

PA 320 INTRODUCTION TO URBAN PLANNING

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CLASS: WEDNESDAYS 4:00 PM - 6:40 PM

OFFICE HOURS (PFSA 176)
WEDNESDAYS 2:00-3:40 PM

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INTRODUCTION

Urban planning impacts the lives of everyone on a daily basis. These impacts range from relatively insignificant to life defining. Urban planning has evolved over time, from the earliest evidence of human settlement to today and far into the future. It always has been an essential ingredient in the determination of the successes and failures of our urban areas.

The issues that confront urban planning are complex and challenging: How has urbanization and planning evolved? Does local government structure enable effective urban planning? Who influences the shape of urban plans? What is a general plan? What are the emerging trends in the urban planning? Given the regional scope and interconnectivity of many planning issues, can urban plans effectively resolve key issues? What are the regional approaches to the challenges of the development of urban areas? These questions, and many more, will shape the discussions that will occur during the course of this semester.

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an introduction to urban planning in the United States and to examine these questions, and others, confronting urban planning. This introduction will be accomplished in several ways: (1) reading assignments and lectures that will give you a solid background to the subject area; (2) possible guest presentations about urban planning in the San Diego region to illustrate and expand your understanding of current planning; and (3) a report on a SANDAG meeting which you will prepare that will focus on an existing urban planning activity in greater depth.

REQUIREMENTS

- (1) It will be important for you to attend all scheduled classes. The exam will not only cover reading assignments but also supplemental information presented in lectures, presentations, and additional materials that you will not find in the readings.
- (2) You are expected to have completed your reading assignments prior to the scheduled class and be prepared to discuss them during that class.

(3) You will have to submit a three-page report (two to no more than three pages, okay, four counting your cover page, but no more) on one of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) meetings that you will select to attend.

You will choose from one of the following meetings: the SANDAG Board, the SANDAG Executive Committee, or one of three policy (Transportation, Regional Planning, or Borders) advisory committees. You should visit www.sandag.org to obtain the most recent schedule. Your report will: (a) identify which meeting and date that you attended on your cover page, (b) summarize the entire meeting in one page, and (c) discuss the outcome of one of the **ACTION** agenda items from that meeting in one to two pages.

The report should be double-spaced typed with a font of 12/14, try to hit about 250-300 words per page. **This report will be due April 22th. Late papers will be automatically reduced by at least one grade level. No electronic submissions are permitted.**

(4) You will have to take two exams. The exams will be closed book and closed notes and will take place during class on the designated dates. The exams will consist of true-false, matching, multiple choice, and/or short answer/fill-in the blank.

GRADES

Your grade will be determined by the following means.

- (1) SANDAG Meeting Report = 20%
- (2) Exam #1 = 40%
- (3) Exam #2 = 40%

These three factors will be the sole determinants of your grade; **no opportunities will be provided to do extra credit work to raise a grade for any particular assignment or to raise your overall grade in this course.**

Grades are based on the following grade scale.

A = 93.5 or higher, A- = 90.0 - 93.4; B+ = 86.7 - 89.9, B = 83.5 - 86.6, B- = 80.0 - 83.4;
C+ = 76.6 - 79.9, C = 73.5 - 76.6, C- = 70.0 - 73.4; D+ = 66.7 - 69.9, D = 63.5 - 66.6, D- = 60.0 - 63.4;
and F = below 60.0.