

PLAN 247- SOLVING URBAN PROBLEMS

Department of City and Regional Planning • University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • Summer 2020



This is an introductory course on city planning. You will become familiar with the various issues and challenges planners face, stakeholders involved (e.g. local government, business owners, real estate developers, community activists, etc.), and the methods planners use to solve them.

The course is focused on one main question: How do planners solve urban problems? We'll look at the approaches, tools, and best practices that planners use to identify and solve urban problems.

When we meet as a class, we will discuss how planners address problems such as affordable housing, economic development, and transportation (public transit access, new modes), taking into consideration national, regional, and local politics, climate change, and social equity issues.

Contact: Your professor is Nora Schwaller. You can reach her at nschwall@live.unc.edu with emails outside of class (please allow up to 24 hours to return e-mails). For ease of coordination, add PLAN247 to the subject of all e-mails! Her office hours will be on Monday from 3:00 – 4:00. If you cannot reach her then, you can set up another time to speak with her on a one-to-one basis!

Methods and tools we will use in this class include Excel, PowerPoint, Data visualization (Tableau, Excel), Census data, planning documents (General Plans, Zoning Codes, Capital Improvement Programs, etc.). We will do in class activities to work together on understanding the urban environment.

Format: Summer Sessions are compressed versions of semester long courses. They do not, however, assume that you will be learning or doing less. This is still a 3 credit course, and the expectations are that you will work accordingly.

This course is intended for students who want a Minor in City and Regional Planning as well as anyone who is interested in learning about urban planning. Be warned—there are a lot of acronyms in planning, but don't let that scare you off. And once you get used to them, you'll become a planning nerd.

This course is a companion course for PLAN 246: Cities of the Future, which focuses on the history of US cities and early urban planning movements. PLAN 247 will provide a general background but will not go into significant historical detail. In other words, I may name drop and give you references to follow up on your own, but we will not spend a significant time on the history of planning.

Disclaimer: We are not going to go over every planning issue. We may not get to a planning issue you are interested in. I will have short articles for in-class discussion to complement our assigned readings and to also highlight other planning issues we may not be able to discuss in-depth.

At the completion of this course, students are expected to gain the following knowledge and skills:

1. A general understanding of contemporary urban planning issues (persistent and emerging)
2. A familiarity with methods and techniques used to solve urban planning issues
3. Ability to assess strengths and weaknesses of urban policies
4. Ability to present complex information through both written, oral, and visual presentations.

As a student, you are expected to:

- Complete all readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss
- Complete assignments on time.
- Ask questions in class, via email or at office hours, if you're unclear about a concept.
- Be present. In an online class this includes being visible in zoom, commenting in the chats, and participating in activities

Course Requirements and Grading

- **Deadlines and exam dates are subject to change.** I always try to change dates in your favor, meaning assignments or exams will be due later, not earlier. But this also means that grading will be done later as well. Your flexibility is appreciated.
- **The assignments will build upon each other:** At the beginning of the course, students will be able to select from among different cities and urban problems. This city will be used as lens through which the student can better understand specific problems and how they develop, and the attempts that have been made to solve them. As such, Assignments will be interrelated and allow for the student to build information as he or she progresses through the course.

Assignment	Due Dates	% of grade
ATTENDANCE	Attendance will be taken at all classes in the zoom meeting. Unless you notify the instructor that you cannot do so, you should have your camera on. One unexcused absence is allowed.	10%
PARTICIPATION / ACTIVITIES	Class participation is daily. Attendance will be taken at all classes in the zoom meeting. Unless you notify the instructor that you cannot do so, you should have your camera on. One unexcused absence is allowed. There will be 'activities' are on Fridays	20%
READING QUIZ	See Sakai calendar for due dates. All quizzes are posted as of the first day of class. Allowed two attempts; timed, open book.	10%
EXAMS Will be curved if necessary	EXAM #1: Week 6 Sept 26 (10%) EXAM #2: Week 10 Oct 24 (10%)	20%
ASSIGNMENT #1: Case Study Presentation	Assignment details and rubric are posted on Sakai Varying due dates	10%
ASSIGNMENT #2: Case Study Demographic Profile	Assignment details and rubric are posted on Sakai Due May 22	10%
ASSIGNMENT #3: Policy recommendation	Assignment details and rubric are posted on Sakai Due June 12	20%

Grading Scale

A 93%+

A- 92.99%-89.5%

B+ 89.49%-85%

B 84.99%-83%

B- 82.99%-79.5%

C+ 79.49%-75%

C 74.99%-73%

C- 72.99%-69.5%

D+ 69.49%-65%

D 64.99%-63%

D- 62.99%-59.5%

F 59.49% or less

Your grades will be updated in as timely matter as possible on Sakai. Reading quizzes, in most cases, will be graded and released shortly after the due date.

Assignments at-a-glance

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at all classes in the zoom meeting. Unless you notify the instructor that you cannot do so, you should have your camera on. One **unexcused** absence is allowed.

Reading Quiz: Reading quizzes are to be completed according to deadlines posted in the Sakai calendar. You will have a total of 7 reading quizzes over the semester. The lowest will be tossed. Reading quizzes are open book. Similar questions will appear on the exams.

Class Participation and Activities: You are expected to help contribute in class discussions. You can do so in the chat box of the zoom interface. In addition to lectures, we will have class activities focused on different themes using your case study city. You will not need to do any special preparation for class activities.

Assignment 1: Case study presentation: You make a brief presentation to the class (15 minutes) on your case study city. You will cover a brief history of the city, the history of the identified problem, and the attempts made to solve them. You will also identify stakeholders for the problem and potential solutions.

Assignment 2: Case study demographic report: You will develop a demographic profile of your city with descriptive graphs and charts.

Assignment 3: Policy Memo: Policy Memo will be written about the urban planning issue in your case study city. You must define the problem, stakeholders, and potential solutions (including a solution that you recommend be implemented). You must provide evidence for your views. This evidence can be taken from course lectures, case studies, readings, and your own research, as applicable. Your references should not be from Wikipedia nor solely from newspapers.

This is a fairly short paper, so I expect it to be cleanly written and well researched.

Examinations (20%): I will provide you with a study guide that includes important keywords and themes. The exams will be comprised of True/False, Multiple Choice, Short answer, and Matching. Short answer: one word, a couple of sentences, but not a short essay. All examinations will be done online on Sakai.

Semester at-a-glance and Important Dates

Part 1. Planning Fundamentals		
Week 1	May 13 – 14 W Th	Intro to Course. What is Planning? Why do we plan? What are urban problems?
	May 14 F	Activity: Kevin Lynch and the imagability of the city Reading quiz #1
Week 2	May 18 – 21 M T W Th	Governance and Planning; Public Participation Reading quiz #2
	May 22 F	Activity: Race and redlining Assignment 2 Due
Week 3	May 26 - 28 T W Th	Planning and Zoning Reading quiz #3
	May 29 F	Exam 1: Midterm
Part 2. Case Study: Foxconn and Wisconsin—Economic Development, Eminent Domain, governance		
Week 4	June 1 - 4 M T W Th	Legal Framework of Planning and Zoning. Part 1
	June 5 F	Activity: Urban Layout and Zoning
Week 5	June 8 - 12 M T W Th F	Legal Framework of Planning and Zoning, part 2
	F	Activity: Migration
Close Out and Exam		
Week 6	June 15 M	Review
Reading Days	June 16 T	Additional Office Hours
Exams	June 17, 18 W Th	

Other Academic Business

Late Assignments

Assignments are marked down 5% per day.

IF YOU HAVE A MEDICAL OR PERSONAL EMERGENCY, LET ME KNOW ASAP.

Academic Assistance

My purpose is to help you to excel in this learning environment. Should you need further assistance beyond my help, please consult the following on-campus resources:

The Writing Center: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/>

Academic Success Program (for students with learning disabilities (LD) and/or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): <http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/>

Learning Center: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/learn.html>

Counseling and Wellness Services: <http://campushealth.unc.edu>

Honor code

The UNC honor Code states: "It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the honor code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity." We are committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://honor.unc.edu/honor/code.html> If you have questions it is your responsibility to ask the professor about the Code's application. All written work, and other projects must be submitted with a signature that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.

Absences

Students are permitted to miss class for EXCUSABLE absences only (for details about what an excused absence is, see UNC-Chapel Hill's attendance policy below). If a student has unexcused absences, their attendance and participation grade will be affected. [Basically, attendance is required.] <https://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/>

"For situations when an absence is not University approved (e.g., a job interview or club activity), instructors determine their own approach to missed classes and make-up assessments and assignments."

Disability

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you may need to contact the Academic Services office that houses the Academic Success Program for coordination in your academic accommodations. Please contact me to discuss any accommodations that may be required to satisfy your needs.

Readings

The lectures will not cover all of the material in the reading, so it is essential that you keep up with the required reading. If you have any questions on the readings or if certain concepts are unclear, please let me know in an email, or ask during or after lecture.

Generic Schedule

All readings should be completed before class. All quizzes will be due that night.

With some (and sometimes generous) flexibility, the general organization of class will follow:

Mondays:	Reading:	Planning in the USA chapters
	Quiz:	On those chapters
	Class:	Student Presentations on Cities; and Lectures on Specific Planning Problems
Tuesdays:	Reading:	None
	Quiz:	None
	Class:	Lectures related to weekly topic
Wednesdays:	Reading:	Light reading on interesting case studies
	Quiz:	None
	Class:	Student Presentations on Cities; and Lectures on Specific Planning Topics
Thursdays:	Reading:	None
	Quiz:	None
	Class:	Lectures related to weekly topic
Fridays:	Reading:	Due for relevant articles and theory
	Quiz:	On those articles
	Class:	Quick lecture followed by activity

Course outline and Readings

All readings should be completed before class.

The day to day schedule is below; lecture topics may shift within their week as appropriate, I will give you a heads up before hand in an earlier class.

Part 1:

5/13

Reading: None
Assignments None
Class: Introduction

5/14

Reading: None
Assignments None
Class: What is Planning? Why do we plan? What are urban problems?

5/15

Reading: Arnstein's Ladder; City as Engines (NYT article)
Assignments None
Class: Activity on Imagability of City

5/18

Reading: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of Planning in the USA, skip pages 11-14
Assignments Quiz on Sakai
Class: Student presentation and city problems lecture

updated: **8/23/2019**

5/19
 Reading: None
 Assignments: None
 Class: Lecture on Governance and Planning

5/20
 Reading: LA Parks
 Assignments: None
 Class: Student presentation and city problems lecture

5/21
 Reading: None
 Assignments: None
 Class: Lecture on Governance and Planning

5/22
 Reading: Davidoff and (4) Policy Notes (5 readings total, but policy notes are short and simple)
 Assignments: **Assignment 1 Due**
 Class: Activity Redlining

5/25
 No Class

5/26
 Reading: Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 of Planning in the USA
 Assignments: Quiz on Sakai
 Class: Lecture on Planning and Zoning

5/27
 Reading: NY and MJ reading
 Assignments: None
 Class: Student presentation on Lecture on Planning and Zoning

5/28
 Reading: None
 Assignments: None
 Class: Exam Review

5/29
 Reading: None
 Assignments: See below
 Class: **Exam on Sakai (you've got this)**

Part 2:

6/1
 Reading: Chapter 6 and Chapter 8 of Planning in the USA
 Assignments: Quiz on Sakai
 Class: Student Presentation and Lecture on Foxconn

6/2
 Reading: None
 Assignments: None
 Class: Lecture on Legal Framework of Planning and Zoning

6/3

Reading: FoxConn reading 1
Assignments: None
Class: Student Presentation and Lecture on Foxconn

6/4
Reading: None
Assignments: None
Class: Lecture on Legal Framework of Planning and Zoning

6/5
Reading: FoxxConn Reading 2
Assignments: None
Class: Activity on Urban Layout and Zoning

6/8
Reading: Chapter 9 of Planning in the USA
Assignments: Quiz on Sakai
Class: Student Presentation and Lecture on Foxconn

6/9
Reading: None
Assignments: None
Class: Lecture on Legal Framework of Planning and Zoning

6/10
Reading: Foxconn reading 3
Assignments: None
Class: Student Presentation and Lecture on Foxconn

6/11
Reading: None
Assignments: None
Class: Lecture on Legal Framework of Planning and Zoning

6/12
Reading: FoxxConn Reading
Assignments: **Assignment 3 Due**
Class: Activity on Migration

6/15+
Reading: None
Assignments: Make sure Assignment 1 Presentation is uploaded
Class: **Exam Review**