

PA 525 U. S. CITY PLANNING PROCESS

MICHAEL McLAUGHLIN

CLASS: WEDNESDAYS 7:00 PM - 9:40 PM

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

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INTRODUCTION

The city planning process is an essential ingredient in the determination of the future of our urban areas. As our urban areas continue to evolve, planners are constantly striving to shape plans and strategies that will maintain or improve the quality of our urban life.

The challenges to the urban planning process are formidable. Given the complexity of urban society, how can one insure that all the important constituencies are active participants in key planning decisions? Given constant changes in the demographic, environmental, and social patterns of our urban areas, how can one be sure these patterns are accurately characterized or that the focus of the plans is correct? Given a limited amount of resources and political will, how can urban plans effectively be implemented? What are the key processes associated with the components of a general plan? These questions, and many more, confront the urban planner.

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an introduction to the city planning process. 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) potential guest presentations about urban planning processes in the San Diego region to illustrate and expand your understanding of current practices; (3) a planning commission report (ALL STUDENTS); (4) a planning process report (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY) which will focus on an existing urban planning process in greater depth; and (5) two exams designed to test your comprehension of the material.

REQUIREMENTS

(1) **ALL STUDENTS:** It will be important for you to attend all scheduled classes. The exams will not only cover reading assignments but also supplemental information presented in lectures, presentations, guest lecturers (if any), and additional materials that you will not find in the readings.

(2) **ALL STUDENTS:** You are expected to have completed your reading assignments prior to the scheduled class and be prepared to discuss them during that class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Fulton, Guide to California Planning, **Third** Edition, 2005.

Cullingworth and Caves, Planning in the USA, **Second** Edition, 2003.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

January 28	Introduction and Overview Syllabus Review Report Assignments The Contexts for Planning Processes <i>Part I: Five Key Issues in the City Planning Process</i>
February 4	Issue #1: Participation in the City Planning Process Caves, Chapters 1-3 and 17 Fulton, Chapters 4 and 5
February 11	Issue #2: Analysis in the City Planning Process No readings
February 18	Issue #3: The General Plan in the City Planning Process Fulton, Chapters 1, 3, and 25
February 25	No Class: To make up for having to attend a Planning Commission meeting
March 4	Issue #4: Implementation in the City Planning Process Caves, Chapters 4, 6 and 7 Fulton, Chapters 6-8 and 11 and 12
March 11	Issue # 5: Legal Context for the City Planning Process Caves, Chapter 5 Fulton, Chapters 10 and 13 Review Exam # 1
March 18	Exam # 1

- March 25 Emerging Trends
- Part II: Key Element Processes in City Planning***
- April 1 **No Class: Spring Break**
- April 8 Key Elements in the Planning Process, Part I: Transportation
 Caves, Chapter 12
 Fulton, Chapters 19 and 20
- April 15 Key Elements in the Planning Process, Parts II: Housing
 Caves, Chapter 13-14
 Fulton, Chapter 16
- April 22 Key Elements in the Planning Process, Part III: Community Development
 Fulton, Chapters 14 and 15
- April 29 Key Elements in the Planning Process, Part IV: Urban Design and Smart
Growth
 Caves, Chapter 8
 Fulton, Chapters 17 and 18
 Planning Commission Report Due: All Students
- May 6 Key Elements in the Planning Process, Part V: Environment
 Caves, Chapters 15 and 16
 Fulton, Chapters 9 and 22-24
 General Plan Report Due: Graduate Students Only
- May 13 Graduate Students Presentation
 Review Exam A#2
- May 20 **Exam #2 and Last Class**