Course Description

Planning theory has been called the “philosophical conscience” of the city planner. This course explores traditional and contemporary views of city planning as a body of knowledge. The purpose of the course is to engage students in a form of “soul searching”—rethinking the reasons for city planning, and the knowledge base that underpins the profession. By understanding theory, planners will gain a better sense of their professional identity. They will consider why city planning is both important and unique. The course reviews original planning theory and debates about its justification. It then explores theoretical terrain in two important new areas: sustainable cities, and globalization.

Textbooks (all required)


Course Requirements

1. Reading and active participation. Complete all readings on the date assigned, and be prepared to actively participate in the seminar discussions. EVERYONE will be expected to contribute ONE original idea/thought in each class meeting.

2. Discussion leadership. On selected dates during the semester, groups of students will be assigned as discussion leaders. On those dates, the leaders will be responsible for enriching the discussion with a short review of the reading material, and the creation of questions or activities that generate a larger class discussion.

3. Short paper. Students are encouraged to prepare a short paper (5 pages typed) expanding on either a topic they spoke about in class, or an idea generated by one of the films or slide lectures made in class. The paper will receive extra credit if well done.

5. Exams. There will be a midterm and final exam, both in essay form. Each will cover the material from one half of the class.

CP 640 Urban Planning Theory
Grades

Final grades will be based on:  
Midterm exam:  50%  
Final exam:  50%  
Paper/class discussion: extra credit (10%)

COURSE OUTLINE/ READINGS
(Note: readings listed by author/editors, page numbers)

Week 1.  Aug 30.  Introduction to course

Week 2  Sept.6  PLANNING THEORY
Foundations/history
READ: Campbell & Fainstein, pp. 1-15, 19-80

Week 3  Sept. 13  Purpose of planning: debate

Week 4.  Sept. 20  Planning approaches.
READ: Campbell & Fainstein, pp. 169-236

Week 5.  Sept. 27  Culture, gender, race and city planning
READ: Campbell & Fainstein, pp 333-407
Wheeler and Beatley, pp. 183-196

Week 6.  Oct.4  Community Planning critiques
READ: Campbell & Fainstein, pp. 259-329

Week 7  Oct. 11  MIDTERM EXAM

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SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Week 8.  Oct. 18
Origins of sustainability concept: equity/advocacy
READ: Wheeler & Beatley, pp. 1-79.

Week 9.  Oct. 25
Land use, urban design, transport
READ: Wheeler and Beatley, pp. 87-136

Week 10  Nov. 1
Sustainable development in international perspective
READ: Wheeler & Beatley, 315-373.

Week 11  Nov. 8
Ecology, energy, green architecture
READ: Wheeler & Beatley, 137-180; 253-278

Week 12  Nov. 15
Globalization I: economic/cultural
READ: Abrahamson, ch. 1,2., 4, 8

Week 13. Nov. 22
Globalization II, economic, cultural
READ: Abrahamson, ch. 3,5.

Week 14  Nov. 29
Globalization III: immigration, inequality, global culture
READ: Abrahamson, ch.,6,7.

Week 15  Dec. 6
Summary

FINAL EXAM