Description: This class explores a variety of Environmental Planning issues related to both urban and rural landscapes. The class analyzes the quality of communities through the lens of social and economic assessments as well as biophysical attributes. There is a strong emphasis on post WW-II suburban development and its role in creating the present state of the landscape.

Important Notice: This class is reading, speaking and presentation intensive. If you are not keen to read and engage in discussion… this is not the class for you! Class limited to 15 students.

Class Website: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/proj/cel/resources/course/geog305/index.shtml

Requirements: readings, discussion, class fieldtrip (Saturday, Nov. 12th), class presentation, term project presentation.

Grading: 25% participation, 25% class presentation, 50% term project Power-Point presentation.

Reading list –( All books are available at the Odyssey Bookshop in the Village Commons)

The Death and Life of Great American Cities
by Jane Jacobs

Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America’s Man-Made Landscape
by James Howard Kunstler

Suburban Nation : The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream
by Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Jeff Speck

The Long Emergency :Surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-first Century
By James Howard Kunstler

The Portland Edge : Challenges and Successes in Growing Communities
by Connie Ozawa (Editor)

Challenges for Rural America in the Twenty-First Century
Edited by David L. Brown and Louis Swanson

*Additional readings will be provided by the Instructor…
Class Schedule

9/12... Introduction to class
9/19... The great American city... reading- The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs
9/26 - Jane Jacobs II
10/4 The impact of suburban development – the Kunstler View... reading - Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape by James Howard Kunstler
10/17 New urbanism – fad or therapy... reading - Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream by Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Jeff Speck
10/24 Field trip to Holyoke Mall...
10/31 Richard Harris Town Planner on local development issues...
11/17 Will energy really change the way we live... reading - The Long Emergency :Surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-first Century By James Howard Kunstler

11/12 Field trip to Local Communities... meet bus - 9:00am rear of Clapp
11/14 Places that work... reading - The Portland Edge : Challenges and Successes in Growing Communities by Connie Ozawa (Editor)
11/21 Rural life... reading - Challenges for Rural America in the Twenty-First Century... Edited by David L. Brown and Louis Swanson
11/28 Rural life II...
12/5 Term project presentations...
12/13 Term project presentations...