

## UAP 5374 Urban Planning Theory and Practice – Fall 2005.

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Course Time: T, H 2:00-3:15  
Location: Arch Annex 114

### Summary

This core course in the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program at Virginia Tech provides a survey of the planning profession in the United States, describes the planning process, and reviews selected planning theories. Topics addressed include urban form and function, planning history, comprehensive planning, zoning, subdivision regulation, land development, transportation planning, housing and community development, growth management, and the New Urbanism. The AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is reviewed and selected planning theories are summarized, including synoptic or rational planning, incrementalism, mixed scanning, advocacy planning, transactive planning and social learning, communicative planning, and collaborative planning. Students will have opportunities to improve 3 vital skills required of successful planners: public presentation, inter-personal team working skills, and technical research and writing. Students will work in self-selected teams to prepare a planning report on a specific local project. The course is run largely as a seminar with brief lectures and presentations. Class participation is required of every student.

### Reading Assignments

All assigned reading materials are posted on the course Blackboard ([www.learn.edu](http://www.learn.edu)). Reading assignments vary in length depending on the session. Everyone is expected to read each assignment and be prepared to discuss in class. This is no course text book.

### Course Requirements and Grading

1. Seven short writing assignments, mostly memoranda, to help frame class discussions and presentations: 50%
2. Final Planning Project Report: 30%
3. Presentations and Class Participation: 20%

### Writing Assignments

There are 7 short writing assignments due at various times in the semester (See “Schedule”, below. Most of these are to be formatted as an “office memorandum” of 1-2 pages in length (See “Format for Professional Memoranda”).

### Oral Presentations

The ability to give a well-organized and concise oral presentation is a critical planning skill, and students will be presenting something every week. Depending upon final class size. We hope to give everyone an opportunity to deliver two presentations which will be critiqued and graded (See “Oral Presentation Guidelines”).

### Planning Project Reports

In small (up to 5 person) teams, you may self-select from one of the following projects to prepare a planning report critically evaluating a proposed land use or development in Blacksburg.

1. South Main Street PUD (concept design plan)
2. Formulate plan delineating growth boundaries to promote in-fill development for Blacksburg, 2010, 2020, 2030.
3. Village at Toms Creek subdivision development – smart growth?
4. Shadowlake Village Co-Housing project
5. Development proposal (TBA)
6. Development proposal (TBA)

### Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Session	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	8/23	Introductions, Why be a Planner? Contemporary Issues in Urban Planning	Read: “Does Planning Need the Plan” by Michael Neuman for first class meeting
2	8/25	Urban Form and Function	Read: Ellis, “History of Cities and City Planning.” Assignment 1 – Student presentations
3	8/30	U.S. Planning History 1: 1870-1900	Read: Peterson, <i>The Birth of City Planning in the United States, 1840-1917</i> , chapters 2,3, and 4.
4	9/1	U.S. Planning History 2: 1900-present	Read: “Historical Development” (pp. 29-59). Assignment 2. Benchmarks in Planning History and Jurisprudence - presentations
5	9/6	The Planning Process and the Comprehensive Plan	Read: (1) City Development Plans (pp. 164-181, required); (2) Anderson, “The Planning Process” (3) Case Study – Visit and tour the Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan, (website: <a href="http://www.blacksburg.gov/comp_plan">http://www.blacksburg.gov/comp_plan</a> )
6	9/8	Comprehensive Plans around the Country	Assignment 3: Comparative review of municipal comp. plans in U.S. - Case study presentations
7	9/13	Implementing the Comprehensive Plan: Zoning, Subdivision Regulations, and Capital Improvement Programs	Read: (1) Meck, et al. “Zoning and Subdivision Regulations”; and (2) Reed, “How to Red-Pencil Preliminary Subdivision Plans.”
8	9/15	Land Development	Joyce Graham?

		Planning	Read: (1) Solnit, "Working with the Developer and the Project." (2) Reed, "How to Red-Pencil Site Plans"
9	9/20	Transportation Planning	Read: (1) "Transportation Planning" (2) Case Study- Review "Olney Terminal Development Plan," Philadelphia
10	9/22	Housing and Community Development Planning	Read: (1) Housing Planning and Policy; (2) "Community Development"
11	9/27	Land Use and Environmental Planning	Read: (1) Randolph, "Land Use Planning for Environmental Management" Assignment 4 (due in class) and Presentations
12	9/29	Urban Sprawl and Growth Management	Read: (1) Galster et al., "Wrestling Sprawl to the Ground;" (2) Chapter 15, "Growth Management"
13	10/4	Growth Management Strategies Around the Country	Assignment 5: Comparative review of growth management strategies -Case study presentations
14	10/6	Neo-traditionalism and New Urbanism	Read: (1) "Charter of the New Urbanism" and related websites; (2) Ellis, "The New Urbanism: Critiques and Rebuttals" (3) Etzioni, "Communitarian Solutions"
15	10/11	Planning Ethics	Read: (1) "AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" and related commentary; (2) Howe, "Professional Roles and the Public Interest in Planning"
16	10/13	No Class	Work on Team Planning Projects
17	10/18	No Class	Work on Team Planning Projects
18	10/20	Case Studies in Successful Urban Planning I	Read: (1) Bunnell, Chattanooga, Tennessee; (2) Bunnell, Providence, RI Assignment 6 Presentations on Chattanooga and Providence
19	10/25	Planning Theory: Overview of the Domain	Read: (1) Hudson (2) Friedmann (3) Sandercock
20	10/27	Case Studies in Successful Urban Planning II	Video – Holding Ground – the Rebirth of Dudley Street

21	11/1	Planning Theory – First Generation: Rational Planning, Incrementalism, and Mixed Scanning	Read: (1) Banfield (2) Lindblom, (3) Etzioni
22	11/3	Planning Theory - Second Generation: Advocacy Planning,	Read: (1) Davidoff (2) Heskin (3) Krumholz
23	11/8	Planning Theory – Third Generation: Transactive Planning, Communicative Rationality, and Social Learning,	Read: (1) Forester, (2) Healy, (3) Key Points in Communicative Planning
24	11/10	Planning Theory: Collaborative Planning	Read: (1) Gray, (2) Wondollech and Yaffee, (3) The Practice of Democracy-Placemaking
25	11/15	The Future of Planning: Managerial vs. Critical Planning in pursuit of livable places	Read: (1) The Practice of Democracy – Placemaking, Assignment 7: Intellectual identity statement
26	11/17	Planning theory in practice: The case of the Heritage Park and Natural Area, Blacksburg.	Read: (1) Browder, “Contesting Public Space for Nature.” (2) Case Study – Master Plan for Heritage Community Park and Natural Area. Assignment: Visit Heritage Park, take a walk to the Tom’s Creek (allow 90 minutes)
	11/21-25	Thanksgiving Break	
27	11/29	Student project presentations	
28	12/1	Student project presentations	
29	12/6	Student project presentations	