

Introduction to Urban Planning

10:975:249

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:20 to 4:40, Livingston Classroom Building 103

Instructor:

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the world and practice of urban planning. Urban planning is a dynamic discipline focused on improving the quality of life in urban and suburban communities today and for the long-term future. Though urban planners deal with many of the same issues as architects, developers, and urban sociologists, they take significantly different approaches.

Learning Objectives

Students will learn about the activities and values of practicing planners; the history of urbanization in the United States; legal and political issues in planning; and special topics, such as housing, area planning and economic development. Students will spend most of their time in the class learning comprehensive planning for communities. In addition to completing readings, every student will spend much of the semester working on a comprehensive plan for a community of their choice.

Grading and Evaluation

Students will be evaluated in several areas. Every student must pass three exams, which will contain a mix of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions. Students must also participate in classroom dialogues to get an "A" in the exam. Finally, each student must also create a plan for a community.

Students are expected to attend every class. If a student is absent from a class without prior permission from the instructor, the student will prepare a 2-3 page memo demonstrating his or her knowledge of the material. The exact topic of the essay will be selected by the instructor.

Every student will have the opportunity to earn up to a half-grade (e.g., B to B+) for extra effort and growth. Students who put in far more effort than their classmates or those who show exceptional growth in their command of the material during the semester will be considered for the increased grade.

Here below is the distribution of grades:

Quarterly exam	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%
Class project	20%
Participation	20%
Extra credit for growth or extra effort	Up to a half-grade

Grading policy

Students who turn in an assignment late will see the grade on their assignment drop by a half-grade for every day that the assignment is turned in late. Students should be aware of university rules against cheating and plagiarism. They will be strictly enforced in this class.

The instructor gives incompletes and extensions rarely, and typically only because of conditions or events that the student could not foresee or postpone. Everyone is busy and has multiple assignments and responsibilities in their lives. Students are expected to manage their time effectively. If you have questions about managing your time or projects, please contact the instructor. I will be happy to help you.

Final project

Every student will do a plan for a community of their choice. The plan is designed to emulate a typical master plan for a municipality. The exercise is designed to give students the opportunity to explore relationships among the various elements that affect quality of life in a community. All written products, with the exception of memos written when a student is absent from a class session, will be related to the final plan. The instructor expects every plan prepared for this class to be between 20 and 40 pages (including charts, graphics, and illustrations.) Students are welcome to work together on plans for distinct communities.

Note: Although students are welcome to choose the community they want to prepare a plan for, no student can work on the same community as another. However, students can work on plans for different areas of a town or city, as long as each plan area meets a minimum requirement for size and population.

All written materials must be delivered in electronic format.

Online classroom

This course will be enhanced with an online classroom, where students can read and ask questions about assignments, as well as ask questions related to the class or materials to be covered in class. In addition, the online classroom will contain a variety of resources that students can use to help them explore ideas for their projects.

To get to the online classroom, go to <http://www.rutgersonline.com>. You should have or will receive from the university's Office of Continuous Education a login and password. If you have not received the password by the first day of class, please go to <https://secure.college.com/rutgers/index.real?action=errors&subaction=problems> for more information and help.

Schedule of readings and assignments

The required readings for this class come from two sources:

- *Community Planning: An Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan*, by Eric Damian Kelly and Barbara Becker. This book is available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore at One Penn Plaza in New Brunswick. Readings from this book are referred to as "Kelly."
- A reading packet that is available at Pequod Copy and Print Center, 119 Somerset Street, New Brunswick. The readings from this reader are referred to by the author's last name

(e.g., “Lynch” or “Garvin.” Students will also read the full text of the U.S. Constitution and Amendments.

In addition, students will occasionally be asked to read short documents for class, which will be related to in-class exercises or dialogues.

All of the reading materials, with the exception of the U.S. Constitution and Amendments, are also available for review in the Undergraduate Reading Room of the Alexander Library. Students should also explore these resources as “idea books” for their final projects. A more extensive list of online sources for ideas will be available in the online classroom.

Note: in the following table, dates of examinations and when assignments are due are highlighted in bold.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Read by this date...</i>	<i>Assignments due</i>	<i>Comments</i>
9/7	Introduction to the course			
9/12	Introduction – What Planning is; what planners do	Kelly- Chapters 20-21: pp. 405-438		
9/14	Planning History Part I	Levy – “The Urbanization of America” and “The History of Planning: Part 1” pp. 7-48		
9/19	Planning History Part II	Levy- “The History of Planning Part II” pp. 49-61	Select community for final plan project	
9/21	Planning and Legal Issues	The United States Constitution and Amendments http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html ; Levy – “The Legal Basis of Planing” pp. 62-77; Kelly, Chapter 9, pp. 193-202		
9/26	Planning and Politics	Levy – “Planning and Politics” pp. 78-89		

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Read by this date...</i>	<i>Assignments due</i>	<i>Comments</i>
9/28	First Quarter Exam			
10/3	What works – and doesn't	Garvin – “A Realistic Approach to City and Suburban Planning” and “Ingredients to Success” pp. 1-30		
10/5	Comprehensive Planning	Kelly – Chapters 1-2, pp. 15-62		
10/10	Planning analysis	Kelly – Chapter 3, pp. 63-92		
10/12	Planning analysis	Kelly – Chapter 5, pp. 111-130		
10/17	Tools for planning analysis		Background analysis and scope of work for planning project.	This course will meet in a computer lab; Location to be announced
10/19	Projection and forecasting	Kelly – Chapter 4, pp. 93-110		
10/24	Land use planning	Kelly – Chapter 6-7, pp. 133-174;		Be prepared to discuss your course project
10/26		No class meeting; work on project Lynch – “Form Values” and “Dimensions of Performance” pp. 5-35 and 111-120		
10/31	Land use planning	Kelly – Chapter 8, pp. 175-192		
11/2	Urban design and zoning;	Kelly- Chapters 10-11 pp. 203-264	Outline and exploratory draft of plan	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Read by this date...</i>	<i>Assignments due</i>	<i>Comments</i>
11/7	Midterm exam			
11/9	Public facilities and open space	Kelly – Chapter 13 pp. 265-280 and Chapter 15, pp. 301-322		
11/14	Special topics – Area planning	Kelly – Chapters 16-17, pp. 323-364		
11/16	Special topics – Housing	Kelly – Chapter 18, pp. 365-386		
11/21	Special topics – Economic development	Kelly – Chapter 19, pp. 387-404		
11/22 (note that this is a Tuesday)	Case study – Providence, RI	Bunnell – “Providence, Rhode Island: An Old City Reconnects with its Past and Finds its Future” pp. 152-211		
11/28		Planning studio		
11/30		Planning studio	First draft of plan	
12/5		Presentation of projects		
12/7		Presentation of projects		
12/12		Presentation of projects		
12/14		No class- Reading day	Final projects	
12/19	Final exam			
12/21	Final exam if school closed for snow on 12/19			