

FALL 2004

**Department of Urban Studies and Planning**  
**11.401: Introduction to Housing, Community and Economic Development**

**Questions about US Housing Policy**

1. How was/should housing be financed? How was/should housing be designed? (Question pertains to both public and private housing).
2. Left to its own devices, how would the private market allocate housing? Describe housing at the turn of the century in the United States for workers and poor. How is housing allocated in other countries where the government-supported housing financial system is not strong (i.e. Brazil)?
3. Why was federal loan guarantees a breakthrough in the 1930s? How did it come about? Why were housing activists on the left (i.e. Bauer and Mumford) critical of that approach? What did they advocate instead?
4. Why was public support for public housing weaker here than in Europe?
5. Why in the U.S. is homeownership glorified? What are the political ramifications of homeownership?
6. What kinds of housing design were associated with the 1920s and 1930s housing movements? What was modernist utopianism? What was the "arts and crafts" movement?
7. High-rise housing was linked to open space. Is the problem of public housing inherent in its original design or did it come about due to social and political neglect?
8. What is the role of local, indigenous, knowledge in the planning process? How do you know you "get it"?