This course is an introduction to the fundamental knowledge base and skills of an urban planner. The course will cover subjects important to a planner’s day-to-day work, including practical aspects, such as data sources and maps, and background knowledge, such as public policies, zoning and law. We will use New York City as an example and laboratory to understand what an urban planner does and how this skill set and knowledge base is used.

This is a great time for progressive urban planners; urban centers are now seen as vibrant, diverse and desirable places to live, work and visit and are seeing a wave of revitalization not seen in many decades. Planners are now being challenged not only to use long-established strategies to deal with the traditional issues of social equity, affordable housing and economic development but to think ‘out of the box’ to also deal with the global issue of climate change. The economic crash of September, 2008, has temporarily slowed or stopped some of the tremendous growth of the past few years and it offers a chance to ‘catch up’, to learn from the past boom and to think and plan to address climate change. This is a time of opportunity to re-think our past policies and practices and to devise new, smarter, safer solutions to old and new problems. This course will cover both the time-honored strategies as well as the latest ideas in the planning field.

Course Requirements:
- Class Assignments and Readings
- Project Presentation
- Midterm
- In-Class Participation
- Attendance (including three labs and class field trip)

This semester, our section (Section 1) of Introduction to Planning will be coordinated with section 2, taught by Prof. Zhan Guo; we will share three computer lab sessions on Economic and Population analysis methods and on GIS, as well as a field trip (see table at the end of this syllabus. Professor Guo will also guest-lecture in our section once during the semester.
Important Dates:
September 24: Lab 1: Census and Demographic Analysis
October 3 or October 11: Class Field Trip
October 20: Take-home Exam
October 22: Lab 2: Economic Analysis
October 27: Take-home Exam Due
November 19: Lab 3: GIS
December 1 and 8: Project Presentations with Prof. Guo’s Section 2

Class Field Trip
There will be a class field trip to a New York City neighborhood on a weekend day. In order to keep the number of participants on the field trip manageable, we have planned two trips on two separate weekend days; you may choose either Saturday, October 3, or Sunday, October 11. Prof. Guo and I will divide up our sections between the two dates. The purpose of the trip is to learn about how urban planning policies have been implemented in New York City and will be led by the instructor and either a local planner or community developer.

Computer Labs
There will be three computer labs on Economic and Population Analysis and on GIS led by Prof. Guo on three Thursday evenings (see table at end of syllabus). The labs will be an introduction on how to perform economic and population analyses and how to produce maps using GIS.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The City Reader, LeGates, Richard and Fredric Stout, ed’s. Routledge Urban Reader Series
plaNYC, NYC Office of the Mayor, 2007, and update reports (www.nyc.gov/planc)
Recommended additional Textbooks/Readings:
The Zoning Handbook, New York City Department of City Planning, January 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

Current Planning Issue, Discussion and Summary
You are asked to follow a planning issue in the media (newspapers, websites) during the semester. This is issue can be anywhere and it can be a project (e.g.
global warming, eminent domain, mortgage crisis, development project in a particular area of a city). Please be prepared to discuss what you have read in the past week at the beginning of the class. A one- to two-page summary of the articles you have read is due at the end of the semester.

**Semester Project, Presentation**
You will be divided into teams and each team is to pick a large project requiring discretionary public approval, study it, and present it as their own at the end of the semester. Examples of such projects might be Columbia University’s expansion, the city’s plan for the revitalization of Coney Island, or similar.

**Public Meeting, Attendance**
You must attend at least one public meeting on a land use issue of either a community board, borough president, the City Planning Commission or the City Council. A one-page summary of your experience at the meeting is due by the end of the semester (can be handed in early).

**Schedule**

1. **September 8, 2009**
   Course Introduction
   - Schedule
   - Lectures, Discussion
   - Readings
   - Class Trip
   - Assignments, Exams

   The City, Global
   Urban Form

2. **September 15, 2009**
   The City, New York City
   - NYC Planning Milestones
   - Population

   Reading Assignment:
   - **Green Book**: Chapters 1, “Introduction: Planning for people and places”, and 2, “Making Plans”;
   - **City Reader**: Mumford “What is a City?”
   - **plaNYC**: “Introduction” (from website or book)
3. September 22, 2009
Public policies I
   Environmental, Smart Growth, Sustainability Planning - plaNYC
   Housing, - evolution of housing programs, - The New Marketplace, Part 1

Reading Assignment, Environmental:
Website or book: plaNYC: - Land, - Water, - Transportation, - Air + Climate Change;
Green Book: Chapter 15, “Growth management”
City Reader, Wheeler, “Planning Sustainable and Livable Cities”
Levy: Chapter 14, “Growth Management, Smart Growth, and Sustainable Development”

September 24, 2009
Lab 1: Census & demographics

4. September 29, 2009
Public policies II
   Housing, - evolution of housing programs, - The New Marketplace, Part 2

Reading Assignment, Housing: Website, NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) www.nyc.gov/hpd: The New Housing Marketplace, Mayor Bloomberg's Affordable Housing Plan

October 3, 2009
Class field trip 1. Details to be provided.

5. October 6, 2009
Public policies III
   Economic Development, - BIDs, ICIP, economic development initiatives

Reading Assignment, Economic Development:
Levy: Chapter 13, “Economic Development Planning”
Website, NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) www.nycedc.com: - Available Projects, - Real Estate, - Industrial and Commercial Incentives Programs (ICIP)
Website, NYC Dept. of Small Business Services (SBS) www.nyc.gov/sbs: - Business Improvement Districts, - Industrial Business Zones, - Empire Zones, - Real Estate Location Guide
6. October 13, 2009
Public policies IV
    Urban design, - new urbanism, - plazas

Reading Assignment, Urban Design:
Website, Project for Public Spaces, www.pps.org: - Downtowns, - Mixed-Use Developments, - Place Making in New York, - The Big Apple Hall of Shame
Green Book: Chapter 13, “Urban design”

October 11, 2009
Class field trip 2. Details to be provided.

7. October 20, 2009
Zoning
    Introduction, Legal basis
    1916 and 1961 NYC Zoning Resolution
    Current zoning and future trends

Reading Assignment:
Green Book: Chapter 14, “Zoning and subdivision regulations”.

►Take-home Midterm exam

October 22, 2009
Lab 2: Economic Analysis

8. October 27, 2009
Transportation Planning

Reading Assignment:
Levy: Chapter 12: Transportation Planning

►Take-home Midterm exam due

Area Analyses and Techniques
    Data - land use, - height, - condition, - building type, - population
    Sources of data
    Types of maps
Reading Assignment:
Green Book: Chapter 3, “Planning in the Information Age”

11. November 10, 2009
Environmental Review
   NEPA, SEQRA, CEQR, EAS, EIS

Reading Assignment:
Green Book: Chapter 8, “Environmental Policy”

12. November 17, 2009
Public Review, community planning
   ULURP
   197(a) Plans

Reading Assignment:
Website, Pratt Center for Community Development, www.prattcenter.net: – Community Planning
Green Book: Chapter 17, “Building Consensus”
City Reader: Arnstein, “A Ladder of Citizen Participation”

November 19, 2009
Lab 3: GIS

13. November 24, 2009
Planning Legal Issues
   Eminent Domain, urban renewal
Current Planning Issues
   Discussion

Reading Assignment:
Class Handout/ Posting on Blackboard

December 1, 2009
Project Presentations I

December 8, 2009
Project Presentations II
**Schedule for lectures, computer labs, and field trips**

Lectures will meet on the following dates (room locations listed on first page); particularly important dates are in bold:

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<th>Tuesday (Guo) 9:00 – 10:40am</th>
<th>Tuesday (Von Engel) 6:45 – 8:25pm</th>
<th>Thursdays 8:35 – 9:35pm</th>
<th>Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm</th>
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Room locations:
- Silver 709
- Silver 501
- Silver 404
- Library & Tisch Building