University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Department of Urban & Regional Planning

PLAN 310: Introduction to Planning  
Section 2: CRN 80322

Course Syllabus

Fall 2015  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.  
Saunders 119

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Associate Professor

Introduction

This course is an introduction to the practice of city and regional planning. It begins by explaining the rationale for planning or why planning is needed and how it emerged and evolved in American history. It describes the legal basis for certain types of planning, the role of politics in planning, and the various roles played by planners and other stakeholders in the planning process. It describes several subfields of planning, including land use, housing and transportation planning, urban design, environmental and energy planning, and planning for economic and community development. It introduces principles of smart growth, sustainability and resilience to cope with resource shortages and natural disasters. The course emphasizes planning in Hawaii, but will also provide examples of planning from cities on the U.S. mainland and in other countries. The course provides an opportunity for students to explore the nature of the planning profession and whether they wish to pursue a career.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will: (1) understand the history and context of contemporary urban planning, the different issues and approaches in planning practice, and the roles played by planners in urban and regional development; and 2) further develop their written and oral communication skills.

Prerequisites

This course is intended for students who have junior or senior standing.

Requirements and Grading Policy

PLAN 310 is a Writing Intensive (WI) course that combines lectures on a variety of subjects, videos about cities and interviews with prominent local planners, class discussions, and student presentations. The lectures will be based in part on the assigned readings listed in the attached Class Schedule. Course grades will be based on the following requirements:
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written assignments (5)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written proposal</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral report</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>500</td>
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Here are the minimum points needed to earn the term grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>488</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>350</td>
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<td>300</td>
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The purpose of the five written assignments is to further develop your knowledge and skills of urban planning. Students will give a brief oral presentation of the fifth assignment.

The specific requirements of each assignment will be explained by the instructor later in the course. Besides satisfying the specific requirements of a given assignment, all written work should be logical and persuasive. Language, grammar, and organization of your work will also be evaluated, because they are important to professional planning practice. In general, assignments should be typed and double-spaced with a readable font (e.g., 12 point) on 8.5 x 11 inch, plain white paper with one-inch margins. Footnotes and references should be completely documented and should follow a consistent, conventional format. Each student will also give a 15- to 20-minute oral presentation of their research paper. Presentations will be graded on the quality of your communication and graphic skills. Please read the following articles in the Course Reader before submitting your paper and giving your oral presentation:


Please confer with the instructor if a written assignment must be submitted late due to illness or comparable reasons. Without permission, late assignments will be penalized 20
percent of the maximum value of the assignment for each business day that the assignment is late. This policy is intended to be fair to students who submitted their assignments on time.

Because the class size is small, students are expected to participate in class discussions and to stay current in the readings. Besides attending class and listening to the discussion, students will be expected to voice their opinions and answer questions. Students who participate regularly in class discussions are more likely to receive a better grade for the course. If you need to miss a class, please ask a classmate to pick up handouts distributed in class. If that is not possible, you can retrieve them from the instructor.

The final examination is comprehensive; it covers the entire course. The examination will consist of multiple-choice and short-essay questions. There will be no mid-term examination.

Incomplete grades will be given only to students who have compelling reasons, such as extended illness or comparable excuses. Insufficient time to complete work is not an adequate reason, since time management is an important academic and job skill. Please notify the instructor whenever you must be absent from classes for an extended period due to illness or travel.

Research Paper

The purpose of the research paper is to enable students to explore a particular urban planning issue in more depth. The topic of your paper should be related to the subject of the course as defined in the textbook and other assigned readings. Confer with the instructor if you need advice. Then write a three-page, typewritten memorandum that briefly describes your topic, the purpose and scope of your research, and why the topic is important and relevant to this course. The memorandum should give a preliminary list of 5-10 references and/or names of people to be interviewed about your topic, if necessary. These people should have expertise on your proposed topic. The memorandum is due on the date indicated in the Class Schedule.

Each student will have about 15-20 minutes to give an oral report of his or her research paper during the last week of class. The report should identify the questions that you are trying to answer, the method you used to answer these questions, and your findings. Students may use the classroom computer and projector in presenting their oral reports and should be prepared to answer questions from the audience. Refer to the following article in the Course Reader for ideas on how to improve your public speaking skills:


In general, the length of your research paper should be commensurate with the scope of the topic as you define it. The recommended length of this assignment, which includes cover page, tables, figures, and references, is 16-20 pages. Indicate the sources of all tables and figures if they are borrowed from published literature. Papers should be typewritten, double spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch plain bond paper with one-inch margins. Footnotes and references should be completely documented and should follow a consistent and conventional format. Read the
following article in the Course Reader, if you need suggestions on how to improve your writing skills:


As a general rule, please write clearly and concisely. Avoid jargon and proofread your paper several times before submitting it. Do not plagiarize! Include appropriate citations when citing someone else’s work. Read the UH Manoa code of academic integrity and student conduct at these websites:

http://www.hawaii.edu/eli/students/plagiarism.html
http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm

The paper and oral report are due on the date indicated in the attached Class Schedule.

Office Hours

My office is located in Saunders 107A. My regular office hours are from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Mondays and from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If these hours are inconvenient, please make an appointment. You can reach me by telephone (808-956-8684), facsimile (808-956-6870), or e-mail (flachsba@hawaii.edu). Please do not submit a written assignment as an attachment to an e-mail message.

Readings

Readings include a textbook and various readings from a Course Reader as listed below.

Textbook

Most of the readings come from the required textbook shown below. It can be ordered from Amazon.com. This book is not in the UH Bookstore.


Course Reader

Listed below are several articles in the Course Reader (CR). It provides literature on urban and regional planning that is not in the textbook. Articles in the Course Reader appear in alphabetical order according to the lead author’s last name. You will need some of these articles to complete homework assignments. These articles and other relevant course materials will be posted on Laulima at the course webpage: http://laulima.hawaii.edu.


