

PREVIEW OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

URP 4000 FALL 2025

Section 3098; Class Number 16056

“By far the greatest and most admirable form of wisdom is that needed to plan and beautify cities and human communities.”

— Socrates

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STUDENT HOURS: Tuesdays 2:00p to 4:00p, or by appointment

CLASS MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION: Tuesdays Period 6 (12:50p – 1:40p)
Thursdays Period 6-7 (12:50p – 2:45p)
Rinker Hall 106

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An overview of the comprehensive planning process designed for undergraduates who may be considering a career in urban and regional planning or who may be pursuing studies where some knowledge of the planning process is desirable.

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Planning is a collaborative act in which people come together to build safe, healthy, sustainable communities that enrich people’s lives. Planning is a “big picture” discipline in which planners examine the interactions of the built environment, the natural environment, economic systems, health, and social, cultural, and behavioral systems in cities, counties, and regions. The planning process asks us to learn from the past, understand the present, and prepare for the future.

The purpose of this course is to introduce the major concepts and issues in urban and regional planning. We will study the social, economic, environmental, structural, demographic, legal, cultural, and political problems that cities face today. The course introduces students to the planning profession and academic discipline of urban and regional planning. We will also engage in planning activities, such as data collection, demographics, mapping, SWOT analysis, fieldwork, public engagement, and attending a public planning meeting.

REQUIRED TEXT: Levy, J.M., Hirt, S.A. & Dawkins, C.J. (2025). *Contemporary Urban Planning*. 12th Edition. Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003291145

USE OF UF G SUITE TOOLS: Throughout the semester, we will use various G Suite tools. For the use of G Suite tools, you will need to sign in to your UF Google account for access. To access G Suite tools, please visit <https://cloud.it.ufl.edu/collaboration-tools/g-suite/>. G Suite are provided through UF at no additional cost to the student.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: The following table describes the student learning outcomes (SLOs) and the specific course goals of URP 4000. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

SLOs	URP 4000 Course Goals	Assessment Methods
<p>Content: Demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the role of planning in the urbanization and suburbanization of the United States • Explain basic concepts of planning theory, history, and ethics • Discuss the role of Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Codes in shaping our cities, counties, and regions • Situate the planning profession in relation to other design professions, real estate professions, and legal professions • Defend the role of planning and public participation in citizenship and good governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly reading quizzes • Midterm and Final Exam • Class participation

SLOs	URP 4000 Course Goals	Assessment Methods
<p>Communication: Communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with peers and professionals using planning terminology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Presentations • Discussion Board Posts
<p>Critical Thinking: Analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize basic planning techniques to analyze and evaluate city plans and their outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board Posts • Walking Tour • Planning Meeting Report • Class participation, including activities and games.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY: Through new knowledge and new experiences, we can develop new ways of seeing. Students and instructors are co-producers of knowledge and together we can create new understanding.

EXPECTATIONS: Students can expect from me: enthusiasm for the course and the field of planning, engaging lectures, application of knowledge through classroom activities and fieldwork, organized and neat course materials, and availability to meet outside of class. I expect students to approach the course with enthusiasm and an open mind. I also expect students to come to class prepared to actively participate in our class discussions and activities. The University standard is for students to expect to study at least 3 hours for each credit hour. For example, URP 4000 is a 3-credit course. Therefore, you should expect to study 9 hours per week outside of class.

FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES: The first week of class during the drop/add period will consist of an introduction to the course. Please carefully read the syllabus and complete the Introductory Discussion Board Post. Include a picture of your favorite animal in the Introductory Discussion Board Post to receive 10 points extra credit.

A SAFE & WELCOMING CLASSROOM: It is important to me that you feel welcome and safe in this class; and that you are comfortable communicating with me and your classmates. If your preferred name is not what shows on the official UF roll, please let me know. I would like to acknowledge the name and pronouns that reflect your identity. You may also change your “Display Name” in Canvas. The Display Name is what you want people to see in the UF Directory, such as "Sam" instead of "Samantha." To update your display name, go to one.ufl.edu, log in, and click on the profile icon at the top right. Select “View & Update Profile Information” and click “Edit” for the Name option. Uncheck "Use my legal name" and update how you wish your name to be displayed as Chosen Name. Click "Submit" at the bottom. This change may take up to 24 hours to appear in Canvas. This does not change your legal name for official UF records.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: This course is based on lectures, discussion of assigned readings, viewing of multi-media materials, activities during and outside of class, and student research and writing outside of class. Class format will combine discussions, lectures, multi-media activities, practice-based activities, electronic communications, and assignments. We may also have guest lecturers. Students should take notes for lectures, guest speakers, and videos, as use of this material will be incorporated into class assignments. My lecture slides will be posted in the corresponding weekly modules on Canvas. Students are expected to take adequate class notes.

If there are issues, ideas, or readings that you want to bring into the course, please share. You are encouraged to invest some of your time into finding relevant materials of interest and leading discussion on those new ideas.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Canvas: We will use Canvas, UF’s e-learning system, as our online “homebase”. It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements related to the course. Readings and changes to the syllabus will be posted on Canvas. You are also encouraged to download the Canvas App and allow notifications, so that you receive announcements and assignment due dates.

To login to Canvas you will need to provide your GatorLink User Name and Password. If you are new to Canvas or have any problems using Canvas, please contact the Help Desk at 392-HELP.

Email: I will answer your email as quickly as possible but please allow up to 24 hours for a reply during the week, and 48 hours for a reply on weekends. Proper email etiquette is expected. Professional, courteous standards for all emails and discussions includes:

- Descriptive subject line
- Address the reader using proper title and name spelling (Dr. Dedenbach or Dr. D)

- Body of the email should be concise but have sufficient detail
- Give a respectful salutation (e.g., thank you, sincerely, respectfully)
- Minimize textspeak (e.g., OMG, WTH, IMO)

Netiquette: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read the [UF Netiquette Guide for Online Course](#).

COURSE POLICIES

PERSONAL CONDUCT POLICY: Students are expected to exhibit behaviors that reflect highly upon themselves and our University:

- Read and refer to the syllabus
- Be in your seat and prepared at the start of the class meeting time
- Be respectful and courteous to your instructor and classmates during class discussions and activities
- Reserve cell phones for class-related uses only
- Chat with peers before and after class rather than during presentations

ATTENDANCE POLICY: **Attendance is mandatory and is part of your class grade.** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. After class, attendance will be entered into Canvas.

Absences: There are two types of absences – excused and unexcused. Excused absences and inability to engage in class are those described in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#). Please inform me of your absence as soon as possible and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, forgetting to do an assignment, being too busy with other coursework, or going on a family vacation during regularly scheduled class days on the UF calendar. In either case, you are responsible for contacting a classmate to obtain notes on the materials covered.

Tardiness: Consistent tardiness (or leaving early) will affect your attendance and class participation evaluation dramatically. When you arrive more than 10 minutes late without explanation or leave early without prior approval, I consider that a missed class.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Assignment due dates are posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY THE POSTED DUE DATES IN CANVAS.** Assignments must be submitted by posting on Canvas. ***A points reduction of 10% per day will be assessed for late work.*** It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignments have been successfully uploaded to Canvas. See the Note on Computer or Canvas Problems below.

Notice: Certain activities require attendance at events that occur outside of our normal class meeting time. **Review the schedule carefully.** If you have valid reasons for being unable to attend these activities (e.g., team practice schedule, work, another class), then it is your responsibility to inform me of the conflict at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you know of the conflict. Accommodations for alternate assignments may only be made in advance of an assignment.

MAKE-UP/ASSIGNMENT EXTENSION POLICY: Students that miss deadlines for acceptable reasons pursuant to UF Academic Policy will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities. Scheduling make-up work is the responsibility of the student.

GROUP WORK POLICY: There are two types of assignments in this course – individual and group. Design professions have a long history of collaborative, group-based work (such as charrettes), and individual work completed in a group setting (such as studios). As planners, we often work in multidisciplinary groups. For group assignments, you are expected to: Be a good team member. Be on time. Be respectful. Be responsive with group communication. In addition, everyone is expected to participate and contribute equally to complete the assignment. If there are problems with group dynamics or participation/effort levels, please come and talk to me. *To avoid the problem of free riders, all group projects will include Peer Review attesting to your anonymous estimation of each group member's contribution to the total.*

COMPUTER OR CANVAS PROBLEMS POLICY: If you have computer or Canvas problems that prevent you from submitting an assignment, you may receive an extension if you follow these steps:

- Immediately contact the Help Desk (392-HELP (4357) or helpdesk@ufl.edu) to report the problem and receive a ticket to document the problem. I can only extend the submittal deadline if you have contacted the Help Desk ahead of the assignment deadline and received a ticket. The Help Desk is available by phone and email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- After contacting the HelpDesk and receiving a ticket, contact me, prior to the assignment due time, and let me know there is a problem.
- [Canvas Quickstart Guide for Students](#)
- If you try to submit too close to the assignment deadline and/or try to submit an assignment via your phone, it is your responsibility to ensure that the assignment was submitted.

- If Canvas or the UF Network is experiencing an outage that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, I will receive a notice from UF IT about the outage. The assignment deadline will be revised accordingly, if needed. Students will not be penalized for system or network outages.

UF ACADEMIC POLICIES & RESOURCES

Please access the following link for up-to-date UF academic policies and resources:
<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEE: None

GRADING

Grades will be based on evidence that students have completed assigned reading, watched recorded lectures, completed all assignments, and completed class activities throughout the semester. All completed tasks will be evaluated based on content, critical thinking, and communication. Details of each assignment, including rubrics, are posted on the Canvas site.

An **“A” grade** requires following the instructions completely, demonstrating a solid understanding of the course topics, effort for using data and analysis to make comprehensive planning decisions, organized and sufficient writing and presentation, and a timely submittal.

A **“B” grade** is basically sound, but the submission has a deficiency in one of the above areas.

A **“C” grade** or lower has significant deficiencies in one or more of the above areas. Letter grades of C- or below are not considered passing at the graduate level.

A reminder that *a points reduction of 10% per day will be assessed for late work*. The first 10% is assessed starting at 12:00am the day after an assignment is due.

Information on current UF grading policies may be found at: [Grades and Grading Policies](#)

The following table outlines the point-accruing components of the course. The total points earned will be summed and divided by the total points in the course: 1,000

Assignments	Points	Approx. % of Total Grade
Planning Meeting Report	120	12%
Walking Tour Story	120	12%

Midterm Exam	150	15%
Weekly Quizzes (11 @ 10 points each)	110	11%
Intro. DBP & Reflections	50	5%
In-class Activities	100	10%
Discussion Board Posts (4 @ 25 points each)	100	10%
Final Exam	150	15%
Attendance	100	10%
Total	1,000	100%

Extra Credit: There are opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

URP 4000 GRADING SCALE: All grades will be posted directly into the Canvas gradebook. Any discrepancies with points displayed in the gradebook should be pointed out to me. There is no curve for this course and grades will not be rounded up.

Points	Grade
940 – 1000	A
900 – 939	A-
870 – 899	B+
840 – 869	B
800 – 839	B-
770 – 799	C+
740 – 769	C
700 – 739	C-
670 – 699	D+
640 – 669	D
600 - 639	D-
Below 600	E

STUDY AND SUCCESS TIPS:

- Read the material before you come to class. Take notes. Interact with your notes and materials early and often.
- Engage your classmates and study as actively as possible.
- Do not fall behind or procrastinate your studies. You cannot cram the night before and expect to do well.

- Check Canvas announcements/emails daily. I will post important and helpful information as announcements or emails.
- Have a positive attitude! Planning is an exciting and dynamic profession! You are learning knowledge and skills that will help you be a more engaged member of your community.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

FINAL EXAM: Final Exam via Quizzes on **December 8, 2025**.

Readings and Assignments are posted to the Canvas site.

Date	Module	What We'll Learn
August 21	Introduction to Urban Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of course objectives and structure • Definition and scope of urban planning • The role of planners in society Read Levy, Chapter 1 Introduction DBP
August 26 & 28	History of Urban Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early city planning and the rise of the modern city • Key historical figures and milestones in urban planning Read Levy, Chapter 2 – 4 Quiz
September 2 & 4	Legal & Ethical Issues in Urban Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal framework governing urban planning • Ethical considerations in planning practice Read Levy, Chapters 5 – 6 Quiz DBP with Self-grading Rubric
September 9 & 11	The Comprehensive Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goals of comprehensive planning • 5 steps of the comprehensive planning process • Effective comprehensive plans Read Levy, Chapter 8 Quiz
September 16 & 18	APA FL Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do walking tour for Walking Tour Story assignment
September 23 & 25	Land Use Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning, land use regulations, and their impact on urban form • Tools for land use planning and management Read Levy, Chapter 9 Quiz Walking Tour Assignment Due
September 30 & October 2	Urban Design & Public Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of urban design and their application in planning • Designing public spaces for accessibility and usability Read Levy, Chapter 10 Quiz

Date	Module	What We'll Learn
October 7 & 9	Midterm	Midterm Exam on October 7 th Reflection
October 14 & 16	Housing & Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing and housing policy Community development strategies and their impact on urban areas Read Levy, Chapter 11 Quiz DBP
October 21 & 23	Transportation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relationship between transportation and urban development Planning for future transportation systems Read Levy, Chapter 12 Quiz
October 28 & 30	Economic Development Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for fostering economic growth in urban areas The role of planning in addressing economic disparities Read Levy, Chapter 13 Quiz
November 5 & 7	Environmental Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the environment in urban planning Read Levy, Chapter 14 Quiz DBP
November 12 & 14	International Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast planning practices in the U.S. and Western Europe Major planning issues in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Asia Read Levy, Chapter 16 Quiz
November 19 & 21	Contemporary Challenges in Urban Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gentrification, urban sprawl, and other modern planning issues The role of technology in shaping future cities Read Levy, Chapter 7 Read APA Trends Report Quiz Planning Meeting Report Assignment Due 11/22
November 25 & 27	Thanksgiving Week	No Classes
December 2	Wrap-up	Semester Review DBP
December 8	Final Exam	Final Exam on Canvas Reflection

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my 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.

Notice: Class assignments require attendance at events that occur outside of our normal class meeting time. Review the schedule carefully. If you have valid reasons for being unable to attend these activities (e.g., team practice schedule, work, another class), then it is your responsibility to inform me of the conflict at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you know of the conflict. Accommodations for alternate assignments may only be made in advance of an assignment.