COURSE SUMMARY

ES 135B – Advanced Environmental Planning

*If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else.* -- Yogi Berra

**March 29th**

**Introduction:** Course Introduction/Organization/Background

**Topic:** Introduction & Course Overview.

“*Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.*”
--Warren Buffett

**Topic:** General Plan/Planning Process Refresher

**Readings:**

Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 1 (pp. 8-10 and 12-16).

California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). 2003. (Chapter 1) General plan basics, and (Chapter 3) Preparing and amending a general plan.


**Examples of "State-of-the-Art" Plans:**


Santa Monica Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) (July 6, 2010) Available at http://www.shapethefuture2025.net

2011 Plan Fort Collins http://www.fcgov.com/planfortcollins/

Readings (References for assignment and exam, as instructed):


Topic: Hometown Assessment & General Plan Analysis Assignments: Q & A (Due: April 26)

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.” -- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

April 5th

Theme: Preparing a General Plan - The Place Matters

Before you build a better mousetrap, it helps to know if there are any mice out there. --Anon

Topic: Community Plans

Guest Speaker: Erik Justesen, Principle, RRM Design Group

See: www.rrmdesign.com

Topic: Updating a County General Plan - Where to start? What to do?

Readings:

Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 6, The Basic Tools Part 1: The General Plan (pp. 115-142).


**April 12th**

**Theme:** Planning at the Regional Level

*There is absolutely no inevitability as long as there is a willingness to contemplate what is happening.*

--Marshall McLuhan

**Topic:** Regional Government in California - People, Cars & Air

**Readings:**


Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 2, *California's Regions* (pp. 34-46); and Chapter 5, *The Emergence of Strong Regional Planning* (pp. 109-114).


Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 21, *Air* (pp. 432-435)

**Topic:** Water Resources - Planning in Times of Drought

*“Water is the driving force in all nature.”* -- Leonardo da Vinci

**Readings:**


Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 21, *Water* (pp. 423-432).

“Whiskey is for drinking, Water is for fighting over.” -- Mark Twain

**April 19th**

**Topic:** Environmental Planning in the City of Santa Barbara

Guest Speaker: Janice Hubbell, AICP, Community Development Department, City of Santa Barbara

City web site: [http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/services/planning.asp](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/services/planning.asp)

**Readings:**

- Power Point Slides: Santa Barbara County Streams, Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project. Also, see:
  

**Topic:** State-Regional-Local Collaborative Planning: The Example of the California Coastal Act of 1976

Guest Speaker: Paul Wack, UCSB

**Readings:**

- California Coastal Planning Process Lecture Outline (selected slides)
- Groves, M. “Venice looks for more control”. (*Los Angeles Times*, January 20, 2014)
- Fulton and Shigley, Chapter 5 (Regional Planning: 99, 109-114), Chapter 21 (411-418)

[http://www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)

[http://www.coastal.ca.gov/recap/rctop.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/recap/rctop.html) (ReCAP)

**April 26th**

**DUE:** General Plan Evaluation Assignment (*Class discussion*)

**Topic:** Development Review Process: Following “The Snake”
In most things success depends on knowing how long it takes to succeed.

-- Charles Louis de Montesquieu (1689-1722)

Readings:

The Project Review Process (“The Snake”) and City of Santa Barbara DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM (DART) INFORMATIONAL PACKET (2-10-15)


City of Santa Barbara Planning Central
http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/services/planning/default.asp

The City of Pasadena Permit Center http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/zoning/index.html

Ventura County One-Stop Permitting Website http://onestoppermit.ventura.org/

Class Discussion: Planning Commission Hearing Assignment: Q & A (Due: May 10)

You can observe a lot by watching. -- Yogi Berra

Readings (References for assignment):

California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) (1989). The Planning Commissioner's Book. Sacramento; Author. (Reference for hearing assignment)

Solnit, Albert. (1987). The Job of the Planning Commissioner, APA Planner Press, Chicago, Ill., Chapter 4: Prerequisites of Doing an Effective Job (pp. 56-70), Chapter 6: Public Meetings and Public Relations (pp. 83-94), and Chapter 7: Due Process or How to Be Fair (pp. 95-104). (Reference for hearing assignment)


Torma, Carolyn, Getting the Most Out of Staff Reports, Planning Magazine (February, 2014), American Planning Association, Chicago, Ill.
May 3rd

Theme: Agriculture & Open Space Preservation

The farm not only grows food, it nourishes human character, is a challenge and a teacher, a source of insight and values.

--Wendell Berry

Topic: Agricultural Land Preservation: The Ventura County Experience

County RMA Planning web site: http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/

County Williamson Act (LCA) Program:
http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/programs/lca/index.html

Readings:

Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 21, Structure of Natural Resource Protection (pp. 411-413); and Farmland (pp. 435-438).


Daniels, Tom, Preserving Farms and Farmland, Planning Magazine (August/September, 2009), American Planning Association, Chicago, Ill.

American Farmland Trust (AFT): What's New in California
http://www.farmland.org/programs/states/ca/default.asp (NOT AVAILABLE)


California Department of Conservation, Programs to Conserve California's farmland & Open Space Resources. Available: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/Pages/Index.aspx

Topic: The Role of Land Trusts in Environmental Planning

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous

--Aristotle

Guest Speaker: E.J. Remson, The Nature Conservancy

Class meeting/discussion: Review of pending assignments
May 10th

DUE: Planning Commission Hearing Report (Class discussion)

Topic: Healthy Communities, Sustainability and Energy

The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend.

--Benjamin Disraeli

Readings:

Fulton & Shigley, Chapters 18, Sustainability and Planning in California (pp. 351-356); and Chapter 23, Natural Hazards (pp. 455-466).

Jackson, Richard, Designing Healthy Communities, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., San Francisco. Chapter 3, Can The Built Environment Build Community? (pp. 35-41); and Chapter 11, What's Happening in Your Community? (pp. 159-174).


Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity, Institute of Medicine, Washington, D.C. (September, 2009)

Be a City with Health Land Use Policies, HEAL Cities Campaign, Oakland, CA (2014).

2005 Toward a Sustainable Seattle Plan
http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cityplanning/completeprojectslist/comprehensiveplan/whatwhy

Pasadena Green City efforts http://cityofpasadena.net/GreenCity/


California Department of Public Health, Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Report, Healthy Communities Framework, available at: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/HealthyCommunityIndicators.aspx#HealthyCommFra mwk

Riverside County General Plan, Healthy Communities Element http://www.rivcoph.org/Portals/0/pdf/FINALHCE3_23_2011.pdf

American Planning Association Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning (Final Policy Guide, adopted May 11, 2007) is available at: https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm (from ES 135A)


May 17th

Theme: Planning for Downtown and Beyond

You were under the impression, that when you were walking forwards, you would end up further onward, but things aren't quite that simple.

-- The Who

Topic: City of Ventura: Planning for Downtown

Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Lambert, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Ventura
http://www.cityofventura.net/cd

Topic: Housing, NIMBYs and LULUs

Readings:


Reslock, Debbie, Housing for All?, Planning Magazine (February, 2016), American Planning Association, Chicago, Ill.

May 24th

The Exam (275 points, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

Oh, I should've been listening to every word you said. – Wilco

May 31st

DUE: Seeking Solutions to Global Challenges (hard copies and Gaucho Space)

Theme: The Planning Profession - Preparing for the Real World

If there is no wind, row. Latin Proverb

Guest Speakers: A panel of “recent” UCSB ES Grads Working in Planning

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-- Margaret Mead

Readings:

How to become an environmental planner, see http://www.ehow.com/how_2075515_become-environmental-planner.html


Jackson, Richard, Designing Healthy Communities, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., San Francisco. Epilogue, Now It's Your Turn (pp. 207-212).


American Planning Association: www.planning.org

Planetizen: www.planetizen.com

Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.

-- Alan Lakein
Required Texts

ES 135B course readings will be available on Gaucho Space.


Grading Program

Grades will be based on the defined assignments/items outlined below.

Attendance and Participation 100
Home Town Assessment 75
General Plan Evaluation (April 26) 250
Planning Commission Hearing Report (May 10) 200
The Exam (May 24) 200
Seeking Solutions To Global Challenges (May 31) 150
ES 135A-B Redesign Recommendations Statement (POST by June 9) 25

TOTAL POINTS 1000

OFFICE HOURS: Variable. Generally, they will be before Tuesday class from 4:00 to 5:00pm. Specific hours will be announced at least one week prior (at class). Bren 4021L. 893-2968.

(Note: Please include “ES 135B” in subject box of e-mails and do not send attachments)

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Assignment #1

HOME TOWN ASSESSMENT (DUE: April 12th)

Your first assignment in ES 135A was entitled “Getting To Know Your Community”. Well, your first assignment in ES 135B is intended to build on that work and provide you an opportunity to think about your hometown a little bit more. This time, with your greater understanding of planning, land use and community, you'll need to think about home in terms of its context and
history. You should be able to complete this assignment with a quick check on the web for some basic information, and a phone call/e-mail home to mom or dad. If mom and/or dad are not available, please feel free to reach out to the parents of a childhood friend, an employer, or other person of your parent's generation who you know at home. If that is not possible, please see me for an alternative assignment.

On a single, type-written page, please provide the name of your home town, the County in which it resides, and the County seat for that County if it is different from your hometown. Then answer the following questions:

- When and why did your parents originally move to that town?
- Other than their own house/property, what is their favorite place in town? Why?
- What is your parent's least favorite place in town? Why?
- What one thing has changed the most since they moved there? How has it changed?
- If they could change one thing about the town, what would it be?

Time is really the only capital that any human being has, and the one thing that he (she) can't afford to lose.

--Thomas Edison

Assignment #2

GENERAL PLAN ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT (DUE: April 26th)

This assignment provides an opportunity to apply the concepts learned in ES 135A about general plans adopted by city and county governments pursuant to California State Planning and Zoning Laws (Government Code Section 65000 et seq.), or some other local jurisdiction in another state or country. Each class member will select a recently adopted general, comprehensive, or community plan (2000 or later), or a public draft of a proposed new or updated plan, and evaluate at least two elements (Land Use is required) using the general criteria and format outlined below, as discussed in class.

The paper will be organized as follows:

Cover Page

Include name, course name and number, quarter, date of submittal, instructor name, and a spiffy title, seasoned with a visual related to the assignment.
Introduction

Reason for selecting the subject general plan. Provide the story in acquiring the plan. For electronic retrieval, start with the local jurisdiction's home page and go from there. Only if you can't find it this way, then attempt a direct Google (or Dogpile) search using the plan's title. Summarize what you're presenting in terms of organization.

Summary of the general plan document (organization/contents). Identify the two elements selected for evaluation, including purpose of selecting the second element for evaluation, as the land use element is required.

Criteria/Evaluation

Identify and apply the selected evaluation criteria in a format that best works for you. The source of the criteria used is to be clearly cited from Fulton (see p.139), PLATO, Baer, and Kaiser & Godschalk. The Wheeler reading (Chapter 6 - Tools for Sustainability Planning) will serve as a guide for thinking about sustainability related content. The “state of the art” plans listed in the syllabus (under May 29th) serve as examples of documents that contain the tools identified by Wheeler. Also the Godschalk and Anderson reading (Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan pp. 4) contain “guides to action” that represent characteristics of sustainable plans worth noting. When focusing on specific text in your plan document, properly reference the page number(s) being discussed. Attachment examples are to be properly connected to your presentation and clearly labeled. Label each attachment (Appendix 1, 2, 3 etc.) and be sure to refer to it in your main text. **NOTE:** The Table of Contents from the subject plan will be a required attachment. All other attachments are optional, but encouraged if presented as a positive contribution to the paper.

One approach might be to present your evaluation in two parts. First, start with the overall organization, themes, etc. of the plan. Next focus on the two plan elements selected.

Attempt to classify the general plan based upon the “plan types” provided by the Kaiser and Godschalk article (A Stalwart Family Tree), in the 135B Gaucho Space readings. Is the plan “state of the art”, as defined by Kaiser and Godschalk in your opinion?

Conclusion/Summary of Evaluation Results

If the evaluation results are contained in the main body of your paper, a short overall conclusion is adequate. Complete your presentation with some lessons learned from this assignment.

**Note:** No binders!!!! A simple staple in the upper left hand corner is good enough.

The main paper will be 3 pages max, (not including attachments), single-space, 12-point font, New Times Roman, with appropriate subheadings and page numbers. Proper citation of sources and a list of references are expected at the end of the last page of your paper, not on a separate page. Make the document look good, especially since it could serve as a writing sample for future internship/job interviews or graduate school pursuits.
Assignment #3

PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING REPORT (DUE: May 10th)

Democracy cannot exist in silence. -- Charles Kuralt

This assignment provides an opportunity to experience local democracy in action by attending either a county or city planning commission, city council, or board of supervisors land use related hearing, and viewing for comparison a hearing on the public access channel or video archive. Attending a public hearing in groups is encouraged to enhance the social flavor of the assignment, although preparing the report is an individual exercise. This assignment involves comparing two hearings, attending one in person and watching the other on television (CSBTV Channel 20) or streaming on-line. The latter may be a rebroadcast or an archive. However, no hearing previous to May 15, 2015 can be used for this assignment.

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate the connection between the planning concepts presented in class and the practice of land use decision-making in the “real world”. This connection is provided by the assigned course readings. Two of these readings provide the criteria that class members will apply in evaluating the actions of the decision-makers, planning staff, applicants, citizens, and other participants at the hearing. Class members are observers and may not participate in the festivities no matter how much you may want to, although the commission chair may ask a student to step up to the podium to ask who you all are and why you are there.

The report will include a minimum number of items:

1. Name of public entity, hearing date, title of agenda item(s), and project description(s).

2. Hearing summary, perhaps beginning with impressions of the setting where the hearing is being held; observations and analysis of the hearing item(s), based upon the criteria provided by the articles in the ES 135B course readings (OPR, Solnit, etc.). Interaction among the players (i.e., decision-makers [name them], effectiveness of written and oral presentations by planning staff and representatives from other city/county departments, developers/applicants and their representatives, citizens and groups, etc.), procedural effectiveness, responsiveness to community concerns, and the ability to get things done are a few examples. Being able to name the players discussed in your paper is important. Was the web site helpful in providing information about the hearings (agendas, staff reports, etc.)?

3. Comparing the two hearings you experienced/researched is an important part of this assignment, especially in applying the provided evaluation criteria, and including the differences in viewing the hearings in person and on television or archives.

3. Conclude with lessons learned from the experience in terms of knowledge acquired from class resources and personal observations. What role in planning do you see yourself possibly representing in the future? (NOTE: you will be involved in the local planning public hearing process at some point in the future)
4. The format of the report will include a 2-page maximum, single-spaced, 12 pt. font presentation with no cover page or fancy folder.

It is likely that most class members will attend either a Santa Barbara City or County Planning Commission meeting.

The **County** Planning Commission

[http://sbcounrtyplanning.org/boards/pc/cpc.cfm](http://sbcounrtyplanning.org/boards/pc/cpc.cfm)

The County Planning Commission meets every Wednesday from 9 AM-Noon, and from 1:00 PM until adjourning anywhere from 3 PM until the cows come home. The hearing room is located in downtown Santa Barbara at 123 E. Anapamu Street (at Anacapa) in the Engineering Building behind the County Administration Building. The link above can connect you to their adopted hearing schedule for 2016. Please verify these dates before venturing to the hearing site.

The **City** Planning Commission


The Commission generally meets on the first, second and third Thursdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street next to De La Guerra Plaza, between State and Anacapa streets. The link above can connect you to their adopted hearing schedule for 2016. Please verify these dates before venturing to the hearing site. For archived hearings see the following:


**Other Options**

There are other options available should you be unable to attend either a City or County of Santa Barbara Planning Commission meeting. Both the City of Goleta and the City of Carpinteria are options.


The City of Carpinteria is at [http://carpinteria.ca.us/agendas/index.shtml](http://carpinteria.ca.us/agendas/index.shtml)
Assignment #4

SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES (DUE: June 2)

Overview

The purpose of this assignment is to provide an opportunity for each class member to prepare their own personal “statement” about one of the critical issues/challenges facing the globe today. Over the course of this quarter we have explored a number of issues that are universally challenging planners and the communities in which they live and work. We have focused on issues that are particularly important to California: Water, Agriculture, Housing, Healthy Communities, Habitat Conservation and Sustainability.

As these issues have developed over the years and our responses to them have matured, a growing number of planners and policy makers are leading by example through "best practices", model ordinances and guidelines, new policies, state of the art development plans, and the like. Collectively, these planning efforts are attempting to challenge the "post-war land use model" (i.e. urban sprawl and the exhaustion of non-renewable resources) and move our communities, states and nations toward a world that our children and grandchildren can enjoy as much or more than we do today.

The Assignment

Your assignment here is to select one of the issues described above (i.e. Water, Agriculture, Housing, Healthy Communities, Habitat Conservation or Sustainability) and prepare a memo as follows:

1. A hard copy memo, no longer than two pages (single space, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman). You are writing this memo as if you are an Assistant Planner in a non-descript Community and it is for your boss, the Planning Director.

2. The first section of the memo is to include who the memo is to (i.e. Planning Director), who it is from (i.e. your name and title - congratulations on your new position of Assistant Planner!) the date, and the subject (i.e., your chosen issue). You may want to refer to the staff reports you saw for your Planning Commission assignment to get ideas for how this might look.

3. The second section will be your Problem Statement. This is your chance to define the problem and describe its importance to the community. This should be accomplished within a single paragraph if at all possible.

4. The third section, and the bulk of the memo, should be your description of those policies, programs and “best practices” that you recommend the Planning Director include within the upcoming General Plan Update. To the extent possible, you should include very specific policy language and programs.
5. The fourth and final section of the memo is a final “Conclusion” paragraph which is your chance to briefly explain why the programs you have recommended will help address the problem as you have defined it in the Problem Statement.

6. Finally, you should attach a one-page listing of the documents you used to assemble your recommended policies, programs and best practices. As it is most likely that you’ll be assembling this information via the web, please include the web addresses and where relevant the document page numbers for appropriate reference.

There is no need for a cover page. The final product should be three pages total. As usual, it should be single-spaced typed, 12 point, font, in Times New Roman. The final product submittal on June 2 (Hard copy in class and posting on Gaucho Space).

Additional Comments

It is understood that it is impossible to comprehensively address any of these important issues in just two pages. And you are not expected to do so. Your objective in this assignment is to select those policies, program and practices that you think are most important to move the community and planet toward a better future. The goal here it for you to think critically about an issue, collect and prioritize information from current planning practice, and explain why you think it is the right thing to do. Your biggest challenge may be to accomplish this in two pages or less. However, when you enter the working world, you may find yourself being asked to provide “briefing reports” to those above you, and the key word is “brief”, so please look at this as an opportunity to start honing your writing skills for your professional career. They will serve you well.

CLASSROOM CIVILITY

Still applies from ES 135A . . .