P11.1603 (Section 2)
Introduction to Planning: Practice and Methods

Fall 2009
Tuesday 9:00 – 10:40 am
Room 709, 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
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
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
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). This section also challenges students to use the tools and skilled learned in the previous sections when faced with uncertain futures. It introduces the application of GIS and GIS-based models in visualizing development alternatives.

Sustainable Development
It also discusses how to operationalize two values, social inclusion and sustainability, into the planning practice.
Course Requirement  
Attendance (lecture, lab, and the field trip) (10%)  
Three assignments (30%)  
Three lab sessions (30%)  
Project presentation (30%)  

Textbook:  

Important Dates:  
September 24: Lab 1: Census and Demographic Analysis  
October 3 or October 11: Class Field Trip  
October 22: Lab 2: Economic Analysis  
November 19: Lab 3: GIS  
December 1 and 8: Project Presentations with Prof. Angel’s Section 1  

Course Schedule  

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<td>9/8</td>
<td>Introduction to Urban Planning</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Comprehensive Planning: Process and Politics</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Zoning and Land Use Control</td>
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<td>Growth Management &amp; Smart Growth</td>
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<td>NYC Land-use control (Guest Speaker)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Urban Design and Site Planning</td>
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<td>Economic Development Planning</td>
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<td>Planning for Housing</td>
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<td>Transportation Planning and Land Use</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>Planning in an International Context (Guest Speaker)</td>
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<td>New Topics in Planning</td>
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<td>Final presentation</td>
<td>#1 and #3 due</td>
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<td>12/8</td>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
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Week 1 (September 8)  Introduction to Urban Planning
(course structure, history and types of planning, the profession)

Required Reading (61 pages)
From the textbook (48 pages)
  Chapter 1: An Overview
  Chapter 3: The History of Planning: Part I
  Chapter 4: The History of Planning: Part II
From the Blackboard

Questions:
1. What is urban planning?
2. Why do we need urban planning?

Assignment #1: Tracking a Current Planning Issue
You are asked to follow a planning issue in the media (newspaper, websites) during the semester. This issue can be anywhere and it can be a project (e.g. global warming, eminent domain, mortgage crisis, development 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.

Week 2 (September 15)  Comprehensive Planning: Process and Politics

Required Reading (56 pages)
From the textbook
  Chapter 8: The Comprehensive Plan (12 pages)
From the Blackboard
  2. John Friedman. A Response to Altshuler: Comprehensive Planning as a Process (3 pages)

Questions:
1. Why do we need a comprehensive plan?
2. Are Altshuler’s critiques to comprehensive planning in the 1960s still relevant today?
   Please read the Baltimore case to answer this question.

Week 3 (September 22)  Understanding Zoning

Required Reading (64 pages)
From the textbook
  Chapter 9: The Tools of Land-use Planning (31 pages)
From the Blackboard
1. Case Study: Zoning Restriction on Social Services for the Poor: the Case of Hartford, Connecticut (22 pages)

Questions
1. What are the objectives of zoning?
2. What are the limitations of zoning?
3. Read the High Line case in the textbook. Do you agree with Pruetz and Standridge regarding their 10 success factors of TDR?

Assignment #2: Zoning regulation over your residence
Find the zoning ordinance over the property you currently live on. What are the permitted use, lot size requirements, bulk regulation, and parking standard for the property? What are the existing conditions? On one page, answer these questions and include a small zoning map that only shows the block where the property is located (you can use print screen function to copy the online map).

Zoning map can be found from NYC Department of City Planning website http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/zone/zonedex.shtml

Residential zoning requirements can be found from http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/zone/zh_tables.pdf#r1-r3

Week 4 (September 29)  Growth Management and Land-use Planning

Required Reading (61 pages)
From the textbook
Chapter 14: Growth Management, Smart Growth, and Sustainable Development (23 pages)

From the Blackboard
1. Case Study: Portland’s Urban Growth Boundary and Housing Prices: the Debate (20 pages)
2. Nicholas and Nelson. Determining the Appropriate Development Impact Fee Using the Rational Nexus Test (12 pages)
3. Townsend. Development Impact Fees: A fair Share Formula for Success (6 pages, a case study of Rochester, IL)

Questions
1. What is the rationale behind growth management?
2. Who bears the cost of growth management?
3. Do you think the impact fee formula adopted by Rochester, IL, meets the requirements described in Nicholas and Nelson’s paper?
Week 5  (October 6th)  Land-use Control in New York City

Guest Speaker: Winston R. Von Engel, AICP, Senior Planner, NYC Department of City Planning

Required Reading
- Commission Meetings
- City Planning Commission Reports (please check one example)
- Environmental Review
- Application Status Reports (please check one example)
- Community-Based Planning
- The Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP)

Assignment #3: Attending a community meeting
Attend a community meeting during the fall semester. On one page, describe what happened in the meeting? What are the discussion topics? What is the result of the discussion?

Week 6  (October 13)  Urban Design and Site Planning

Required Reading (44 pages)
From the textbook
  Chapter 10: Urban Design (31 pages)
From the Blackboard
  1. Case Study: Far West Midtown Redevelopment in Manhattan (11 pages)

Questions:
1. Why do we need urban design?
2. What is good urban design? Please list the important criteria
3. What are other considerations (politics, economics, infrastructure, etc.) behind an urban design proposal?
4. When read the far west midtown case, please consider:
   - Which plan (Mayor’s vs. Borough President’s) would you like to support?
   - Are the estimates of the infrastructure impacts of the two proposals realistic?
   - Are the financial plans of the two proposals realistic?

Week 7  (October 20)  Economic Development Planning

Required Reading (24 pages)
From the textbook
  Chapter 13: Economic Development Planning (16 pages)
From the Blackboard
1. Case Study: United Airlines Maintenance Center (8 pages)
2. Financing economic development (TBD)

Questions:
1. How should planners plan for economic development?
2. Do you think governmental incentives would work?
3. How to evaluate the benefit of economic development planning?

Week 8  (October 27) Environmental Planning and Justice

Guest Speaker: TBD

Week 9  (November 3) Planning for Affordable housing:

Required Reading (62 pages)
From the textbook
   Chapter 7: Social Issues (page 108-113, 5 pages)
   Chapter 11: Urban Renewal and Community Development (page 217-223, 7 pages)
From the Blackboard
   2. Calavita et al. Inclusionary Zoning in California (29 pages)
   3. Massachusetts 40B or New Jersey Fair Housing Act (TBD)

Questions:
1. Why do planners encourage the dispersion of affordable housing?
2. Does spatial dispersion mean racial integration?
3. Will racial spatial integration benefit the minority?
4. What are the planning tools to promote the spatial racial integration?

Week 10  (November 10) Transportation Planning and Land Use

Required Reading (31 pages)
From the textbook
   Chapter 12: Transportation Planning (21 pages)
From the Blackboard
   1. Case Study: Vancouver’s Livable Regional Plan (10 pages)
   2. TBD

Questions:
1. What are the connections between the development patterns and transportation?
2. Is the compact development envisioned in the Vancouver Plan desirable and attainable?
3. Can the right development pattern encourage the right travel decisions?
4. On which issues that transportation planning and land use planning are mostly disconnected?

Week 11 (November 17) Planning in International Context

Guest Speaker: TBD

Required Reading (40 pages)
From the textbook
    Chapter 18: Planning in Other Nations (40 pages)

Week 12 (November 24) New Topics in Planning
    (Energy, Climate Change, and Health)

TBD

Practice: Calculate your own carbon footprint

Week 13 (December 1) Final Presentation

Week 14 (December 8) Final Presentation
### 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 Vogel) 6:45 – 8:25pm</th>
<th>Thursdays 8:35 – 9:35pm</th>
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