



INTRODUCTION TO URBAN PLANNING

Location and Times

MWF 11:30 am-12:50 pm. SIG 134

Instructor

Himanshu Grover (AICP)

410-J Gould Hall

groverh@uw.edu

Office Hours

Monday 1:30pm -2:30pm

(Or email for appointment)

Teaching Assistant I (for students with last name A-L)

Adnya Sarasmita (adnyaps@u.washington.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays- 1:30pm-2:30pm (Gould Court Café)

Or email for appointment

Teaching Assistant II (for students with last name M-Z)

Jonathan Childers (jaragorn@uw.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays- 1:30pm-2:30pm (Gould Court Café)

Or email for appointment

Course Website

URBDP 300A @Canvas

Course Description and Objectives

This course is intended to help students understand what urban planning activity is, who does it and to offer insight into why and how it is done in the United States¹. Primary objective of the planning profession is to improve the welfare of people and their communities by creating more convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient, and attractive places for present and future generations².

The primary goal of this course is to provide you the basic background of planning, and introduce you to the various aspects of urban planning. Specifically, by the end of this course, students are expected to become:

1. Familiar with the planning profession in the U.S, and to its various aspects of practice
2. Aware of the various approaches to planning analysis and practice
3. Familiar with the various challenges faced by planners in promoting sustainable development

¹ Planning practice is well established in most countries across the world. However, due to the variations in the systems of government, and variations in local laws, it is impossible to cover this wide range of the subject. Therefore, this course restricts the coverage primarily to the U.S context.

² www.planning.org

The coursework is designed to help students develop skills in critical inquiry and writing. The course draws on the required textbook, articles from peer-reviewed journals, videos, films, and site visits to introduce students to the eclectic field of urban planning. The field of planning spans multiple aspects of urban living and quality of life considerations. It is impossible to delve into each of these aspects with much detail in an introductory course. Therefore, students interested in pursuing the profession of urban planning are encouraged to explore specialized courses offered by the department of urban design and planning and other departments on campus.

This course meets the general ed. requirements for Individuals & Societies (I&S).

Course Requirements

While **not mandatory**, class **attendance** and participation are integral parts of this course; much of the key material will be introduced and discussed in lecture. Good note-taking skills are essential, since the instructor often discusses material and provides examples that may not be directly quoted on the slides. The slides for every lecture will be posted on the course website (canvas) on the day following the lecture. In the case of **documentary videos and guest speakers**, this material **will not be recorded or placed on-line**; therefore it is imperative that students attend the class.

Assigned **readings** are identified for each week classes, and should be completed as preparation **before** coming to class. Students are expected to keep track of the schedule, and assignment due dates. Teaching Assistants will use *Canvas* to communicate important information updates (such as new articles being added to ***Electronic Readings on the Course Website @canvas***), posting of test grades, etc. Students are advised to check this source (***Canvas***) regularly.

Required Text and Materials

We will use one text for the course, which has been ordered for you at the University Bookstore. This is a required text, and will be read in its entirety.

1. Contemporary Urban Planning (10th Edition) by John M. Levy. New York: Longman, 2011 (Levy)

Other reading material not in the required text has been placed in the Course Documents folder of the course website @Canvas. More articles of interest may be added to *Class Readings* during the semester. These will be announced in class and via *Canvas*. Students are advised to keep up with readings, as the assigned readings are the primary source for examination questions.

Grade Distribution

The grade distribution for this course is follows:

- Examinations (objective type, and short answer): 50%
- Written Assignments (Assignment 1, Documentary Quizzes & Term project): 50%
- Extra Credit (Class participation): up to +5 points
- Surprise Extra Credit: up to +5 points

Percent scores will be transformed to point scores according to the University of Washington grading policy.

Examinations

Important:

1. Please purchase standard answer response sheets (purple sheets) available at the bookstore for each of the examinations.
2. Please bring your university issued ID card on the day of the examination. Response sheets will only be collected from students with the ID.

Two examinations will be given, which together will comprise 50% of the grade:

1. **Mid-term Examination (20%)**: consisting of objective type and short answer questions - **May 4, 2015**
2. **Final Examination (30%)**: consisting of objective type and short answer questions- **Wednesday, June 10, 2015 (230-420 pm, SIG 134)**

Written Assignments

Important:

All online assignments are to be submitted by midnight (PT) on the due date as a *.pdf file on the course website @canvas.uw.edu in the appropriate assignments folders.

Assignment I (10%)

A two-page essay describing and discussing the neighborhood you grew in, specifically highlighting your views on; planning and environmental issues that you see in your neighborhood; improvements that have happened over the years; new challenges that have come up; changes in the city that have impacted your neighborhood; and initiatives/projects that have been implemented in your neighborhood.

To be submitted online in Assignments folder on April 20, 2015.

Documentary Quizzes (20%@2.5% each)

A quiz will be posted online for every documentary discussed in class. Each question is worth 0.5 points (2.5 points for each quiz). The quiz will be available online on the day of the documentary discussion. Students are expected to answer these quizzes by the midnight of the following day of the documentary discussion.

Term-project (20%)

For this assignment, two neighborhood zones have been identified in the university district. You are expected to work in groups of 4 that will be assigned by the instructor by the third week of class. Each group will prepare a mental map of their assigned neighborhood. The mental map should depict Kevin Lynch's five elements: paths, edges, districts, nodes, landmarks. Each group will present the mental map in the form of a poster accompanied by a 2-page essay (up to a maximum of 750 words).

Printed Poster to be submitted in class on June 1, 2015. Essay to be uploaded in the assignments folder on the course website @canvas by June 1, 2015 (midnight PT). Peer-review grades due on June 10 in class at the start of the final exam (Submitted posters will be scanned and peer-grading sheets will be made available in the course website on June 5, 2015).

Extra Credit – Class participation (up to + 5 points)

Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions. Class participation will be recorded in each class and will be graded at the end of the quarter. Students can receive a maximum of additional 5 points based on their level and quality of participation in class discussions.

Surprise Extra Credit (up to + 5 points)

This will be a surprise in-class opportunity for receiving an extra credit up to additional 5 points. So, it is advisable to attend every class.

Late Assignments:

Not submitting the assignments on time is a problem. It raises ethical issues (if I give you more time, do I need to give everyone more time too), and will affect your performance in subsequent assignments and class participation, as each of the assignments is designed to help you with subsequent coursework. Therefore, please do your best to turn in your assignments on time. However, if you have a compelling and legitimate reason for late submission, I will consider extensions on case-by-case basis. But, I need to be contacted at least 2 days before the date assignment is due. I will not entertain excuses for late submission after the due date.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity. The UW College of Built Environment is committed to upholding standards of academic integrity consistent with the academic and professional communities of which it is a part. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-120). We expect you to know and follow the university's policies on cheating and plagiarism. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University of Washington regulations. It is in your best interest to follow all policies laid out here and

elsewhere on the university website, and familiarize yourself with the university guidelines for academic honesty. This page explains what academic misconduct is, how the UW deals with it, and how you can avoid committing it:

<http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/help/academicintegrity.php>

Academic Accommodations

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS), 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924 (V) or 206-543-8925 (TTY). If you have a letter from Disability Resources for Students indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please meet with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the accommodations you need. Disability Resources for Students (www.disability.uw.edu) offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS.

DETAILED LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	Mar 30 (M)	Orientation – Course organization Accessing course documents and readings through the course website Assignments & Grading
	Apr 1 (W)	Historical Perspective on American Cities Documentary & Discussion: The City (1939) Discussion on Assignment I
	Apr 3 (F)	Declining Cities Documentary & Discussion: The Vanishing City (2010)
Section I: Planning Context		
2	Apr 6 (M)	Need for Urban Planning and Environmental Management <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 1 & 2
	Apr 8 (W)	Brief History of Planning in America <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapters 3 & 4
	Apr 10 (F)	Contemporary Cities Documentary & Discussion: Urbanized
3	Apr 13 (M)	Legal Basis for Planning <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 5
	Apr 15 (W)	Comprehensive Plan & Tools of Land Use Planning <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapters 8 & 9
	Apr 17 (F)	Suburbanization <u>Readings:</u> 1. Article: The causes of Metropolitan Suburbanization (download from the course website) 2. Levy – Chapter 16
4	Apr 20	Suburbanization Documentary & Discussion: Sprawling From Grace- The Consequences of Suburbanization <i>Assignment I Submission Due</i>

	Apr 22	Growth Management & Washington State GMA <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy - Chapter 14
	Apr 24	Growth Management & Washington State GMA - II <u>Readings:</u> 1. Article: Comparing states with and without growth management Analysis based on indicators with policy implications
5	Apr 27	Lecture: Urban Design – the Challenge of Aesthetics <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 10 <i>Discussion on Term Project</i>
	Apr 29	Planning for Public Space Documentary & Discussion: The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
	May 1	Mid-term Exam Review (Q & A)
6	May 4	Mid-Term Exam on Chapters, readings, videos and guest lectures covered until May 1
	May 6	Planning, Politics and Social Issues Documentary & Discussion: Igor Pruitt Story <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy - Chapters 6 & 7
	May 8	Planning, Politics and Social Issues <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy - Chapters 6 & 7
7	May 11	Mid-Term Post Exam Review
	May 13	Lecture: Housing, Urban Renewal and Community Development <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 11
	May 15	Food Systems Planning <u>Readings:</u> 1. Article: Avoiding the Local Trap: Scale and Food Systems in Planning Research
8	May 18	Transportation Planning Documentary & Discussion: Beyond the Motor City (PBS) <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 12
	May 20	Community and Economic Development Planning <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 13
	May 22	Lecture: Public Participation in Planning <u>Readings:</u>

		1. Article: Arnstien, S. 1969. A ladder of citizen participation. Journal of American Planning Association 35 (216-224).
9	May 25	Environmental Policy and Planning <u>Readings:</u> 1. Levy – Chapter 15
	May 29	Emerging Sustainability Challenges Documentary & Discussion: The 11 th Hour
10	Jun 1	Planning Tools and Technologies – GIS, web-GIS, Urban Simulation <u>Readings:</u> 1. Article: GIS for Planning and Community Development: Solving Global Challenges <i>Term-project Poster Due in Class</i> <i>Term-project Essay Due online</i>
	Jun 3	Planning in other Nations <u>Readings:</u> Levy - Chapter 18
	Jun 5	Final Examination Review
	Jun 10	FINAL EXAMINATION (230-420 pm, SIG 134) <i>Term-project peer-review grades due</i>