

ESP 171 Urban and Regional Planning

Lectures:	TTh 12:10-1:30	Haring 1204
Sections:	M 9 – 9:50	2120J Wickson
	M 10 – 10:50	2120J Wickson
	M 1:10 – 2:00	1060 Bainer
Instructor:	Susan Handy	
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Background and Objectives

According to the Governor's Environmental Goals and Policy Report, the population of California is expected to grow by about 500,000 residents per year, reaching 42 to 46 million by 2020 and 60 million by 2040. An additional 220,000 housing units per year will need to be built to meet the growing demand. The most rapid growth will occur in the agriculturally rich Central Valley and in the environmentally sensitive Sierra foothills. If development continues according to current patterns, 45,000 acres of open land will be urbanized each year.

This growth will exacerbate current problems associated with our existing population: vehicle travel is growing faster than population, over 90% of Californians currently breathe unhealthy air, water supplies are unreliable and diminishing, increased impervious cover is degrading water quality, native vegetation important for biodiversity has been lost, habitat quality has been degraded, the number of endangered animal and plant species in the state has increased. How population growth in California is accommodated will determine how much worse such problems will get: the future of our cities and the future of our environment are inextricably linked.

This course explores the ways in which cities plan for growth and asks how cities can shape their future in a way that minimizes the harm to the environment while also meeting the needs of their residents. The course will introduce students to standard city planning tools (the general planning, zoning ordinances), as well as innovative tools that cities are using to manage their growth in an environmentally sensitive way. The focus of the course is on planning requirements and practices in California, though examples from elsewhere in the U.S. will also be considered. The relationships between local, state, and federal policy, will also be considered. *The objective of the course is for students to acquire a basic understanding of local and regional planning with respect to law, policy, and practice.*

Assignments and Grading

The assignments for the course are designed to ensure that students learn basic concepts of city planning, explore ways in which city planning can address environmental problems, and further develop skills in critical thinking and effective writing. Students will complete three short papers over the course of the quarter, described below. In addition, a midterm and a final will be given. Each student will give a short presentation during discussion section at the end of the quarter on his or her third paper. Students are also expected to attend class and discussion sections and complete assigned readings.

Papers

Paper 1: General Plan Critique Memorandum

In the first paper, students will review and critique the general plan for their hometown (or another city of their choice). Most cities now make their plans available on-line. In a five-page memorandum, students will choose a critical issue facing their city, summarize goals and policies in the plan with respect to this issue, identify techniques used by the city to implement the plan, and assess the effectiveness of the plan and its implementation in addressing the critical issue. In addition, students will incorporate analysis of data from the US Census for their city into the memorandum; this work will be completed during sections. City and Issue due April 15, paper due April 24.

Paper 2: Critical Issue “White Paper” – the Problem

In the second paper, students will each select a specific problem that cities in California or elsewhere in the U.S. currently face that has implications for the environment or for society. For example, many cities in California do not have enough affordable housing to accommodate the demand, leading to long commutes for low-wage workers, with both environmental and societal costs. Other cities are fighting to keep WalMart out, because of fears over the impact on local businesses and the increase in traffic that will result. In the form of a five-page memo, students will describe the problem, the kinds of cities where the problem is most acute, and the implications of the problem for the environment and/or society. To complete the memo, students must undertake a literature search to find credible sources to support their discussion. Topic due May 8, paper due May 20.

Paper 3: Critical Issue “White Paper” – the Solution

In the third paper, students will explore alternative solutions to the problem described in the second paper and combine this new work with their second paper to create a 10-page “white paper.” After presenting a revised discussion of the problem (based on Paper 1), they will present different examples of strategies recently used by cities in the U.S. to address the problem. For example, some cities are encouraging infill development and “granny flats” as a way to increase the stock of affordable housing. A growing number of cities have adopted ordinances that restrict the allowable size of big-box stores. In presenting the examples, students will focus on the mechanisms through which the strategies are carried out, for example, through changes to zoning or codes, tax incentives, capital investments, etc. Due June 5.

Mid-term and final

A midterm and a final will also be given. The purpose of these exams is to ensure that you have acquired an adequate understanding of the material covered in the class. The midterm will be given midway through the quarter (5/6) and will cover material from Week 1 through Week 5 (Chapters 1, 3-9, and 12 of the textbook plus additional assigned readings). The final will be given during the assigned finals period for the course (6/7) and will focus on the material from Week 6 through Week 10 of the course (Chapters 10, 11, 13, 15, 17- 20, 22-25 plus assigned readings).

Sections

Sections are a critical part of the course. There are nine sections during the quarter (note that Monday, 5/26 is a holiday). Most of the sections will be devoted to discussions of topics of debate within the planning field. These discussions represent an important opportunity for you to formulate and express your own views on these topics. For example, following the midterm, we will discuss the topic of private property rights and the use of eminent domain to achieve planning goals. We will use one section for a hands-on workshop on using census data, with two reserved for review for exams. Attendance and participation in sections will be graded.

Grading

The breakdown in grading for these assignments is as follows:

Paper 1: General Plan Critique	15%
Paper 2: Critical Issue – the Problem	20%
Paper 3: Critical Issue – the Solution	20%
Midterm	15%
Final	20%
Section attendance and participation	10%

Late papers will NOT be accepted for full credit except with acceptable documented reason, prior permission, or because of a medical emergency. A late paper without an acceptable written excuse will lose one grade step per day for each day it is late. Rewrites will not be accepted; you have time to meet with me or the TA for clarification and/or explanation prior to the assignment due date and you should avail yourself of this opportunity.

Readings and Resources

The primary text for the course is *Guide to California Planning* by William Fulton and Paul Shigley (Solano Press Books, 2005, Third Edition). Additional readings are provided in a reader, available at Davis Copy Shop on Third Street. Additional resources and references will be available through the course website, which you can access directly at this URL or through MyUCDavis:

http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/ESP171/ESP171_page.htm

These two resources will be particularly helpful throughout the quarter:

- The Governor's Office of Planning and Research is the place to go for information on state laws and policies related to planning. Their website hosts several key publications on planning in California: <http://www.opr.ca.gov/>
- Sign up for Planetizen, a weekly catalogue of newspaper and webpage articles addressing current planning issues. This is a great way to learn about what's going on in the field, and might give you ideas for paper topics. The website: <http://www.planetizen.com/forms/enewsletter.php>

Expectations

I expect you to attend class, read assigned chapters and articles, participate in discussion sections, and submit original papers that reflect your own original work. Plagiarism, the intentional or inadvertent use of someone else's work without appropriate credit, will not be tolerated! Cutting and pasting material from the web and claiming it as one's own is a serious offense that merits disciplinary action. Lots of useful websites are available to help you determine when citations are appropriate and to avoid accidental plagiarism (e.g., <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>). I encourage you to discuss your work with your classmates in discussion sections and outside of class, but the work you submit must be your own.

Learning is ultimately your responsibility, but I have an obligation to facilitate that learning by providing a coherent guide to the course material and assigning activities that give you an effective opportunity to apply that material. You can expect me and the TA to provide clear direction and timely feedback on assignments and to provide adequate response to questions and concerns. You can expect me and the TA to be fully prepared for class sessions and available during office hours.

Students who require special accommodations because of disabilities should visit the Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.ucdavis.edu/>) at the beginning of the quarter. I will not be able to provide for special accommodation unless the student has first gone through the process required by the DRC. Students who will be missing class or cannot meet assignment deadlines for religious or medical reasons or for essential family business should let me know as far ahead as possible and must provide written documentation if I request it.

Schedule

The schedule, outlined below, is **subject to change**. The current version of the schedule will be posted on the class website. Additional readings besides those listed in the schedule may be assigned. Readings other than those in the textbook and the reader are available on-line; links to these readings are found on the class website.

The final is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 from 8:00 to 10:00 am.

Date	Day	Topics	Readings	Assignments
4/1	Tues	Introduction	Chapter 1 "The Next 100 Million" "The Rise of the Megapolitans"	
4/3	Thurs	The basis for planning	Chapter 3 "Toward Ecological Cities" "Green Manhattan" "The Healthy Choice"	
4/8	Tues	Who does what	Chapters 4 and 5	
4/10	Thurs	AB32 & Local Planning <i>Guest Speaker – Mitch Sears, City of Davis</i>	"Press Release" "Cool Cities"	
4/15	Tues	Vision	"A Citizen's Guide" – pp. 3-5 Chapter 6	City and Issue for Paper 1 due
4/17	Thurs	Implementation 1	"A Citizen's Guide" – pp. 6-10 Chapters 7 and 8	
4/22	Tues	Implementation 2	Chapter 12 "Silicon Valley South" "Green Grow the Buildings" "Savannah Takes the LEED"	
4/24	Thurs	Planning in practice <i>Guest Speaker – Ellen Greenberg</i>	"Form First" "Zoning a la carte" "The Not so Secret Code"	Paper 1
4/29	Tues	CEQA	"A Citizen's Guide" – p. 10 Chapter 9 "Fighting CEQA with CEQA"	
5/1	Thurs	Planning in practice <i>Guest Speaker – Karl Mohr</i>	The West Village Neighborhood Plan (link on website)	

Date	Day	Topics	Readings	Assignments
5/6	Tues	MIDTERM		
5/8	Thurs	Managing growth	Chapters 11 and 13 "Exploring the No Growth Option" "Right-sizing Urban Growth Boundaries"	Topic for Paper 2 due
5/13	Tues	Encouraging development within boundaries 1	Chapters 17 and 18 "A Redevelopment Revolution" "Reforming Regulations" "Leading the Parade"	
5/15	Thurs	Encouraging development within boundaries 2	Chapter 15 "From Blight to All Right" "Neighborhood Power" "Round 3 for Eminent Domain"	
5/20	Tues	Matching growth to infrastructure	Chapters 19 and 10	Paper 2
5/22	Thurs	Using infrastructure to manage growth	Chapter 20 "Blueprint for a Valley"	
5/27	Tues	Protecting ag land <i>Guest speaker – Al Sokolow</i>	"Farming on the Edge" "Farmerville California" "Wine Wars"	
5/29	Thurs	Integrated planning <i>Guest speaker – Mike McCoy</i>	Chapter 23 "California's Protected Urban Areas" "Western Riverside County"	
6/3	Tues	Addressing the human-nature interface	Chapters 22 and 24 "All Choked Up" "All Fired Up" "Living in Earthquake Country"	
6/5	Thurs	Wrap-up	Chapter 25	Paper 3
6/7	Sat	FINAL	8:00 – 10:00 am	