



Minnesota State University

Fall, 2009

URBS 4/561: Environmental Planning (3credits)

Class meets on Mondays 9:00 am – 11:45 am in MH 112

Instructor: Raymond Asomani-Boateng (Ph.D)

Office: 106B Morris Hall

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I recognized that the environment is not something distant and inaccessible to most Americans. It is not an issue that can be separated out and dealt with on its own. The environment is our neighborhood, our community. It is our quality of life

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr

The Riverkeepers (1997)

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This is an advanced undergraduate and graduate level course in environmental planning designed to make the student familiar with the fundamental concepts, techniques and mechanisms underlying environmental planning and application of environmental planning techniques. Over the course of the semester, students should become familiar with society's ongoing struggle in balancing its ability to utilize the land and environment and the need to protect and conserve these valuable resources. This course will introduce students to standard city planning tools (general plan, zoning ordinance) as well as innovative tools that cities are using to manage their growth in an environmentally sensitive way. The relationship between local, state, and federal policy will be examined. The course is in two sections. The first section is devoted to review and examination of environmental planning concepts, methods, techniques and theories.

The second part is a studio which focuses on problem solving and requires students to apply environmental planning concepts, methods, and processes to address a real environmental problem. Students are treated as entry-level environmental planning professionals and will be expected to perform independent and collaborative research and planning analysis under the direction of the instructor. As expected of professionals, students will articulate project objectives, gather relevant data, identify and critically analyze problems, conduct policy, economic, and environmental analysis. Students will present their draft, conceptual recommendations in formal narrative written reports, site plan drawings, and presentation format using power point. At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Apply basic concepts and techniques of environmental planning to city, county, and regional situations
- Explain the scope and relevance of environmental planning

- Identify and analyze environmental issues using a variety of environmental planning techniques and methods
- Identify and respond to the appropriate local government planning and zoning ordinances, state and federal statutes (e.g. NEPA, MN statutes etc.)

Project Objectives and Assumptions

Each team will define their project objectives and assumptions prior to commencing project research. Graduate students would be assigned as team leaders and coordinate the activities of their groups.

Because this class is listed as eligible for both graduate and undergraduate credit graduate students are required to demonstrate additional effort in order to get graduate credit. In this class, that goal is met by requiring graduate students working as a group to develop the research project into a publishable manuscript for publication or presentation at a conference.

Team Approach and Methodology

- Select and form project teams
- Define team project objectives
- Define system of team coordination, leadership, communication, decision making
- Define parameters of inquiry and data needs
- Formulate team approach to problem synthesis
- Formulate field work
- Decide on team editorial rules
- Develop presentation of research/findings

Course Requirements

You are responsible for completing the readings and knowing the materials covered in course sessions. Regular attendance and classroom participation will enhance your understanding of the course material, and increase the likelihood that you will produce high-quality work. You are required to do original work.

Because this class is listed as eligible for both graduate and undergraduate credit, students are required to demonstrate additional effort in order to get graduate credit. In this class, the goal is met by requiring graduate students to develop the research project into publishable manuscript for presentation at a conference and eventually for publication in a peer review journal. Groups will be assigned readings for which they will do an in class power-point presentation highlighting the key themes and ideas emerging from the assigned readings

Examinations

To give you an opportunity to synthesize the many concepts, issues, and debates covered in the course, there will be a mid-semester and final semester examinations. Both examinations questions will be in an essay format

Course Format

This course will use lectures, readings, site visits individual and group projects and presentations to facilitate learning and encourage class participation.

Class Attendance

Class Attendance and participation are ESSENTIAL to your success in this course. If you are unable to attend a session, please let me know in advance. Entering class late is *strongly discouraged*. However, if you have a scheduling or work related-problem, please talk to the Instructor. Leaving class early, except under special circumstances, or upon completion of an exam, or under a previously approved arrangement with the instructor is against classroom policy. Frivolous conversations between students *will not be tolerated*.

MSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services, located in 0132 Memorial Library, telephone 389-2825, TDD 711 and then contact me as soon as possible.

Required Readings:

Daniels T. and K. Daniels (2003). The Environmental Planning Handbook for Sustainable Communities and Regions. APA Planners Press

Recommended Readings

Fredrick Steiner (1999) The Living Landscape: An Ecological Approach to Landscape Planning. McGraw Hill

Jan Randolph (2003) Environmental Land Use Planning and Management. Island Press

Grading Scale:

A+: 97-100

A: 93-96

A-:90-92

B+:87-89

B: 83-86

B-:80-82

C+:77-79

C: 73-76

C-:70-72

D+:67-69

D: 63-66

D-: 60-62

Under graduate

Group Research Project	40%
Student presentation	15%
Attendance	5%
Mid-semester examination	20%
<u>Final Examination</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Graduate

Individual Research Project & Presentation	40%
Student presentation	15%
Mid-Semester examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>5%</u>
	100%

COURSE THEMES**Week 1 (Monday, August 24)**

Course Overview

Week 2 (Monday, August 31)

Foundations of Environmental Planning Process and Implementation

- Readings: Chapters 1 and 2 of Environmental Planning Handbook

Week 3 (Monday, September 7) Labor Day – No Class**Week 4 (Monday, September 14)**

Foundations of Environmental Planning Process and Implementation - (*student presentation*)

The Legal, Economic, Ethical, and Ecological Foundations of Environmental Planning - (*student presentation*)

Week 5 (Monday, September 21)

Planning for Sustainable Water Supply - (*student presentation*)

Planning for Sustainable Water Quality - (*student presentation*)

Week 6 (Monday, September 28)

Planning for Sustainable Air Quality - (*student presentation*)

Planning for Wildlife Habitat - (*student presentation*)

Week 7 (Monday, October 5)

Planning for Solid Waste Recycling – (*student presentation*)

Planning for Toxic Substance and Toxic Waste - (*student presentation*)

Week 8 (Monday, October 12)

Protecting the Nation's Landscape Treasures - (*student presentation*)

Week 9 (Monday, October 19)

Mid-Semester Examination

Week 10 (Monday, October 26)

Planning and Managing Wetlands - (*student presentation*)

Week 11 (Monday, November 2)

Transportation Planning and the Environment - (*student presentation*)

Week 12 (Monday, November 9)

Planning for Sustainable Built Environment - (*student presentation*)

Week 13 (Monday, November 16)

Positive Trends and Urgent Need for Sustainable Environmental Planning - (*student presentation*)

Week 14 (Monday, November 23)

Sustainability and Land Use Planning
Guest Speaker: Michael Orange

Week 15 (Monday, November 30)

Final Examination
Course Evaluation