

**URSI 661: Long Range—Comprehensive Planning
Fall 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Heidi Welsch

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Class meeting location:

France Building, Rm. 315, Suite C

7700 France Ave., South

Edina, MN

Meeting Times: Tuesdays, 6 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Course Description

Comprehensive Planning is a tool used to help communities achieve goals through land use policies. This kind of specialized planning involves assessing a community's current situation, projecting future changes, and creating strategies for achieving community goals. A Comprehensive Plan essentially seeks to answer 3 questions for the community:

- Where and what are we now?
- Where and what do we want to be?
- How do we get there?

By the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Explain purpose and concepts behind Comprehensive Planning
- Understand and be able to apply basic methodologies used in preparing a Comprehensive Plan
- Understand how Comprehensive Planning can be used to address major policy issues.

Approach

This course will use readings and class discussions to examine the pragmatic steps in producing a Comprehensive Plan as well as explore the policy and land-use issues addressed through Comprehensive Planning. In order to gain "real world" perspective and advice, a primary focus of the class will be presentation of community Comprehensive Plans by Community Development Directors and Planners throughout the Twin Cities.

Class Readings

1. Berke, Philip R., David R. Godschalk, Edward J. Kaiser, and Daniel Rodriguez. 2006. *Urban Land Use Planning, 5ed.* Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
2. Kelly, Eric Damian and Barbara Becker. 2000. *Community Planning: An Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan.* Washington D.C.: Island Press.

3. (Recommended)
Hack, Garg, et al., eds. 2009. *Local Planning: Contemporary Principles and Practice*. International City and County Management Association.
4. Various Comprehensive Plans, available on-line, as noted in schedule.

Assignments and Grading

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	PERCENTAGE OF GRADE
Readings and Class Participation / Discussion	Throughout	20%
Issue Paper & Presentation	October 13	20%
Final project		
--Paper	December 8	40%
--Presentation	December 1 & 8	20%

Issue Paper (due date: October 13)

(Think in terms of 4-5 pages.)

Choose a specific, current land use or policy issue in a particular community and critique how this issue has been addressed by the community's Comprehensive Planning. Example topics:

- Traffic congestion on a particular stretch of road in a growing outer ring suburb such as Shakopee
- Areas of high foreclosure rate in inner-ring suburbs such as West St. Paul
- Compromised ground water quality from old industry in Washington County
- Need for services to a dramatically increasing population of seniors in Plymouth

Research and analyze the geographic and demographic context for the issue or problem, alternatives that might have been considered, processes that were used to develop solutions and strategies as part of the Comprehensive Plan, and the likely outcome. Your issue paper should describe whether or not you believe the jurisdiction will solve or address the issue successfully, based on the Comprehensive Plan. Why or why not? What improvements or changes would you suggest to the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to this issue?

Final Project and Presentation: Comprehensive Plan Comparison (paper due date: December 8)

(Paper should be in the range of 15-20 pages.)

Using concepts and principles learned in class readings and presentations, choose a pair of the communities and review their Comprehensive Plans. In addition to the newly released plans, you may wish to interview staff (or consultants) who wrote the plan, review minutes from decision-making bodies (e.g., Planning Commission, City Council, County Board, Metropolitan Council), in order to best understand and analyze similarities and differences between the communities and their plans. Your final paper and presentation should address:

- Geographic and demographic context
- Public participation plan, study process, assumptions, conceptual models used for completing the plan
- Issues and constraints
- Community goals and vision

- Plans (sometimes referred to as “Elements” or “Chapters”)and objectives across major topical areas (e.g., land use; housing; transportation; services)
- Overall identification and analysis of strengths and weaknesses of comparison plans

Plan a 20 minute presentation of your analysis and findings, to be delivered to the class on either Dec. 1 or Dec. 8.

COURSE SCHEDULE		
CLASS & DATE	TOPIC AND SPEAKER	ASSIGNMENT
1. August 25	<p>Introductions; Review of Syllabus</p> <p>Context and importance of Comprehensive Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Historical roots b) Legal frameworks 	<p>Optional:</p> <p>Historical roots of Comprehensive Planning in <i>The Chicago Plan</i> http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10537.html</p>
2. September 1	<p>Speaker 1: Patrick Boylan, Sector Representative, Metropolitan Council Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Metropolitan Council; • MN Land Use Planning Act <p>Speaker 2: Todd Graham, Researcher, Metropolitan Council Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Household Estimates • Data and Research for Comp Planning 	<p>Berke—Chp. 1</p> <p>Metropolitan Council’s Local Planning Handbook (available online at: http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/LPH/handbook.htm</p> <p>Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MN Statutes 473.858—473.860; available online at: https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/</p> <p>(More Generally: MN Statutes 462 Housing, Redevelopment, Planning, and Zoning)</p>
3. September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual Models for Comprehensive Planning • Basic steps and participation process in completion of a Comprehensive Plan • What makes a “good” Comprehensive Plan? 	<p>Berke—Chs. 2-3</p> <p>Kelly and Becker— Chs 1-2 (Introduction to Planning; Introduction to Comprehensive Planning)</p>
4. September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and Analysis: the backbone of Comp Planning • Citizen Input and Involvement 	<p>Berke—Chs 4-5, 9</p> <p>Kelly and Becker—Chs 3-5 (Where Are We? Analysis of Existing Conditions in the Community)</p>

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5. September 22	Speaker: Bryan Schafer, Community Development Director, City of Blaine Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Blaine Comprehensive Plan • Comp Planning in 2nd ring suburbs • Planning for sewer and water 	City of Blaine Comprehensive Plan—Read Introduction and at least 2 other sections of your choice: http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us/ InsideCityHall/ CommunityDevel opment/ Planning/ 2030CompPlan/2030CompPlan.cfm) Kelly and Becker—Chs 6-7 (How Do We Plan for Future Land Use?; How Do We Plan for Public Facilities?) Berke—Chp 7 (Land Use Systems)
	7:45 – 8:30 Discussion: Services (i.e., Water, Sewer, Public Facilities)	
6. September 29	Speaker: Dennis Welsch, former Community Development Director— Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Based Planning 	Kelly and Becker—Chs 9-12
7. October 6	Speakers: Brad Davis and Michael Sobota, Scott County Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott County Comprehensive Plan • Comprehensive Planning at the County level • Land Use and Growth Management 	Scott County Comprehensive Plan – Read Summary and at least 2 other chapters of your choice: http://www.co.scott.mn.us/wps/portal/ShowPage?CSF=97)
	7:45 – 8:30 Discussion: Land Use and Growth Management	
8. October 13	Speakers: Scott Hickok, Community Development Director, City of Fridley Dennis Welsch, former Community Development Director Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Fridley Comprehensive Plan • Comprehensive Planning in suburbs • Transportation and Corridor Planning 	City of Fridley Comprehensive Plan—Read Chps 1, 2, 6 and at least 1 other chapter of your choice: http://www.ci.fridley.mn.us/2030-comprehensive-plan-draft) Berke—Chp 8 (Transportation and Infrastructure Systems)

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	7:45 -8:30 Discussion: Transportation Planning in Comprehensive Plans	
9. October 20	<p>Speaker: Jeff Smyser, City of Planner, City of Lino Lakes</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Lino Lakes Comprehensive Plan • Comprehensive Planning in outer ring • Natural Resource planning in Comp Plan 	<p>City of Lino Lakes Comprehensive Plan—Read Chps. 1,2, 3 and at least 1 other chapter of your choice: (http://www.linolakes.govoffice2.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={16BD56E0-B97E-42A4-93B5-5B29F655A0B0})</p> <p>Kelly and Becker, Chp 15 Berke—Chp 6</p>
	7:45 -8:30 Discussion: Addressing Natural Resources / Parks and Open Space in Comprehensive Plans	
10. October 27	<p>Speaker: Julie Wischnack, Community Development Director, City of Minnetonka</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Minnetonka Comprehensive Plan • Comprehensive Planning in 2nd ring suburbs • Housing and neighborhood mixed use infill planning 	<p>City of Minnetonka Comprehensive Plan—Read Parts I and 2, and at least 2 other chapters of your choice: (http://www.eminnetonka.com/community_development/planning/comprehensive_guide_plan.cfm)</p> <p>Kelly and Becker, Chp 18 (Housing)</p>
	7:45 -8:30 Discussion: Addressing Housing in Comprehensive Plans	

COURSE SCHEDULE		
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11. November 3	<p>Speaker: Patrick Trudgeon, Community Development Director, City of Roseville</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Roseville Comprehensive Plan • Comprehensive Planning in 1st ring suburbs • Economic development 	<p>City of Roseville Comprehensive Plan—Read Introduction, Vision, Community Context, and at least 2 other chapters of your choice: (http://www.ci.roseville.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=544)</p> <p>Kelly and Becker, Chp 19</p>
	<p>7:45 -8:30 Discussion: Addressing Econ Dev in Comprehensive Plans</p>	
12. November 10	<p>Speaker: Barbara Sporlein, Director of Planning Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED): City of Minneapolis</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan • Comprehensive Planning in Urban Core • Heritage Preservation 	<p>City of Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan— Read introductory sections and at least 2 other chapters of your choice: (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/comp_plan_update_draft_plan.asp)</p> <p>Kelly and Becker, Chp 16 and 17</p>
	<p>7:45 -8:30 Discussion: Heritage / Historic Preservation</p>	
13. November 17	<p>Speaker: TBD , City of Eagan (invited)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Eagan Comprehensive Plan • Special areas addressed in Comp Plans 	<p>Berke, Chp 14</p>
	<p>7:45 -8:30 Special topics and areas addressed in Comp Plans</p>	
14. November 24	Implementation, Administration, and Evaluation	

COURSE SCHEDULE		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use controls and tools <p>Speaker: Dennis Welsch, former Community Development Director</p>	
15. December 1	Final Project: Class Presentations	
16. December 8	Final Project: Class Presentations	Final Paper Due