

Florida State University – Panama

Spring, 2010

URP3000: Introduction to Planning and Urban Development

Monday and Wednesday, 7:00-8:15

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of planning and urban development. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the basic planning and urban development processes including the forces and actors behind these processes. The history, structure, fields and larger questions related to contemporary planning are discussed. Case studies at the neighborhood and metropolitan level from developed and developing countries will be introduced to illustrate discussions. Students will have the opportunity to design basic strategies for planning and evaluation of urban development using the tools learned in class.

Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand and participate more effectively in the decision-making processes related to planning and urban development. Students will also acquire basic skills to access and manipulate information related to planning, monitoring and evaluation of urban development.

Course Prerequisite: None

Grading Policies:

4 assignments 40%

2 partial examinations 20%

Final examination 40%

Class Schedule: (14 weeks)

Week 1	Introduction to the course Definition and relationships of key concepts: planning, urban, development and sustainability The Need for Urban Planning The Specific Concerns of Planning Readings: Chapter 1 Suggested additional readings:
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Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 19

During this week students will search for institutional definitions of urban areas from census offices in the US and in the Republic of Panama. Students will also search for institutional definitions suggested by international organizations such as United Nations.

Week 2

Urban Development Scenarios
Readings:

Examples of challenges for planning and urban development: Visualizing the Changing Spatial Patterns of Urban Settlements in the USA and in the Republic of Panama

Suggested additional readings:
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/>
Chapters 2, 17, and 18

First Assignment Due: Report on the comparative analysis regarding official definitions of urban areas¹

Week 3

Review and revision of Chapter 1 and key concepts such as Planning, Urban, Development, and Sustainability

Partial Examination²

Week 4

The Comprehensive Plan and the Tools of Land Use Planning
Readings:
Chapters 8 and 9

Suggested additional readings:
Chapters 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16

Week 5

Invited Speakers
Republic of Panama's Census Office
Republic of Panama's Department of Urban Development

Second Assignment Due:

- PowerPoint presentation explaining the reasons for selecting your case study. Students are encouraged to include maps and pictures that will help illustrate such reasons. Use the "insert text" option in Power Point to include the text with your speech for each slide.
- Provide a list of at least three citations to books focusing on tools of land use controls, particularly zoning and/or public capital investment. Each citation should include an abstract.

¹ See attached details of assignment 1

² Chapter 1; Definition and relationships of key concepts: planning, urban, development and sustainability; and official definitions of urban areas.

Week 6	Continuation: The Comprehensive Plan and the Tools of Land Use Planning
Week 7	Partial Examination ³ The Social Issues Readings: Chapter 7
Week 8	PowerPoint presentations of third assignments by students <i>Third Assignment Due:</i> PowerPoint presentation describing current developments regarding land use controls and the specific concerns of planning in your case study ⁴ (See “The Specific Concerns of Planning” in Chapter 1 as a conceptual reference for the assignment).
Week 9	Urban Design Reading: Chapter 10
Week 10	Students’ definition of specific problems and goals for the case studies
Week 11	Students’ formulation of land use control and urban design strategies to help achieve the goals for the case studies Invited Speaker
Week 12	<i>Forth Assignment Due</i> ⁵
Week 13	Presentations of final projects
Week 14	Final Exam ⁶

³ The Comprehensive Plan

⁴ See attached details of assignment 3

⁵ Based on previous assignments and applying the knowledge acquired during the semester, design a PowerPoint presentation where you identify specific problems and propose related goals that could be included in a comprehensive plan for your case study. Present some strategies on land use controls and urban design that will help achieve such goals. The report will benefit from the use of maps, pictures and other types of graphic representations, including animated presentations. Use the “insert text” option in Power Point to include the text with your speech for each slide.

⁶ Tools of Land Use Planning, Social Issues and Urban Design

Assignment 1

1. Compare the US Bureau of the Census's definition of urban areas with Panama's Directorate of Statistics and Census definition.
2. Compare previous definitions with United Nation's suggested definition of urban areas.

Assignment 3

PowerPoint presentation describing current developments regarding land use controls and specific concerns of planning in your selected neighborhood, town or municipality⁷

Sensible and attractive land-use pattern

- Overcrowding
- Access to recreational, cultural, school, shopping, and other facilities
- Traffic flows
- Separation of incompatible land uses
- System of pathways: pedestrian and bicycle

Location of public facilities

- Relationship between the spatial distribution of land uses, development patterns and adequate roads, water, and sewer facilities

Preservation and improving of existing municipality structure

- Quality of the housing stock
- Housing cost
- Housing for neighborhood's low-income residents
- Preservation of historic buildings and other landmarks
- Attractiveness of businesses

Economic Development

- Economic stability
- Stability of existing and potential for new businesses

Environmental Concerns

- Soil
- Air
- Water
- Other environmental concerns

Regional Development Concerns

- Road network
- Parks and open space system
- Sewage disposal and water systems

⁷ The report will benefit from the use of maps, pictures and other types of graphic representations, including animated presentations. The report should include a description of methods and techniques used by local authorities regarding land use controls. Use the "insert text" option in Power Point to include the text with your speech for each slide.