

**PPPA 6043 Land Use Planning and Community Development**  
**GEOG 6207 Urban Planning and Development**  
**Summer, 2017**

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Office: MPA 601L

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment most days of the week, online or in person

**Class term:** Wednesday, July 5 – Tuesday, August 15

**Required text**

None. Links or electronic copies of readings will be posted online.

**Format**

The class is fully online, with no on-campus meetings. You will have readings, reading responses, prerecorded lectures, lecture responses, and written assignments.

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course, but I assume that you have a basic understanding of state and local government. Review supplementary readings posted on Blackboard, giving more attention to concepts unfamiliar to you.

**Course Description**

Urban planning is the function of local government that aims to locate primarily private land use activities within a geographic area. To the extent that place matters, planning matters. Then what is planning and why does it matter? What does it have to do with the ways that people live, work, play, and do business? Why do we have it? Do we need it?

This is not a conventional course in planning, in the sense that it is not designed to train students how to become professional planners or developers. Rather, the objective of this course is to explore urban planning as an attempt to balance public and private interests, as well as the needs of current and future residents. Students will be introduced to the theory and practice of land use planning, with an emphasis on policy levers used to shape private decisions.

Note that this course is geared towards students who have already taken graduate-level courses in public policy or public administration. Other students may need to do additional readings to fill in gaps in their backgrounds

## Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

- Understand and present arguments for and against government interventions in land use, housing, economic development, environment and energy, and growth management.
- Describe and explain the relationships between past, present, and future in planning, as well as the potential for public policy to influence in the short- and long-terms.
- Explain how legal, administrative, political, economic, social, environmental, technological, and cultural factors jointly shape decisions related to growth and change of the built environment.
- Identify and explain the roles of participants in the planning process, including officials, staff, stakeholders, and community members. Understand how those interests compete and sometimes clash.
- Communicate clearly about land use issues in writing and orally.

## Method of Instruction and Classroom Policies

**I see my role as a combination lecturer and facilitator.** I will spend part of class time conveying information to you. But deeper learning takes place when students themselves make the connections, apply concepts, discuss implications, ask questions, and consider options. I use a variety of techniques to help you get there.

**I see your role as an active participant in your own learning and the learning of other students in the class.** This class attracts students from varied backgrounds, and I would like you to bring your background and perspective to bear on discussions.

**I have set up a discussion board** for your questions and comments about class. Help me keep class email straight by asking questions or making comments through the discussion board on Blackboard. Bonus, everyone gets to benefit from the answer. Feel free to start a new thread or add to somebody else's. Email me directly about an upcoming absence or other personal matters.

Several days of the week, I am in **my office on campus**. You are welcome to stop by any time that my door is open. I am also available for appointments.

**Unexcused late submissions** will result in a 5 point deduction for >0 to 12 hours late, and an additional 5 percentage point deduction for 12 – 24 hours late. No unexcused late submissions accepted after 24 hours. Contact me BEFORE you miss a submission deadline, to explain your situation. In some cases, I grant an extension with no penalty.

## Your Time Commitment

In 2016, the university adopted a policy on contact time and independent work time required for each credit-hour earned. The policy requires me to advise you how the time will be allocated for this course. A 3-credit course requires 112.5 hours of instruction and independent or group work. Across 6 weeks of a summer semester, you should plan to devote 18-19 hours per week for this class.

Instruction will include weekly prerecorded lectures and guided discussions on Blackboard. Independent and group work will include reading, taking notes, research, writing, and discussion.

Although you have weekly deadlines, you are welcome to complete the requirements ahead of schedule. In this sense, some self-pacing is incorporated into the class.

Activity	Min Hours per week	Points
Readings and responses	6	25
Prerecorded lectures and responses	6	25
Project and written assignments	6-7	50

### Assignments

This course will take place over 6 weeks. Each week starts on Wednesday and ends on Tuesday. Weekly assignments are due on Tuesdays at midnight. I will send out reminders to help you stay on track. I recommend that you come up with a weekly routine that works for you, such as completing readings and responses by Thursday night, watching lectures and completing responses by Saturday night, and completing the written assignment in time to submit on Tuesday night.

Each week, you will complete the following:

- Read and take notes on assigned readings
- Complete reading responses, DUE Tuesdays at 11:59pm
- Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures
- Complete lecture responses, DUE Tuesdays at 11:59pm
- Prepare weekly written assignment, DUE Tuesdays at 11:59pm

Throughout the session, you are strongly encouraged to get ahead, especially if you have travel plans or other commitments during the session.

Each week, you have the opportunity to earn 100 points. The total for the session is 600 points.

**Reading responses:** Each week, you will answer questions about the readings. Answers will involve simple retrieval of facts and critical thinking. *20 points each*

**Lecture responses:** Each week, you will participate in discussions, motivated by the lectures. Discussions focus on applications of principles discussed to real-world situations and current planning issues. *30 points each*

**Weekly project or written assignment:** In week 1, you will prepare a memo that introduces you to the concepts of urban planning. In weeks 2-6, you will develop a series of related memos on a city or county of your choice. *50 points each*

Details on all assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

**Letter grading will be based on percentage of points earned:**

**92.5+ A:** Excellent and exceptional work for a graduate student. Work at this level is unusually thorough, well-reasoned, creative, methodologically sophisticated, and well written. Work is of exceptional professional quality.

**90.0 – 92.4 A-:** Very Good: Very strong work for a graduate student. Shows signs of creativity and a strong understanding of appropriate analytical approaches, is thorough and well-reasoned, and meets professional standards.

**88.0 - 89.9 B+:** Good: Sound work for a graduate student; well-reasoned and thorough, without serious analytical shortcomings. This grade indicates the student has fully accomplished the basic objectives of this graduate course.

**86.0 - 87.9 B:** Adequate: Competent work for a graduate student with some evident weaknesses. Demonstrates competency in the key course objectives but the understanding or application of some important issues is less than complete.

**84.0 - 85.9 B-:** Borderline: Weak work for a graduate student but meets minimal expectations in the course. Understanding of key issues is incomplete. (A B- average in all courses is not sufficient to sustain graduate status in good standing.)

**82.0 - 83.9 C+:** Deficient: Inadequate work for a graduate student; rarely meets minimal expectations for the course. Work is poorly developed or flawed by numerous errors and misunderstandings of important issues.

**80.0 - 81.9 C:** Deficient – see above

**78.0 - 79.9 C-:** Deficient – see above

**Less than 78.0 F:** Unacceptable: Work fails to meet minimal expectations or course credit for a graduate student. Performance has consistently failed to meet minimum course requirements. Weaknesses and limitations are pervasive.

Schedule - Overview

Weds, 7/5 – Tues, 7/11	<p><b>1 – Introduction to Planning; urbanization and legacy; place-based vs people-based policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read and take notes on readings</li> <li>▪ Complete reading responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 11</li> <li>▪ Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures</li> <li>▪ Complete lecture responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 11</li> <li>▪ Write and submit neighborhood memo, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 11</li> </ul>
Weds, 7/12 – Tues, 7/18	<p><b>2 - Legal framework and the comprehensive plan; tools of planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read and take notes on readings</li> <li>▪ Complete reading responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 18</li> <li>▪ Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures</li> <li>▪ Complete lecture responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 18</li> <li>▪ Major project submission 1: area profile, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 18</li> </ul>
Weds, 7/19 – Tues, 7/25	<p><b>3 – Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read and take notes on readings</li> <li>▪ Complete reading responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 25</li> <li>▪ Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures</li> <li>▪ Complete lecture responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 25</li> <li>▪ Major project submission 2: housing problems and policies, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 25</li> </ul>
Weds, 7/26 – Tues, 8/1	<p><b>4 – Economic development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read and take notes on readings</li> <li>▪ Complete reading responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 25</li> <li>▪ Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures</li> <li>▪ Complete lecture responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 25</li> <li>▪ Major project submission 3 : economic development problems and policies, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, July 25</li> </ul>
Weds, 8/2 – Tues, 8/8	<p><b>5 – Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read and take notes on readings</li> <li>▪ Complete reading responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 1</li> <li>▪ Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures</li> <li>▪ Complete lecture responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 1</li> <li>▪ Major project submission 4 : transportation problems and policies, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 1</li> </ul>
Weds, 8/9 – Tues, 8/15	<p><b>6 – Sustainability and trade-offs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read and take notes on readings</li> <li>▪ Complete reading responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 8</li> <li>▪ Watch and take notes on prerecorded lectures</li> <li>▪ Complete lecture responses, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 8</li> <li>▪ Major project submission 5 : sustainability and trade-offs, DUE by 11:59pm on Tuesday, August 8</li> </ul>

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## University and Class Policies

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**The Syllabus:** This syllabus is your guide to the course. If any questions arise, please check the syllabus before contacting me. Sound educational practice requires flexibility and I may revise content during the semester.

**Late or Missed Class:** Attendance is required. Any unexcused absence may result in a deduction from your grade. If you are late or absent from class, it is your responsibility to obtain all announcements, assignments, and handouts from Blackboard and from your classmates.

**Submission of Written Work Products:** It is your responsibility to make sure that you are able to access Blackboard to make your submissions on time.

**Academic Honesty:** All examinations and other graded work products are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity. It states, in part: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." Note especially the definition of plagiarism: "intentionally representing the words, ideas, or sequence of ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise; failure to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information." For the remainder of the code, see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>. You may also wish to consult the Office of Student Judicial Services web page (<http://gwired.gwu.edu/osjs/Policies/>) for more information about standards for conduct as well as your rights as a student.

**Incompletes:** You must consult with me to obtain an incomplete no later than the last day of classes in the semester. At that time, you will fill out the CCAS contract for incompletes for both of us to sign, and you will submit a copy to the School Director. Please visit [http://www.gwu.edu/~ccas/faculty/files/Incomplete\\_poli0.pdf](http://www.gwu.edu/~ccas/faculty/files/Incomplete_poli0.pdf) for the complete CCAS policy on incompletes, and consult the TSPPPA Student Handbook.

**Changing Grades after Completion of Course:** No changes can be made in grades after the conclusion of the semester, other than in cases of clerical error.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** If you need extra time on exams or assignments due to a disability, let me know in the first week of class. Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should also contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

**University Counseling Center:** The University Counseling Center (UCC), 202-994-5300, offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations; confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. <http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>.

**Security:** In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

### University Policy on Religious Holidays:

1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

For other university policies on teaching, see <http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/Teaching/main.htm>.