

Course Syllabus

URBDP 480 Planning as a Profession

Winter Quarter 2025

Instructor: Christy Carr (chcarr@uw.edu)

1 Credit Grading: Credit/No Credit

Fridays: 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM Gould 110

Course 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.

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. Readings will be provided by each guest speaker.

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: 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 **March 17, 2025.** (*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

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).

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) 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.*

Schedule of Guest Speakers and Topics

Week	Date	Speaker	Topic
1	January 10	Christy Carr	Introduction to Planning as a Profession
2	January 17	Janet Lee	Community Engagement in Planning
3	January 24	Nick Welsh	Housing Affordability in a Growing City
4	January 31	Jae Hill	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
5	February 7	Cynthia Padilla	Planning and Design in Transit Projects
6	February 14	James Packman	Environmental Planning
7	February 21	Lesley Bain	Planning for the Soul of the City (Urban Design)
8	February 28	Kevin O'Neill	Transportation Planning
9	March 7	Lisa Grueter	Sustainable Plans and Codes
10	March 14	Christy Carr	Course Summary/Getting Started in the Planning Profession