



URBDP 480 PLANNING AS A PROFESSION

Fall 2015 // Fridays, 12:00-1:20 in Gould 435 // 1 credit C/NC

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OVERVIEW

This course gives students interested in the planning profession an opportunity to understand the different pathways and career choices within the profession. This course will introduce students to guest professionals in various planning careers and highlight key issues, skills used, and tips to entering the field. **This course focuses on professional practice rather than analytical methods or theory.**

LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Students who take this course will:

- Have a better familiarity with the planning profession.
- Understand what it takes to enter the planning profession.
- Be able to formulate a plan of action/next steps for continuing a pathway towards a choice of careers.

FORMAT

Each session will be built around one key theme and will be accompanied by short readings and activities that give background or relevancy through current events. Sessions will include time to discuss readings, debrief activities, hear from guest professionals, and a Q & A session.

READINGS

Readings will include introductory articles about various planning fields, as well as information relevant to the different guest professionals' careers and talking points.

ACTIVITIES

Activities will involve various real-life scenarios during which students will present possible solutions and approaches to the challenge at hand. Readings for the week will directly relate to these activities. **You will be required to turn in homework assignments during class periods.**

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Students must receive a 75% or above to pass the course. Evaluation is broken down into two categories:

- 50%: **Homework and Class Participation:** You must complete 75% of the homework assignments.
- 50%: **Final Reflection Paper:** a 1 to 2 page reflection paper due at the end of the quarter.

FINAL REFLECTION PAPER – DUE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12TH BY 5:00 PM.

(Submit electronically via "Final Reflection" on the website)

We are interested in knowing how this class has helped you understand the professional world of planning. In 1 to 2 pages, please address one or more of the following points:

- Before this class, what was your perspective on planning as a profession?
- Since taking this class, how has your perspective changed?
- Which lectures were most beneficial and why?
- What area of planning are you passionate about and hope to pursue? How did this class help you think about that?
- What are your next steps? How do you plan to continue to pursue your passion?
- If you have learned that you do NOT want to enter the planning field, please explain why.

COURSE WEBSITE: <https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/blumedw/46273/>