Overview
Planning theory is an eclectic body of ideas that includes works from various disciplines as well as those that synthesize works across disciplinary boundaries in a way that informs the various fields of planning and planning practice. We study theory to help us understand and conceptualize a number of central issues within the field. These include:

- Processes of formation of cities, regions and nation-states
- Meanings, forms and dynamics of power and powerlessness
- Structure and agency regarding the states, institutions, groups and individuals in development and change
- Roles and practices of planners at the intersection of the state and civil society
- Ethics, morality and ideas of justice as they apply to planning dilemmas
- Social conflict and the mediation and negotiation of difference
- Planning for uncertainty with social, technological and environmental change

Of course, no one course will equip you with the scholarly background to address all of these issues. However, this course is designed to immerse you in a combination of books that individually and collectively paint broad brushstrokes across all of these topics. They were selected based on several criteria, including the following:

- Major thinkers that have impacted across the social science disciplines
- Planning theorists who have had a major impact on the field of planning
- Methodologists who have posed new ways of approaching scholarly inquiry applicable to planning-related research

The works represent ways of interpreting social life and have implications for social science research. Class discussions will be structured to apply theoretical ideas to planning possibilities, issues and problems.

The objectives of the course are as follows:
1. Gain familiarity with the ideas of major thinkers that have shaped planning thought or practice
2. Understand various and changing approaches to scholarly inquiry and their implications for studies in the field of planning
3. Develop analytical capabilities to critique, compare and synthesize theoretical ideas and understand their implications for planning issues at hand
4. Learn to read for theoretical argument and develop tolerance to sift through sometimes dense theoretical literature
5. Begin to apply theoretical ideas to your respective dissertation projects.
Grading:

Weekly written summaries and oral presentations (variable pages): 50 percent
Weekly written reflection on application to your study topic (1-2 pages): 50 percent

We will be covering one book per week, which is a heavy reading load. So to make the load manageable, we will be doing the following:

1. Everyone is to read the introductory and concluding chapters of each book
2. Each student will be assigned different chapters of each book for weekly summaries and presentations
3. Everyone should try to skim the chapters they are not writing summaries for
4. Post written summaries and reflection papers on the Laulima website at least one day prior to our class meetings
5. Present oral summaries in class and be prepared for discussion

Written summaries should:
• Clearly and succinctly present the main idea or argument for each chapter
• Include definitions of major concepts and ideas
• Lay out the logic of the argument so that it is clear how the author thinks
• Include your questions and/or critique at the end of the summary

Written reflection on application to your study topic should:
• Contemplate how the ideas contained in the reading help spark ideas for your dissertation or thesis research
• Include both substantive and methodological musings (not that they are ever disconnected considerations)

Instructions for using Laulima:

Please upload your summaries and reflections each week by midnight on Sunday night before Monday’s class meeting on that author. You can follow the steps below:

1. Go to: https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal and log in using your UH username and password.
2. You will see a row of tabs across the top with course numbers; click on the PLAN 602 tab.
3. A sidebar will appear.
4. To post your weekly summaries, click on “Resources”; then click on the desired author’s folder; click on “Add” for the appropriate folder; a pulldown menu will appear and select “Upload Files”.
5. Select the file from your computer that you want to upload; then click the “Upload files now” button
6. To post your weekly reflections begin with the sidebar choice of “Discussion and Private Messages”; use the LAST NAME of the author in the subject line (topic) and paste your 1-2 single spaced page reflection in the message box.
**Description of the readings and topics:**

First, we will do a quick in-class orientation using the ideas of Thomas Kuhn in his landmark work, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Please peruse the materials on the Laulima course site for information and background concerning Kuhn and the contributions of this book to our understanding of the changing nature of understanding. At the first class meeting, will also be viewing 2 episodes of The Examined Life as described here:

- **Episode 14. Does the mind shape the world?** examines Immanuel Kant's position that we interpret the world through a priori constructs of the mind, as well as later philosophers' views of how these constructs may vary among languages and cultures.
- **Episode 15. How does science add to knowledge?** highlights the classic, Baconian inductivist view that grew out of the Scientific Revolution and the challenges posed by Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn. Includes consideration of Kuhn's views about the role that paradigm theories play in scientific revolutions.

We begin the readings with three of the most influential planning scholars who have shaped the way we think about planning and planning scholarship—Manuel Castells, David Harvey and Jane Jacobs, beginning with the most recent work by Manuel Castells entitled, *Communication Power*. Then we take a look at some of the most cited social theorists across the disciplines that have provided theoretical foundations for many writings in planning theory. They include Henri Lefebvre, Jurgen Habermas, Michel Foucault, Michel de Certeau and Amartya Sen. We follow them with works addressing methodological approach, with Anthony Giddens on interpretative sociologies along with the more recent articulation of decolonizing methodologies by Linda Tuhiwai Smith. We finish up with two books that I believe speak to some of the student interests in the department. These are Benedict Anderson’s *Imagined Communities* and Archon Fung’s *Empowered Participation*. I am open to substitutions if there are books that the class would like to swap out so please share any suggestions you have with the class. I have also listed additional readings for consideration in case you are interested in further readings.

I also suggest that you do a quick read of the Wikipedia entry for each author before reading their book. This easily accessed profile will give you a brief orientation to the author’s life and, in some cases, the importance of their contribution within a larger historic context.
Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: Martin Luther King Holiday
Week 3: Manuel Castells: Communication Power (2009)
Week 4: David Harvey: Condition of Postmodernity
Week 5: Jane Jacobs: Death and Life of Great American Cities
Week 6: Presidents’ Day Holiday
Week 7: Henri Lefebvre: The Production of Space
Week 8: Habermas: Theory of Communicative Action
Week 9: Foucault: Discipline and Punish
Week 10: Michel de Certeau: The Practice of Everyday Life

SPRING BREAK

Week 11: Amartya Sen: The Idea of Justice
Week 13: Linda Tuhiwai Smith: Decolonizing Methodologies
Week 14: Benedict Anderson: Imagined Communities
Week 15: Archon Fung: Empowered Participation
Week 16: _____________________________ (book or synthetic activity related to your theses or dissertations)

Additional readings for consideration:
Erving Goffman: Frame Analysis
Leoni Sandercock: Cosmopolis II
Aihwa Ong: Flexible Citizenship
Elinor Ostrom: Governing the Commons
Robert Putnam: Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community
Immanuel Kant: Perpetual Peace, and Other Essays on Politics, History, and Morals
Edward Said: Orientalism (see also Valerie Kennedy’s ES: A Critical Introduction)
Iris Marion Young: Inclusion and Democracy
Bruno Latour: Politics of Nature
Paulo Freire: Pedagogy of the Oppressed
Mancur Olson: The Logic of Collective Action