade will be based on the following:

- 45% Discussion Posts (two discussion forums each week for the first 9 weeks, one of the two forums is from an international comparative perspective. Each discussion forum is worth 2.5 points)
- Each student will moderate a discussion forum and write up a discussion summary from week 4. This is worth 5 points in the final.
- Four major essay assignments usually take 2-3 weeks and have specific due days on specific Sundays. They together count for the other 45% of the final grade. Assignments One, Two, and Three are 10 points each. Assignment Four is 15 points.
- There is an anonymous course end survey I would like you to fill out, which is worth 5 points.
- The grading rubric is posted at the end of each assignment. Your final grade will be based on 100 and will be converted to a letter grade. You should be able to monitor your grade progress as the course progresses and anticipate how you are doing. All ungraded assignments will show as "0" until graded.

Final Grade Rubric:

Discussion Forum participation	45%
Moderate and summarize a forum	5%
Assignment 1-3	30%
Assignment Four	15%
Course end survey	5%
Total	100%

WEEKLY DUE DATES

- This is a fully online course - we have weekly lessons and assignments with firm due dates, but no scheduled weekly meetings.
- Course content (weekly lessons) is located in weekly modules. Each Sunday the week at midnight, I will post the class module for the upcoming week.
- Weekly activities (materials that you are required to go through written in the module) are due the following week Sunday *by 11:59 pm*. This suggests that you have some flexibility in going through course materials in a range of nine days;
- Each week's content includes written content in the course module, reading/reviewing materials with the link provided, and two discussion forums. All these contents are connected around the same topic. You have to review them to be able to post in the discussion forum.
- Your posts and responses in the two discussion forums are graded each week. Your participation in each forum counts for 2.5 points. Grading rubrics are posted in each forum. Please remember, that your participation in each forum includes an initial post plus two responses to others' posts. Your initial post in each discussion forum is due on Wednesdays *by 11:59 pm*. Your initial post submission earlier in the week allows it to be read by others. Please note that missing this Wednesday's due date would affect your weekly discussion forum grade. Weekly participation in both discussion forums this term together counts for 50% of your final grade. For your final grade calculation, I will drop the two lowest discussion forum grades. Everyone will be asked to moderate one discussion forum of their choice. One week after the forum you moderate closes, you are also required to finish a "Discussion Moderator Summary" assignment. It counts for 5 points in your final grade.

CLASS POLICIES

1. Extensions without penalty may be granted at the instructor's discretion, under the following conditions: (a) a written (email) notification must be sent prior to the submission

deadline; and (b) only with a compelling, unforeseen circumstance such as a family or health emergency (documentation may be required). We will agree, via email, about an extension date but generally it will be within 2 or 3 days, since this class moves quickly and I want you to stay on schedule as possible.

2. Cheating and plagiarism: It should go without saying that plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable and will not be tolerated, but I will say it anyway. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct such as plagiarism will result in a zero grade for the assignment and could result in stronger, university-level sanctions. Please be aware that instructors have sophisticated methods for checking for plagiarism or copied material. The use of AI technology in this course, please refer to the "[Code of Academic Misconduct](#)" at PSU, which stipulates that all submissions, whether in draft or final form, must either be the student's own work or must explicitly acknowledge the source(s). You should NOT copy another person (a web source, a friend, etc) word for word. Instead, you should think about their data and argument and then put things in your own words, and cite them as relevant.
3. Recommendation letters: As you move through your college career, which might eventually involve asking professors to recommend you for graduate programs, jobs, or internships, please be aware that professors are not obligated to write references for any student who asks us. I don't write a reference for a student unless I can write a VERY positive and specific one. Keep in mind that I meet over 100 students every year- so you have to stand out in a good way. Therefore, your job as a college student is to become the kind of student professors can rave about in recommendations — hardworking, collegial, and intellectually inquisitive and honest. Consider maintaining relationships over time with professors, so that they know you well enough to recommend you.
4. Class Feedback: I welcome your feedback about the class and your learning throughout the quarter- please visit my office hours or send me an email. Please also complete the course evaluations at the end of the quarter. Tell me what worked and what can be improved.

Disability Access Information Statement

PSU values diversity and inclusion. My goal is to create a learning environment that is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. I am committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. Additionally, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, chronic illness, and other disabilities.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations.

If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received your DRC Faculty Notification Email so we can discuss your accommodations.

The DRC is located in Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, or [visit the DRC website \(https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center\)](https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center).

Statement for Title IX Reporting Obligations

Portland State is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and PSU policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex/gender, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We expect a culture of professionalism and mutual respect in our department and class. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/ or other forms of prohibited discrimination to PSU's Title IX Coordinator, the Office of Equity and Compliance or the Dean of Student Life and cannot keep information confidential. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the Title IX Coordinator, Office of Equity and Compliance, or the Office of the Dean of Student Life. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment or sexual violence to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact a confidential advocate at 503-894-7982 or by scheduling on-line (psuwrc.youcanbook.me). You may also contact other confidential employees found on the sexual misconduct resource webpage. For more information about PSU's expectations of our campus community standards and resources for sex/gender discrimination and sexual violence, please complete the required student module Understanding Sexual Misconduct and Resources in your Canvas.