

EAS 296

Planning Theory and Practice



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Teaching Assistant: TBA

CLASSES

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:00 to 9:50 pm
Location: Bus 2-5

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to planning, theory and practice focusing on rural, urban and environmental topics. *Prerequisite:* Any first year course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is a broad overview of some of the key aspects of community planning.

By the end of the course students should:

- Be aware of the history of community planning.
- Be familiar with many of the contemporary challenges facing urban planning in North American cities including issues of sustainability, design, and livability
- Be able to read and interpret municipal plans at a basic level.
- Understand the tools available to planners
- Understand the process through which plans are developed and instituted.

LECTURE STRUCTURE

This is a medium size class (about 50 students) that will follow a mix-design involving traditional lecture format, class discussion and smaller group discussion. The course will involve a number of guest lecturers and films to bring students a diversity of views and experiences.

COURSE TOPICS

The following is a basic breakdown of the course topics. A more detailed schedule will be made available to students on-line.

Part 1: Introduction to Planning

- Part 2: The History of Planning
- Part 3: Contemporary Issues in Community Planning
- Part 4: Planning Tools
- Part 5: The Development of Plans

A more detailed working template for the course is available to students on the course website

GRADING

Student grades will be determined using the following breakdown

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| 1. Assignment #1 (Due February 13)..... | 20% |
| 2. Mid-Term Exam (February 27)..... | 25% |
| 3. Assignment #2 (Due March 27)..... | 15% |
| 4. Final Examination (See University Exam Schedule)..... | 40% |

Assignment #1 (20%) You may choose to do Option A or Option B for this assignment.

Option A - Build and comment on your own city with in SimCity

You will be required to build a city in either Sim City 3000 or Sim City4 and provide commentary upon the process of planning your city, the issues that you face during the cities growth, and the final city design that you end the game with. You will also be asked to comment on the functioning of the game itself and its strengths and weaknesses as a city simulation.

Option B –Review of an Area Structure Plan in Edmonton.

You will be required to select an Area Structure Plan from the list that will be provided to you on the assignment sheet. You will then be required to review the area structure plan and comment on its relationship to Edmonton’s policies of Smart Growth. You can look at Edmonton’s Area structure Plans at the following site.

http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/planning_development/planning/plans-in-effect.aspx

Assignment #2 (15%)

You will be required to attend one of two assigned public meetings in Edmonton (dates and times will be provided in the assignment handout). You will then be required to submit a written review of the meeting. Details will be provided in the assignment handout sheet.

Mid-Term Exam (25%)

The mid-term exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The mid-term exam will focus upon the material covered in lectures, readings, and videos used in class. The mid-term exam must be taken on the day specified in the syllabus. No excuses for absence from the mid-term exam or the final exam will be accepted other than those specified in Section 23.5.6 of the *University of Alberta Calendar*. In such cases, the student will have the weight of the mid term exam added to their final exam grade.

Final Exam (40%)

The location of the final exam is set by the university. The date and the location of the final exam has yet to be determined. The final exam will cover material from the course as a whole, though it will focus more on the second half of the course. This will be discussed in class in detail.

Final Grades

Final grades at the end of the course will be assigned using a combination of absolute achievement and relative standing in the course and will remain unofficial until approved by the Faculty Council or its designate (i.e. the departmental chair).

TEXTBOOK/READINGS

The required textbook for the course is Planning Canadian Communities (Fifth Edition) by Gerald Hodge and David Gordon; ISBN/0176252428, Nelson Education Ltd. There is also a recommended textbook for the course: Campbell, S. and Feinstein, S. (Eds.) 2008. Readings in Planning Theory (Second Edition). Blackwell Publishing Ltd. Two desk copies of the textbooks are available on Reserve Desk in the Library.

SUGGESTED READINGS – JOURNALS/MAGAZINES

- Journal of the American Planning Association
- Journal of Planning Education and Research
- Journal of Planning Literature
- Planning Theory
- Plan Canada
- International Planning Studies
- Planning (USA)
- Online Planning Journal <http://www.casa.ucl.ac.uk/planning/olp.htm>

IMPORTANT PLANNING WEBSITES

- <http://www.planning.org/>
- <http://www.planetizen.com/>
- <http://www.cyberbia.org/>
- <http://pci.typepad.com/>
- <http://www.mnapa.com/>
- <http://www.cip-icu.ca/>
- <http://www.apsaweb.org/>

COURSE POLICIES

A Note on Attendance: Learning in this course will take place largely in the lecture sessions, thus it is highly recommended that you attend regularly. It is highly unlikely that you will do well in this class without attending. Some class notes may be made available on-line to students, but these will not contain the full material covered or presented in class. If you miss a class you will need to obtain notes from another student.

Please try to arrive in class on time, so as not to disrupt your colleagues. If you are running late, however, it is better to come to class late than to miss it entirely. And please keep the talking during class down to a minimum; even low voices can be quite disruptive to the students around you.

All assignments must be in typed format. I will not accept any handwritten assignments. All written work must be in your own words (i.e. language composed uniquely by you), with the exception of quoted material which must be denoted by quotation marks (“”) or by being offset from other text by being inset from the text on both the right and left margins of the paper. The source of the quoted material must be denoted as required in APA style.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Specialized Support and Disability Services (SSDS) provides assistance to University students whose disabilities involve any number of conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning or mental or physical health. Students who require accommodations in this course due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, or mental or physical health are encouraged to discuss their needs with Specialized Support and Disability Services (2-800 Students' Union Building). And please feel free to talk to me about any matter related to Special Needs.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Policy about course outlines can be found in 23.4 (2) of the University Calendar.