PADM 5300: Introduction to Urban Planning
Wednesdays, 6 – 8:50 PM
RTFP 135 (Fall 2021)

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Communication Expectations: The best way to correspond with the instructors is email. Email communication provides an opportunity to practice drafting professional correspondence. All emails should include a salutation, use appropriate language (i.e. no emoji’s) and end with a signature that includes your full name and preferred email address.

Face Coverings: UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Course Description

Urban planning is the process of analyzing, designing and distributing collective resources to produce equitable and sustainable development patterns. At its best, urban planning daylights the frameworks and systems that shape cities and the lives of people within them. At its worst, planning has been used as a tool of segregation and control. Why are some cities more livable than others? How does the built environment influence human behavior and interaction? Which forms of governance create synergistic relationships across the public, private and civic sectors? What kind of professional knowledge and expertise helps to enhance the sustainability and quality of cities and regions? These are the questions that interest and motivate urban planning professionals.

In this course, we will examine the evolution of urban planning as both a professional endeavor and a collective practice. We will investigate how the physical, economic and social development of cities created historical and contemporary antecedents for urban planning. We will assess the evolution of planning goals, strategies and practices across a variety of contexts, paying particular attention to how professional competency has changed over time. We will examine the different types of plans – land use, environmental, transportation, economic development, housing and historic preservation, and community development – and the techniques used to prepare and implement them. We will debate the complexities and challenges of a profession and field of study that coalesces politics, economics, law, human behavior, social advocacy, design, environment science and the common good. Our goal is to equip you with a basic understanding of urban planning issues most relevant to city managers and local government officials, and provide you with the ability to affect change in your own communities.
Course Objectives

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

1. Discuss how urban planning impacts the physical, economic and social development of society;
2. Understand the techniques and tools of planning practice;
3. Be fluent in the terminology, major issues and debates of planning;
4. Leverage planning tools and processes to make changes in their community;
5. Complete a site design and financial analysis for a neighborhood redevelopment project;
6. Conduct a spatial scenario planning analysis using Urban Footprint.

Required Reading:

- Articles, reports and other materials on Canvas

Required Technology:

- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or equivalent
- Internet to access Urban Footprint software (a license will be provided for you). Students are responsible for maintaining access to their UF accounts through the semester.

Course Philosophy: Inclusion and Diversity

Learning is a social activity. We all (students and instructors) share responsibility for the teaching and learning that we accomplish in each class. Active participation requires regular class attendance, fully completing and understanding assigned readings in advance of each class session and engaging in discussion by listening and speaking with others in a respectful and constructive exchange of ideas.

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Department of Public Administration: Anti-bias Statement

The Department of Public Administration believes in the fundamental principles of life, liberty, equality, equity, and in doing good to all people as we serve our students and the public interest.

- We believe in the importance of diversity and inclusion
- We believe in fairness and equity for all faculty and students in and out of class
- We believe in mutual respect and civility for all students and faculty
- We believe that faculty and students have a right to a redress of grievances
- We believe that students and faculty should be actively engaged in good works
Course Assignments

This is a graduate level survey course that meets once a week on Wednesday evening. The course is structured around three modules Planning History, Law and Processes; Specialization Areas in Planning; Implementation and Emerging Issues. Class meetings include a mix of labs, lectures, guest speakers, site visits and group work. Your grade is based on the following components, described in detail below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% Final Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Footprint Analysis Lab</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Meeting Summary</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Before 10/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Plan Activity</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation, Attendance + In-Class Activities</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>All</td>
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**Urban Footprint Analysis.** You will complete a scenario planning exercise using the Urban Footprint software and draft a 3 to 5-page memo summarizing the results of your analysis. We will spend time during the class meeting on September 15 learning the software and working on the guided exercise. Memos should be uploaded to Canvas before the class session on September 22. You will also be expected to complete an Urban Footprint analysis as part of your final research paper.

**Planning Meeting Summary.** During the first module, you will attend one planning meeting in a community of your choosing. After attending, please provide a 3-page summary that includes the meeting place, date and time, summarizes the major issues or topics discussed and identifies major stakeholders involved (or conspicuously absent) from the meeting. Based on this meeting, what appear to be the major planning issues in this community? What, if anything, is being done to address those issues? Planning Board meetings are regularly scheduled and posted on municipal websites; it is acceptable to watch a recorded meeting from the previous year or to attend the meeting virtually. Papers should be uploaded to Canvas prior to class on October 20.

**Midterm Exam.** A mixture of short answer, and multiple-choice questions based on the readings, guest lectures, site visits and in-class activities from Week 1 – Week 9. Exam will be open note and available online from 6 – 7:30 PM on October 27. You can prepare for the exam with your classmates but should complete the exam individually.

**Urban Plan Development Scenario Activity.** During the third module of the course, you will work with an assigned group to complete a development scenario created by the Urban Land Institute called Urban Plan. Using the online tools provided, you will be required to design a site plan, complete a financial analysis and present a development proposal to a mock city council composed of development professionals from the DFW area. Please be prepared to meet at an off-campus location near Denton for our class session on November 17.

**Planning Research Paper.** For your final project, you will complete a research paper on a contemporary planning issue in a municipality or region of your choice. The paper will utilize readings from the course to provide a framework for understanding the issue, and will also provide spatial analysis using the
Urban Footprint software. Depending on the topic, you may also choose to conduct historical research, analyze existing planning and policy documents, identify or interview important stakeholders and community organizations, or conduct a visual study. Students will submit a paper proposal, outlining their selected topic and guiding research questions, on November 3. Students can complete this assignment in pairs of 2 and should indicate this in their project proposal.

**Participation, Attendance and In-Class Activities.** This portion of your grade will be based on your engagement with in-class activities, guest speakers and class discussions. For more details on what constitutes ‘A’ quality participation, please see the Participation Rubric on Canvas. Per university policy, we will not allow virtual attendance at in-person class sessions. Our assigned room may not have the appropriate technology and course activities are designed for in-person delivery. You are expected to attend each of the class sessions and to notify the instructors in advance, if you are unable to attend a class meeting.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Activities</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1: Planning History, Law and Processes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Module 2: Specialization Areas in Planning</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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| 10/6  | Housing + Community Development            | 1) Talen, *Use* (pg. 89 – 125)  
3) News Articles posted on Canvas |
2) Bruegeman, R. *Sprawl: A Compact History*, Chps 1 and 2 (17 – 31), Chapter 6 (96-112)  
| 10/20 | Economic Development Planning              | Planning Meeting Summary Due PRIOR to class  
2) Florida, R. Cities and the Creative Class. *City & Community* (March 2003): 3 - 19  
3) ICMA, Advances in Community Engagement |
| 10/27 | Exam (Online)  
Review Urban Plan Materials                  | Exam Online  
Complete Urban Plan Quiz PRIOR to next class |
|       | Module 3: Implementation and Emerging Issues |  |
| 11/3  | Development In Practice                    | 6 – 7:45: Urban Plan Day 1  
8 – 9: Facilitation I |
| 11/10 | Emerging Issues in Planning                | 6 – 7:30: Urban Plan Day 2 (Facilitation II)  
7:30 – 9: Emerging Issues in Planning Lecture  
(2) TBD: Articles on Canvas |
| 11/17 | Urban Plan Presentations                   | 6 – 9: Presentations + Recap |
| 11/24 | THANSGIVING Week                           | CLASS OPTIONAL; Urban Footprint Paper work session |
| 12/1  | Course Recap + Research Presentations      | Articles on Canvas (TBD) |
| 12/8  | Finals Week (No Class)                     | Research Reports Due |

**Course Policies**

**Technical Requirements & Skills**

**Minimum Technology Requirements**

To succeed in this course students should have access to a computer with Microsoft Excel or a similar spreadsheet software and be comfortable using Canvas. Students should also be familiar with presentation and graphics programs (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi) and be comfortable using the internet to find various resources. Students will be given access to ArcGIS Story Maps during the semester. Each
student is responsible for maintaining access to the online software, which will be required to complete the final assignment.

Netiquette
Netiquette, or online etiquette, refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Use clear and concise language.
- All communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as “wassup?” and texting abbreviations such as “u” instead of “you.”
- Use standard fonts such as Arial, Calibri or Times new Roman in a size 10- or 12-point font.
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or 😊.
- Be cautious with humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other’s).

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.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Examination Policy
We will have one online open book exam in this course. You are expected to complete the exam individually but are encouraged to prepare for the exam with your classmates using the study guide posted on Canvas.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback
As the course instructors, we will clearly communicate course expectations, and evaluation procedures. We will provide comprehensive instructions for projects and assignments, promptly answer your questions about readings or assignments, help you identify different resources and keep course content updated.

The best way to correspond with us is through email. Email communication provides an opportunity to practice drafting professional correspondence, and as such all emails should include a salutation, use appropriate language (not emoji’s) and end with a signature that includes your full name and preferred email address. We will reply to your emails within 24 hours during the week and by the end of the day on Monday for any emails sent over the weekend. If you plan to be absent from class for any reason, please email us in advance.

Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit at the discretion of the instructor. Students that turn in last assignments will only receive grades equal to or lesser than the lowest grade received by a
student who submitted their assignment by the due date. If unexpected circumstances prevent assignment completion on time (e.g. hospitalization, emergency travel), email the instructor as soon as possible to make alternative due date arrangements.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Syllabus Change Policy
The instructors reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, including augmenting readings and adding activities. Any changes for a specific class meeting will be posted at least one week before the class, with notifications sent out to students via email and Canvas.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy
According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

All written work submitted for this course should be expressed in your own words, except for acknowledged quotations. If you complete a project in partnership with a classmate, this should be indicated on the submitted materials. Students that participate in academic dishonesty or intentional plagiarism may receive a failing grade on the assignment, the course and/or referral to the Dean of Students, based on the severity of the offense. Plagiarism occurs when you accidentally or purposefully:

- Use someone else’s words without attribution, including the use of sentences, quotes, statistics or other information from books or journals without citing your sources
- Download or copy material from the Internet and present it as your own work
- Have another student complete an assignment for you
- Turn in assignments completed for a different course without instructor approval

Still unclear? The best solution is to consult with your instructors and when in doubt, provide citations!
ADA Policy
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation 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. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment and Assault
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal Title IX classifies violence and harassment based on sex and gender as Civil Rights offenses. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, UNT has staff members trained to provide support in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources. Renee LeClaire McNamara, UNT’s Student Advocate, can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.