

# URBAN PLANNING PROJECT

URP 6341

1-12 CREDIT HOURS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Varies

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Typically there are no consistent required readings for this course. The required readings vary based on the project chosen for a particular semester. Often these include planning documents and other support material associated with the project area.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Projects encompass city wide comprehensive planning examining the interaction of urban and social systems cast in scenarios of future growth and development.

**PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:** While there are no prerequisites for this course, students should take it after they have taken at least one full semester of coursework in urban and regional planning.

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:** The purpose of this course is for students to complete an urban planning project. Thus, this course will focus on doing planning rather than learning about doing planning. This course will be run as a workshop with students actively involved in developing the agenda and the products for the course. The instructors will act as the project managers on this planning project and the students will be the project team. Thus, students will participate in making decisions as a group on the roles taken in the group. The instructors will provide a basic structure and a set of requirements for each of the assignments, which will require some combination of written, visual, and oral presentations. The class meeting times will be used for sharing information and for members to coordinate activities, work on aspects of the project, and review progress.

**COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:** This course familiarizes the students with planning practice, particularly field work and research, working with community stakeholders, assessing a range of qualitative and quantitative data in order to make recommendations. By the end of this course, students will demonstrate their knowledge in collecting and assessing a range of data, thinking spatially, and communicating their recommendations both verbally and in writing. In doing so they will strengthen the following skills that will be important in professional practice: (1)

*critical thinking; (2) presentation (verbal communication); (3) evaluation and criticism; (4) argumentation; and (5) written communication skills.*

**HOW THIS COURSE RELATES TO THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING:** As a required course in the graduate program, Urban Planning Project allows students to apply knowledge and skills in the field, typically with existing projects and relates to all three departmental student learning outcomes. These are:

- Demonstrate an understanding of human settlement, historical and contemporary practice, and policy and processes relevant to urban and regional planning concepts and theories.
- Demonstrate oral, written, and critical thinking skills required of master's students within their area of specialization.
- Display ethical behaviors, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, professional conduct and communication.

#### **COURSE POLICIES:**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** As outlined by the instructor.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** As outlined by the instructor.

**COURSE TECHNOLOGY:** The technology required varies based on whether computer-aided spatial mapping is being used.

#### **UF POLICIES:**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

**NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

## GETTING HELP:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

## GRADING POLICIES:

**GRADING SCALE:** You will be assigned a letter grade for this course. For more information on the grading scale, see: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html/>

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

The course schedule is outlined by the instructor each semester. This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

During the early part of the semester, students will gather and review a variety of written information related to the area of study (such as planning documents,

regulations, etc.). They will also observe the existing conditions in the area. Using this information, they will conduct an analysis to gain an understanding of the opportunities and constraints and development activity in the area. Students will develop their verbal, written, and visual communication skills throughout the semester. Each student will make presentations to members of the class and invited guests who will assist in interpreting the meaning of the data and the understanding of the conceptual designs. While the instructors recognize that not all of the students are well skilled in visual representation, we will encourage you to try, and allow you to emphasize your other skills throughout the course. Each student will be asked to exercise their critical *problem solving skills and creativity* throughout the course in order to solve the problems. Students will need to challenge the assumptions of what can and cannot be accomplished in their selected areas, and they need to think broadly and creatively about how to solve some the challenges in their area. Finally, students will learn how to work in groups. Throughout the semester, students will need to organize their activities in the course to take advantage of the existing skills of course members to accomplish the agreed upon goal. At the same time, students need to feel free to develop skills in areas where they are not comfortable. Thus, the challenge becomes one of balancing the need to develop new skills with the needs of the group to complete aspects of the project efficiently.