COURSE SUMMARY

ES 135B – Advanced Environmental Planning

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

**April 3rd**

**Topic:** Introduction & Course Overview.

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

**Readings:**

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


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

**April 10th**

**Topic:** California Water Policy/Planning Today

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

Guest Speaker: Lynn Rodriguez, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County

**Topic:** The “What” and “How” of the General Plan

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

**Readings:**

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


**Examples of "State-of-the-Art" Plans (Reference):**

City of Sacramento 2030 General Plan (March 3, 2009). Available at http://www.sacgp.org/


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/

**April 17th**

**Topic:** The 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)


**Readings (Reference):**

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/


**Topic: The Planning Commission**

**Readings:**


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)


**April 24th**  *(DUE: General Plan Analysis Assignment)*

**Topic: Project Planning and a Consultant’s Perspective**

Guest Speakers: Erik Justesen & Lisa Plowman, RRM Design Group

See: www.rrmdesign.com
**Topic:** The “New Normal” – Planning for Fire

**May 1st**

**Topic:** The Role of Land Trusts in Environmental Planning

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

**Topic:** Agricultural Land Preservation: The Ventura County Experience

County RMA Planning web site: [http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/](http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/)

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


**Readings (Reference):**

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

**May 8th**

**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:

Santa Barbara County Streams, Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project. Also, see:
http://santabarbara.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=80d6549b-f09c-1031-a551-f3fb1162b875

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

Guest Speaker: Paul Wack, UCSB

Readings:

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/recap/rctop.html (ReCAP)

May 15th (DUE: Planning Commission Hearing Report)

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).

Readings (Reference):

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 22rd

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 – The California Planning Challenge

**Readings:**


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


**May 29th**

The Exam (200 points, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

“Oh, I should've been listening to every word you said.”

--Wilco

**June 5th** *(DUE: Recommendations for a Better Place & World (hard copies))*

**Topic:** The Planning Profession - Preparing for the Real World

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_2075515Become-environmental-planner.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2075515Become-environmental-planner.html)


Yin, J. (2012). *Urban planning for dummies*. Canada: John Wiley & Sons. (Chapter 18 and Appendix)


American Planning Association: [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)

> “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
General Plan Analysis (April 24th) - 175
Planning Commission Hearing Report (May 15th) - 350
The Exam (May 29th) - 200
Recommendations for a Better Place & World (June 5th) - 175

**TOTAL POINTS 1000**

**OFFICE HOURS**: Variable. Generally, they will be before Tuesday class from 5:00 to 6:00pm. Any change will be announced at least one week prior (at class). Bren 4021L. 893-2968. Appointments are preferred if possible – contact me via e-mail or in class.

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

Assignment #1

GENERAL PLAN ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT (DUE: April 24th)

This assignment provides an opportunity to apply the concepts learned in ES 135A, as well as those introduced in this class, about general plans adopted by city and county governments pursuant to California State Planning and Zoning Laws (Government Code Section 65000 et seq.). Each class member will select the most recently adopted general, comprehensive, or community plan for your hometown (remember, from your first assignment in ES 135A). If your hometown is outside of California, please select a California community that you are familiar with so that you can fully complete the assignment (if you do not believe you are familiar enough with any California communities, please contact the instructor). You will evaluate at least two elements (you can look at more if you wish) using the general criteria and format outlined below. One of the elements must be the Land Use Element.

The paper will be organized as follows:

Cover Page

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

Introduction

Provide the story in acquiring the plan. If you obtained your general plan over the web, 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 search using the plan’s title. Please explain how easy or difficult it was to find the general plan using the local jurisdiction’s web page.

Identify the one or more element(s) you selected in addition to the land use element, and describe why you selected it for evaluation (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: either from Fulton (see pp.139-140), PLATO, and/or the Godschalk and Anderson reading (Sustaining Places: The Role of the Comprehensive Plan pp. 4), which contains “guides to action” that represent characteristics of sustainable plans worth noting).

In addition to the evaluation above, review the plan to see whether it addresses the four key themes outlined in the new General Plan Guidelines issued by OPR (pp.7-9). The themes are climate change, economics, healthy communities and equitable opportunities. These are new topics in the Guidelines, but it is likely that the plan has addressed them at least implicitly in
some manner. If in your opinion the plan has not adequately addressed these themes, provide suggestions or additions/revisions that would make it do so.

The “state of the art” plans listed in the syllabus serve as examples of highly regarded general plan documents. Also, when focusing on specific text in your plan document, properly reference the page number(s) being discussed. Attachments from the subject General Plan 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 (or more) plan elements selected. Regardless of the approach, utilize the review criteria within the readings and address the new General Plan Guideline themes.

**Conclusion/Summary of Evaluation Results**

If the evaluation results are contained in the main body of your paper, a short overall conclusion is adequate. And please include your answer to the following question: Does the general plan do a good job of characterizing your city, do you like the direction the general plan proposes to take it? If you had to update the Plan, what areas/themes would you focus on? 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 a minimum of 2 full pages and a maximum of 3 pages, (not including attachments), single-space, 12-point font, Times New 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 #2**

**PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING REPORT (DUE: May 15th)**

*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 meeting, or a city council or board of supervisor land use related hearing. 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 attending one hearing; Planning Commission hearings are preferred and information regarding various local commission hearings is provided below.
The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate the connection between the planning concepts presented in ES 135A and this class, and the practice of land use decision-making in the “real world”. The assigned course readings will assist you in making this connection. 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. Summary of hearing, 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. This should make up the bulk of your report.

3. Briefly describe the key issue(s) surrounding one of the agenda items considered at the meeting you attended. Do you think all of the questions surrounding the issue(s) were answered? If you were a Commissioner, what question(s) would you have asked the applicant or the staff? Did you agree with the Planning Commission’s or Board’s decision? Why?

4. 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 at some point in your life likely be involved in the local planning public hearing process.)

4. The format of the report will include a 3-page maximum, single-spaced, 12 pt. font presentation with no cover page or fancy folder.

Planning Commission Information

Santa Barbara County http://sbcountyplanning.org/boards/pc/cpc.cfm

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission meets Wednesdays from 9 AM-Noon, and from 1:00 PM until adjourning anywhere from 3 PM until the cows come home. The hearing room is 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 meetings before venturing to the hearing site.

City of Santa Barbara http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/brdcomm/nz/planning/default.asp
The City of Santa Barbara Planning 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. Please verify these dates before venturing to the hearing site. For archived hearings see: http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/brdcomm/nz/planning/videos.asp

The City of Goleta is at http://www.cityofgoleta.org/i-want-to/news-and-updates/government-meeting-agendas-and-videos First and third Mondays at 6:00 pm

The City of Carpinteria is at (http://carpinteria.ca.us/agendas/index.shtml) First Monday of the month at 5:30 pm

County of Ventura is at http://vcrma.org/planning/hearings-agendas/planning-commission-hearings.html Thursday mornings at 8:30 am

City of Ventura is at http://www.cityofventura.net/meetings/221 Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm

City of Solvang is at http://www.cityofsolvang.com/202/Planning-Commission First Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm

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

Assignment #3

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A BETTER PLACE & WORLD (DUE: June 5th)

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 our communities and, ultimately, the globe today. Over the course of this quarter we have explored several 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, Fire Resilience, 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, Resiliency 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 the Assistant Planner with the City or Town that was the subject of Assignments #1 (your Hometown). The memo is to 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 your Hometown. This should be accomplished within a single paragraph.

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 greatest 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 and thus make your Hometown a better place.

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 (a two-page memo and attached list of references). As usual, it should be single-spaced typed, 12 point, font, in Times New Roman. The final product submittal is due on June 5th (Hard copy in class).

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, programs and practices that you think are most important to move your Hometown and the planet toward a better future. The goal here is 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 . . .


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

--Warren Buffett