

PADM 4180 Urban Planning Studio

Teaching Team:

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Tristen Wheeler
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Class Meetings:

Tuesday 9:30am – 12:20pm (in-person)
Thursday 9:30am – 12:20pm (in-person & virtual meetings)

Class Location: Chilton Hall 274 (in-person)

Office Hours:

Annie Lee, Ph.D.
Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00pm
And also by appointment
Office Location: 204N Chilton Hall

Tristen Wheeler
by appointment (virtual meeting)

Course Overview:

This capstone course is designed for students in the urban policy and planning program. Throughout the semester, you will work closely with your peers and instructors to develop comprehensive sustainability improvement plans for the city of Denton. The primary clients for this course are the Diamond Eagle Student Resource Center and Serve Denton. Throughout the semester, you will assess Denton's current sustainability status, conduct case studies, develop comprehensive sustainability improvement plans, and provide recommendations for future actions.

The course will be largely divided into three sections. The first is the skill development section, which focuses on neighborhood pattern analysis, presentations to stakeholders, and budget planning. The second section is the field assessment section, where you will conduct sustainability case studies and site analyses. In the final plan and design section, you will develop comprehensive improvement plans. This includes making site selections, conducting

economic evaluations and creating sustainability strategies. The final output will be evaluated by both the instructors and our clients.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify and use a wide range of data sources to analyze planning and development issues in Denton.
2. Conduct case studies of similar areas to provide valuable insights and propose potential solutions.
3. Develop comprehensive sustainability assessments of neighborhoods in Denton, evaluating environmental, social, and economic factors.
4. Create improvement plans aimed at enhancing sustainability in Denton. These plans should engage stakeholders, residents, and the university community.
5. Collaborate in teams to address urban planning issues, generate innovative ideas, and synthesize information from diverse perspectives.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation 25%

Active participation is essential in this course. Participation consists of two components: in-class lecture and field trips participation (15%) and virtual session participation (10%). Attendance will be checked for all in-class lectures, two field trips, and virtual lecture sessions. Virtual group meetings will also be held, and all group members must schedule and attend at least seven meetings with Instructor Tristen Wheeler. Detailed guidelines will be provided in class.

Each absence (whether in in-class lectures or virtual sessions) will result in a deduction from the total grade. In emergency situations, you must inform the instructors (see their email addresses on the previous page) before the class or meeting and obtain their confirmation. More than two emergency absences, regardless of the reason, will result in a deduction

2. Presentations 25%

In addition to the mid-term review and final presentation, there will be 5 group presentation sessions during the course. These five presentations include: 1) neighborhood pattern analysis, 2) case study and site analysis, 3) site selection and project themes, 4) economic evaluations, and 5) UNT, stakeholders, and community participation presentations. Each component will account for 5% of the total grade. After the presentation, all slides, posters, and project description documents must be submitted via Canvas by 11:59 PM the next day. Detailed guidelines for the presentations will be provided in class.

3. Mid-review and final presentation 50%

The mid-review will account for 20%, and the final presentation will account for 30% of the total grade. The final presentation will be evaluated by both the instructors and our clients.

There will also be group participation assessments conducted by your peers. This will contribute to both the mid-review and the final presentation scores. After the review session, all slides, posters, and project description documents should be submitted via Canvas by 11:59 PM the following day. Detailed guidelines for the presentations will be provided in class.

4. Additional individual points can be earned through the following:

- 30-minute presentation on skill development
- 30-minute presentation on urban planning projects
- Participating in sustainability events & activities (TBD)

Grading Policies:

Grades will be determined by:

Class Participation	25%
In-class lecture & field trip participation	15%
Virtual feedback session participation	10%
5 Presentations	25%
Neighborhood pattern analysis	5%
Case study & site analysis	5%
Site selection & project theme	5%
Economic evaluations	5%
UNT, Stakeholders and community participation	5%
Mid-review	20%
Final presentation	30%
Total	100%

Recommended Readings:

- Mehaffy, M., Kryazheva, Y., Rudd, A. and Salingaros, N. (2020) A New Pattern Language for Growing Regions: Places, Networks, Processes. Sustasis Press.
- Talen, E. (2018) Urban Design for Planners. Planetizen Press.

Communication Policy:

If you have any questions about the course, send an email to Annie.Lee@unt.edu. The subject line of emails should state "Urban Planning Studio." Instructor will usually respond within 48 hours (not including the weekend), and often much quicker. To ensure a response, always plan to e-mail at least 48 hours before a deadline.

Assignment Policy:

All presentation slides or posters should be submitted via Canvas, and the due dates will be posted there. Detailed guidelines for the presentations will be provided in class.

Syllabus Change Policy:

We reserve the right to modify the syllabus, including adding readings and activities. Any changes will be posted on Canvas at least one week in advance.

Academic Integrity:

The University of North Texas values the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. All students must understand their responsibilities and the academic penalties associated with academic misconduct, such as cheating and plagiarism, under UNT policy "06.003 Student Academic Integrity" (see <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>).

Course Outline:

Part 1. Skill Development Workshops		
Week 1		Location
1/14	Course Introduction + Overview	<i>In-class</i>
1/16	Skill Development Workshop 1 Introduction to Canva + Pattern Thinking	<i>In-class</i>
Week 2		
1/21	Neighborhood Pattern Analysis	<i>In-class</i>
1/23	Skill Development Workshop 2 – Guest Lecturer (Tristen Wheeler): Sustainability at UNT How to present to the public and communicate with stakeholders	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 3		
1/28	Neighborhood Pattern Analysis – Group Presentation (<i>in poster</i>)	<i>In-class</i>
1/30	Field Trip 1 Diamond Eagle Student Resource Center & We Mean Green Fund	<i>Field trip</i>
Part 2. Field Assessments		
Week 4		
2/4	Sustainability Case Study	<i>In-class</i>
2/6	Project Budgeting 101	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 5		
2/11	Site Analysis	<i>In-class</i>
2/13	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 6		
2/18	Case Study & Site Analysis - Group Presentation	<i>In-class</i>
2/20	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 7		
2/25	Field Trip 2: Serve Denton	<i>Field trip</i>
2/27	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Part 3. Plan and Design		
Week 8		
3/4	Site Selection + Project Theme – Group Presentation	<i>In-class</i>
3/6	Meet with Groups	

Week 9		
3/11	Spring Break	
3/13	Spring Break	
Week 10		
3/18	Sustainability Case Studies + How would you apply in Denton	<i>In-class</i>
3/20	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 11		
3/25	Mid-review (<i>in poster</i>)	<i>In-class</i>
3/27	Optional Meeting Sessions (<i>by Annie Lee</i>)	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 12		
4/1	Guest Lecturer (Ashleigh McCoy, <i>Town of Cross Roads</i>) Economic evaluations and plans	<i>In-class</i>
4/3	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 13		
4/8	Economic evaluations and plans – Group presentation	<i>In-class</i>
4/10	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 14		
4/15	UNT, Stakeholders and community participation – Group Presentation	<i>In-class</i>
4/17	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 15		
4/22	Final Project Work Session	<i>In-class</i>
4/24	Virtual Meeting Sessions	<i>Virtual</i>
Week 16		
4/29	Final presentation session (<i>in poster</i>)	<i>In-class</i>
5/1	Optional Meeting Sessions (<i>by Annie Lee</i>)	<i>Virtual</i>