

URBDP 480 “Planning as a Profession”

Fall Quarter 2023 Fridays: 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM Gould 114

1 Credit

Grading: Credit/No Credit

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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, how and why they became planners, 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.
- Understand different types of work that professional planners do.
- Be able to formulate a plan of action/next steps for continuing a pathway towards a career in or related to planning.

Format

Each session is built around a key theme accompanied by short readings and activities that provide background or relevancy through current events. Sessions will include time to discuss readings and hear from guest professionals with a Question & Answer session. The guest professionals and current event readings change each quarter, so students can take the class up to three times for credit.

Readings

Readings include introductory articles about various planning fields as well as current event pieces that bring relevancy to the different guest professionals’ careers and talking points.

Evaluation and Grading

Please see below the requirements to receive credit for this course. Evaluation is broken down into three categories:

80 pts: Homework Assignments: 8 homework assignments will be given throughout the quarter: 1 each week. There are 10 points given for each homework assignment turned in on time before class starts and **you must do them all: 80 points total.**

5 pts: Participation Class Attendance: ~~10 classes are held over the quarter.~~ You must be ~~on-time and be~~ an active participant in class. **You must attend at least 8 classes.**

15 pts: Final Reflection Paper: A reflection paper is due by **Tuesday, December 12, 2023.** (*Submit electronically via “Final Reflection” on CANVAS.* Instructions for the paper are as follows:

We are interested to know how this class has helped you understand the professional world of planning. In a 1- 2 page essay 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 guest lectures during this quarter were most beneficial and why?
- What areas 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 interest in planning? If you have learned that you do NOT want to enter the planning field, please explain why.

Class Attendance

This class is conducted in-person ~~and masked in accordance with the UW Masking policy.~~ Students are expected to participate in class to fully benefit from course activities and meet the course’s learning objectives. Students should only register for this class if they are able to attend in-person.

To protect their fellow students, faculty, and staff, students who feel ill or exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not come to class, ~~and seek immediate testing, the most convenient may be the Husky Testing Program. If you test positive contact the University of Washington UW COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team at covidehc@uw.edu or 206-616-3344.~~ When absent, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor in advance (or as close to the class period as possible in the case of an unexpected absence), and to request appropriate make-up work. The instructor has the responsibility to determine if make-up work is possible and/or to modify assignment or course grading. For chronic absences, the instructor may ~~award an incomplete grade after the 8th week, or~~ recommend the student contact their academic adviser to consider a hardship withdrawal (known as a Registrar Drop).

ACCOMMODATIONS

You may be eligible for an accommodation administered by the Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to take classes remotely if you are a student who is

1. Immunocompromised

2. Experiencing other diagnosed physical or mental health conditions that preclude you from participating in class in person.

If you think you may qualify for any type of formal accommodation, we encourage you to visit the Disability Resources for Students (DRS) website and apply by completing the necessary steps as soon as possible. *Please note that it can take 4-6 weeks to get approvals through DRS, so you need to submit any requests well in advance of the beginning of the quarter to have the best outcome.*

If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. The website for DRS (<https://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>) provides other resources for students and faculty for making accommodations.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for the accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request>).

Calendar of Guest Speakers

September 29	David Blum	"Introduction to the Planning Profession"
October 6	Jae Hill	"GIS in Planning"
October 13	Jeremy Eknoian	"University as Place Maker"
October 20	Mandi Roberts	"International Planning"
October 27	Kevin O'Neill	"Transportation Planning"
November 3	Christy Carr	"Environmental Planning"
November 17	Nick Welch	"Housing Affordability in a Growing City"
December 1	Cynthia Pinto	"Planning and Design in Transit Projects "
December 8	David Blum	"Getting Started in the Planning Profession"