P11.1603
Introduction to Planning: Practice and Methods
(formerly Urban Planning, Development and Decision Making)

Spring 2009
Tuesday 6:45 – 8:25 pm
Room 711, Silver Building

Instructor: Professor Zhan Guo
295 Lafayette Street, room 3038
Tel: (212) 998-7510; E-mail: zg11@nyu.edu

Course Description
In contrast to History and Theory of Planning (P11.2660), which emphasizes planning ideas, this course focuses on planning actions. It targets a variety of planning practices by governments at different levels, and introduces basic planning tools and analytic methods. Throughout this class students are expected to build up their own “tool box,” while at the same time they need to develop an analytical ability to think “out of the box” when faced with non-traditional, emerging challenges.

Although we will focus on the planning system in the U.S., students with an international interest are encouraged to explore planning practices in different culture, economic, and political contexts. Comparative perspectives are welcome in class discussion and assignments. Within the domestic framework, New York City will be often used as an example and laboratory to help students understand how planning is done and to learn the skill sets that are useful for planners.

This course is organized in four parts:

Framework of Plan Making (lectures 1-2)
This section introduces the environment where a planner works: the profession, the planning system, and the players and the process in making plans.

Development Control (lectures 3-6)
This part describes the mechanism used by governments in deciding where, when, and how development should occur. It covers best practice examples in three fields: zoning, growth management and smart growth, and site planning.

Analysis Methods (lectures 7-9)
This part introduces key analytical methods, techniques, and data sources widely used in the planning profession such as demographic and economic analysis, projection, and the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS).

Scenario Building and Decision-Making (lectures 10-13)
This section challenges students to use the tools and skilled learned in the previous sections when faced with uncertain futures. It introduces the concept of scenario building and the application of GIS and GIS-based models in visualizing development alternatives. It also discusses how to operationalize two values, social inclusion and sustainability, into the planning practice.
Course Requirement
Class attendance and active participation in discussion (25%)
Three practice assignments (30%)
Case study paper and presentation (45%)

Main Textbook:

Other References:

Course Schedule

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Guest speaker candidates (to be confirmed):
* Winston R. Von Engel, AICP (former instructor of this course)
** Rohit T. Aggarwala, Director, Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability

Week 1 Introduction (1/20)


Week 2 Plan Making (1/27)


Week 3 Zoning (2/3)


Mary E. Madden and Bill Spikowski. 2006. Place Making with Form-Based Codes, Urban Land, Sept. 2006. Urban Land Institute


**Week 4 Growth management & smart growth (2/10)**


**Week 5  Site Planning (2/17)**


**Week 6  Development control in NYC (2/24)**

Guest Speaker: PlaNYC

**Week 7  Data System (3/3)**


**Week 8  Demographic Analysis (3/10)**


Week 9  Spring Break  (3/17)

No class

Week 10  Economic Analysis  (3/24)


Week 11  Scenario Building  (3/31)


Week 12  GIS and Visualization  (4/7)


Graphics for Planners, Department of City and Regional Planning, U.C. Berkeley http://www-dcrp.ced.berkeley.edu/cp208/index.htm

Urban Data Visualization Laboratory, University of Illinois at Chicago http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/udv/education.htm


**Week 13 Measuring Inequality (4/14)**


**Week 14 Climate Change and Sustainability (4/21)**


**Week 15 Planning in an International Context (4/28)**


Bishwapriya Sanyal. 2005. “Chapter 1: Hybrid Planning Cultures: The Search for the Global Culture Commons” (3-28); “Chapter 9: Contending Planning Cultures and the Urban Built Environment in Mexico City” (193-222); “Chapter 14: U.S. Planning Culture under Pressure: Major Elements Endure and Flourish in the Face of Crises” (331-358) in *Comparative Planning Cultures*. New York, NY: Routledge


**Week 16 Final Presentation (5/5)**
Week 17  Final Presentation (5/12)