



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2280

International Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning (850) 644-4510

URP5342: Advanced Planning Problems

Summer 2011

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The International Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning

This eight week program in the Republic of Panama focuses on issues related to development and urbanization in Latin America with a concentration on Urban Planning's response to those phenomena. Seminars are augmented by students' participation in a weekly colloquium and in a professional applied planning project for a Panamanian client.

Course Description:

The keystone of the program's practicum and instructional objectives is the "studio" or the teaching of URP 5342, Advanced Planning Problems. URP 5342 always engages a client to receive professional planning services. Topics vary, but all have significant practical importance and provide substantial services to a client. In the United States, these clients typically pay a fee for planning services rendered. Internationally these services have been offered on a pro bono basis to governmental and non-governmental organizations.

URP 5342 projects are expected to be highly technical and "real world" applications of planning, typically structured as consulting engagements. URP 5342 students work in small groups on a project that relates to an important planning issue or problem. The studio takes place within a wider scope of work to which the planning process can be applied and towards which students can practice and apply methods and techniques learned in the core MSP program and in a student's specialization. The course provides professional students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in their graduate educations to date.

URP 5342 and the MSP degree

URP 5342 may serve as a capstone requirement of the MSP degree. The capstone project is designed to give students an opportunity to pursue a particular topic in depth and in an integrated fashion,



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working independently but under supervision, before assuming professional employment. The studio option for receiving capstone credit is governed by the DURP's adopted "Studio Procedures". Registration is typically limited to students who, at a minimum, have successfully completed their first year of full time study (or its equivalent), and who have chosen a specialization and a major professor. The intent is to insure that the pursuit of capstone credit is available only to advanced graduate students who have completed the core curriculum and introductory specialty courses.

Objectives:

The URP 5342 objectives within URP-IP are as follows

- Help students integrate content taught in other classes and to apply that knowledge through international planning practice;
- Give students international, individual, and practice-based experiences that contribute to the fulfillment of concrete career goals both in a domestic and international setting;
- Offer international apprenticeship training not available on the job;
- Expose students to stimulating, new or unique situations or methodologies used internationally;
- Offer an orientation to international and foreign national organizations and areas of practice with which they may have been previously unfamiliar to them;
- Help students gain confidence, competence and satisfaction in completing individual projects and to gain insight into the personal skills and attributes necessary for success in international practice.

Expectations and professional conduct:

Students are expected to attend all classes and all course-related events. Students should show up on-time for these events and prepared to contribute as needed. As representatives of Florida State University students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

2011 Advance Planning Problem (See attached the project's summary):

Planning Problem:

Due to valuable urban oceanfront location and invasive surrounding development of high-rise luxury condominiums and related developments, residents of the informal settlement of Boca La Caja in the City of Panama, Republic of Panama, are getting offers by developers to buy their properties. The selling of small size squatters lots, provide returns that will force residents to move to the periphery furthering their already limited access to services and opportunities.

A weak self-organization and consensus building; a stagnant titling program; increasing safety concerns and crime activity; and difficulties experienced by community leaders to



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communicate the concepts and specific alternatives related to a revitalization plan formulated with technical support from Seeds of Hope 2009, currently continue to challenge the Boca La Caja Community, limiting its conditions to bring the vision of the community to fruition.

Purpose:

The “2011 **Seeds of Hope**” program will attempt to provide the community of Boca La Caja with additional technical support and to further advice on key issues related to the implementation of a revitalization plan. Specifically, the 2011 program will further explore current conditions regarding social cohesion and will propose strategies and develop tools to help strengthen **social capital**.

This component will provide support to help structure the *Junta Local* and to organize a *community cooperative* as proposed by the 2009 Seeds of Hope program. The component will also address issues related to public participation in **safety and crime prevention** programs.

A strategy to further help establish institutional mechanism to reactivate and formalize the **titling program** is also expected to be offered by Seeds of Hope 2011. Similarly, specific mechanisms to promote favorable conditions for developing **public-private partnerships** are expected to be formulated.

Expected Outputs: comprehensive evaluation and strategy and plan of action reports on

- Social Capital
- Tittling
- Urban Design
- Safety and Crime Prevention

Timeframe of Technical Services: June 27-August 2011

- Month 1: **Evaluation:** research, data collection and analysis
- Month 2: **Strategy and Plan of Action:** formulation of strategy and plan of action

General Strategy:

Strengthening community social capital (bonding, bridging and linking) will increase Boca La Caja's chances for success in negotiating development alternatives. Development alternatives may include neighborhood reengineering, revitalization, and economic development scenarios.

Urban design will play a key role in formulating alternative scenarios while public-private



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partnerships will empower neighborhood's bridging and linking capacities.

Deliverables and evaluation:

Definition of problem and terms of reference specifying your professional planning services:

specific deliverables and tasks, analysis of the specific problem you will address, including a literature review, potential sources of data, and studio group's GANTT (10 points)
o Due July 4 (10 pages, single space and Power Point presentation)¹

Selection of methods and techniques: based on your evaluation of the specific problem, substantiate your selection of methods and techniques (10 points)
o Due July 11 (5 pages, single space and Power Point presentation)

Strategy and Plan of Action: formulation of strategy and plan of action (10 points)
o Due July 18 (5 pages, single space and Power Point presentation)

Policy Statement: urban policy recommendations (10 points)
o Due July 25 (3 pages, single space and Power Point presentation)

First Draft and Final Report (60 points)
o Due August 1-8 (30 pages, single space and Power Point presentation)

Sessions: (8 weeks)

June

Week 4 Introduction, discussion of selected readings, and analysis of Seeds of Hope 2009

July

Week 1 GANTT and First Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)(12 Individual, 4 Teams, and 1 studio group)
Week 2 Final Draft ToR and discussion of studio group ToR and GANTT with the client
Week 3 Assessing institutional framework for implementation of strategy and plan of action
Week 4 Definition of partnerships and agreement for implementing strategies and plan of action

August

Week 1 Discussion of project's outputs with the client
Week 2 Joint (Teams/Client) presentation of project's outputs to key stakeholders
Week 3 Final report

¹Use the "insert text" option in Power Point to include the text with your speech for each slide in all presentations. Assignments will benefit from the use of maps, pictures and other types of graphic representations, including animated presentations.