

## **PADM 2120: Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:50 AM

Gateway 141

### **Instructors Information**

**Instructor Name:** Ja Young Kim, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** 204L Chilton Hall

**Office Hours:** 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Wednesday or by appointment

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### **Course Overview**

This course provides an introduction to urban and regional planning, focusing on how planners and policymakers develop, analyze, and implement policies and practices to address contemporary social, environmental, and economic challenges. The course begins with an overview of cities and regions, including the spatial organization of urban areas, the evolution of urban planning as a profession, and the roles and responsibilities of planners.

The course then examines the legal, institutional, and social foundations of planning, along with the tools and processes used to create and enforce plans and related public policies, such as land-use controls and development regulations. Students will explore key functional areas of planning through historical and contemporary urban issues, using case studies to illustrate planning responses across different contexts.

The course concludes by addressing emerging challenges and opportunities in urban and regional planning. Throughout the semester, students will compare and contrast planning practices across the United States and other countries, as well as across different historical and political contexts, to critically examine varying perspectives on livable cities and effective planning.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the social, economic, environmental, and technical factors that influence how cities form, function, and thrive;
2. Describe how urban planning evolved and distinguish contemporary planning practices from earlier approaches;
3. Demonstrate fluency in key terminology, major issues, and ongoing debates in urban and regional planning;
4. Understand the distinctions in major areas of planning;
5. Assess how planning tools, policies, and decision-making processes can be used to guide change and address community needs.

## Required Materials

### Textbook (Required)

Levy, J. M., Hirt, S. A., & Dawkins, C. J. (2025). *Contemporary Urban Planning* (12th ed.). Routledge. ISBN-13: 978-1032270630

### Alternative Edition

Levy, J. M. (2016). *Contemporary Urban Planning* (11th ed.). Routledge. ISBN-13: 978-1138666382

Students may use either the 11th or 12th edition of *Contemporary Urban Planning*. The course will draw extensively from this text to provide a foundational understanding of urban and regional planning concepts, terminology, and practice. The textbook offers a comprehensive overview of the major themes addressed throughout the semester.

Additional required readings, videos, and other instructional materials will be provided through Canvas.

## Expectations

- **Coming to class prepared**  
Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, videos, and other materials before class. This course involves substantial reading, and preparation is essential for informed discussion, meaningful participation, and successful completion of assignments.
- **Attendance and active participation**  
Students are expected to attend class consistently and arrive on time, because much of the course learning occurs through discussion and in-class activities. Active and constructive participation is a critical component of the course. Students should be willing to engage thoughtfully by asking questions, sharing ideas, and offering perspectives, including those that may differ from others. Participation should demonstrate respect for diverse viewpoints, connections between course materials and prior knowledge or experience, and engagement with evidence from readings and lectures.
- **Timely completion of assignments and use of feedback**  
All assignments must be submitted by the stated deadlines. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions about assignments at least one week before the due date. Feedback provided on assignments is intended to support learning and improvement, and students are expected to apply this feedback to subsequent work throughout the semester.

## Course Requirements and Grading

Assignment	% of Grade	Due Date
Attendance and Participation	10%	Throughout the semester
My City Essay	15%	Feb 8
Planning Meeting Memo	10%	Mar 8
Exam	20%	Feb 26
Walkability Audit	10%	Apr 5
Planning Topic Presentation	15%	TBD (after midterm)
Comprehensive Plan Review	20%	May 3

The following is a short description about the assignments. Full details of each assignment and due dates will be available on Canvas.

**My City Essay.** The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to delve in-depth into a topic of interest. You will write a historiographical essay of a city that you have lived, grown up, or studied for at least six months. It has to be a city that you know well and is personally important to you. The essay should (1) illustrate your personal history and memoir of the city related to any topic of your interest in planning; (2) discover planning histories of the city; and (3) conclude with a discussion of the lessons learned about urban form and/or planning practice.

**Planning Meeting Memo.** You will attend a planning meeting (ex. planning and zoning commission) in a DFW municipality of your choosing. After attending, please provide a short memo that summarizes the major issues or topics discussed.

**Exam.** A mixture of short-answer and long-answer questions based on the readings, lectures, and in-class activities. The exam will be during our regularly scheduled class time. You are not allowed to refer to your notes or books or use any online resources. Exams must be taken individually.

**Walkability Audit.** You will conduct walkability audits in two different neighborhoods and compare and discuss the differences/similarities using the knowledge you learned from the course.

**Planning Topic Presentation.** Each student will prepare and deliver a presentation and lead a class discussion on a proposed or completed planning project of their choice that is related to the lecture. The presentation should also have an accompanying newspaper article that can be distributed as background reading to the other students prior to the presentation.

**Final Paper.** Each student will select a city within the DFW region and review its comprehensive plan, focusing on a topic of their interest (ideally the same as their presentation topic). The final paper will involve reading, analyzing, and critiquing the plan.

**Detailed instructions for the assignments will be available on CANVAS.**

## Course Schedule and Required Reading

There will be additional required readings and materials available on CANVAS.

Week	Date	Topic & Activities	Assignments
1	1/13	<b>Course Overview &amp; Introduction</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 1	
	1/15	<b>Planning Background</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 2	
2	1/20	<b>Planning History</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 3	
	1/22	<b>Planning History</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 3	
3	1/27	<b>Planning History</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 4	
	1/29	<b>Legal Basis of Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 5	
4	2/3	<b>Planning and Politics</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 6	
	2/5	<b>Planning and Social Issues</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 7	<b>My City Essay (Feb 8)</b>
5	2/10	<b>Planning and Social Issues</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 7	
	2/12	<b>Urban Renewal Efforts (Robert Moses vs. Jane Jacobs)</b>	
6	2/17	<b>Comprehensive Plan</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 8	
	2/19	<b>Tools of Land Use Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 9	
7	2/24	<b>Reading Day</b>	
	2/26	<b>Exam</b>	
8	3/3	<b>Walkability Audit</b>	
	3/5	<b>Walkability Audit</b>	<b>Planning Meeting Memo (Mar 8)</b>
9	<b>Spring Break (3/9 – 3/15)</b>		
10	3/17	<b>Urban Design</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 10	
	3/19	<b>Urban Design</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 10	<b>Presentation</b>
11	3/24	<b>Housing &amp; Community Development</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 11	
	3/26	<b>Housing &amp; Community Development</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 11	<b>Presentation</b>

12	3/31	<b>Transportation Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 12	
	4/2	<b>Transportation Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 12	<b>Presentation Walkability Audit (Apr 5)</b>
13	4/7	<b>Economic Development Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 13	
	4/9	<b>Economic Development Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 13	<b>Presentation</b>
14	4/14	<b>Environmental Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 14	
	4/16	<b>Environmental Planning</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 14	<b>Presentation</b>
15	4/21	<b>Planning at the National, State, and Metropolitan Level</b> Required Reading: Levy Chapter 15	
	4/23	<b>Planning Theory</b>	
16	4/28	<b>The Values and Professional Ethics in Planning: AICP Code of Ethics</b>	
	4/30	<b>Feedback, Discussion, and Summary Lecture</b>	<b>Comprehensive Plan Review (May 3)</b>

## Course Policies

### Assignment Policy

Assignment due dates are listed in the syllabus and posted on Canvas. For each assignment, you can find instructions and additional materials on Canvas. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas, unless indicated otherwise.

### Late Work

**All assignments are due by 11:59 PM, the end of the due date. You will lose 10% of your total score if you submit within 48 hours after the deadline. You will lose 20% of your total score if you submit beyond 48 hours after the deadline.** Your assignment will not be accepted beyond 7 days of the deadline with no legitimate reasons or no communication with the instructor. Please email the instructor BEFORE the deadline to request an accommodation to waive the late policy. An extension may be given under limited circumstances, including but not limited to, the student's or a close family member's illness or injury; death of a close family member; or other major life event. The student must provide written documentation of any such event upon request. If a student fails to timely contact the professor and/or provide the requested documentation, the student will not be given additional time to complete the assigned coursework and will receive no credit for the assigned coursework.

### Cheating or Plagiarism

In accordance with UNT policy (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>), cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the course. Any work submitted for a grade should be the original work of

the student. Remember, plagiarism is a violation of acceptable student conduct. Long quotations should be avoided. Text or unique ideas taken directly from an author (quoted or paraphrased) should be cited and that citation should include a page number for the text. Violations will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary action will be taken should such violations occur. Please see the professor if you have any questions about academic integrity in general or as it relates to particular requirements for this course.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

We reserve the right to change, modify, add to, alter, delete, and otherwise rearrange the syllabus to make the learning process accessible and in response to changes in a situation. If this were to occur, students will be given advanced notice and a copy of the changes.

### **ADA Policy**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.