Overview

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the theories, processes, analyses and criteria followed in the preparation of physical plans, at various scales, from both technical and political points-of-view.

The class will follow two parallel tracks. The first track (Practice) will be dedicated to skill development and application and it will move from learning basis tools such as scales and reading slope maps to an overlay analysis of environmental constraints. The second track will consider the theories and culture of Smart Growth and New Urbanism within the disciplines of regional planning, urban design and site planning. Students will research and present on techniques such as traffic calming or theories such as the transect to enrich both tracks. Learning in both areas – or from both tracks - will then be applied a studio project that, from the preparation of an existing conditions analysis will then lead to a synthesis phase, the preparation of a land use plan and a site/urban design plan.

This process will be divided, roughly, into phases (see attached flow-chart and course schedule). Learning in a studio class is primarily based on the interaction amongst the students, and between the teacher and the students. Class time will be divided accordingly, with the first part dedicated to the discussion of the readings and class presentations and the second to studio activities.

Course Requirements

1. Discussion of readings. It is extremely important that you come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. You should prepare notes of the most important points of the readings assigned for that class. Contributions to class discussion based on other sources would be greatly appreciated. A good source of information about current planning/ smart-growth issues is Planetizen. To subscribe go to: http://www.planetizen.com/forms/enewsletter.php. Reading the San Diego Union-Tribune for current local planning/governance related issues is also strongly recommended. I may call on students not participating in class discussion with questions relating to the readings. If you are not prepared for discussion, you should let me know before class. Class participation includes also contribution to the activities of your group, help in other class related activities and completion of class exercises. Participation in class discussion will be monitored and graded. On two occasions I will let you know how you are doing. If you have serious problems participating come and see me (25%).

2. Student choice exercise (pen & paper, Sketchup, or Inkscape (5%)

3. Student class presentations (10%)

Project

4. Existing conditions presentation and Report - due April (15%)

5. Presentation of Draft Plan (10%)

6. Jury presentation and Report (35%)
The Studio Project

The sites for the studio projects will be taken from the potential smart growth locations identified by planning professionals from all jurisdictions in the county as part of SANDAG's regional planning process. Students will prepare a Master Plan for the site and then a detailed site plan for a portion of the site designated for housing/mixed use. With this class, then, we will move from the regional to site specific design on the basis of smart growth and new urbanism approaches. The concept of TRANCEST will also be utilized.

Class Presentations

Students are required to research a particular topic (see attached list) and present the subject material in class on a specific date.

Class Policies

It is extremely important that all projects be turned in on the day indicated on the syllabus. Two points will be taken off your grade for each day your assignment is overdue.

Field Trips

This course requires students to participate in field trips, research or studies that include course work that will be performed off-campus. Participation in such activities may result in accidents or personal injury. Students participating in the class are aware of these risks, and agree to hold harmless San Diego State University, against all claims, demands, suits, judgments, expenses and costs of any kind on account of their participation in the activities. Students using their own vehicles to transport other students to such activities should have current automobile insurance. There will be two field trips on two separate weekends with dates to be decided with the class.

Required Texts:

- Peter Calthrope & William Fulton (2001), The Regional City, Island Press.
- SANDAG (2009), Designing for Smart Growth: Creating Great Places in the San Diego Region.

Recommended Texts:

- Daniel Tal (2009), SketchUp for Site Design; Wiley Press
- A collection of readings is available for purchase at cost, from Cal Copy (5131 College Avenue). Additional readings will be provided in class.

List of supplies

- Pentel sign pen, black
- Pentel razor point pen, black
- Chartpak AD Marker, black
- A roll of white sketch trace
- An engineer’s scale

Software (free)

- Sketchup
  http://www.sketchup.com/
- Inkscape
  http://www.inkscape.org/en/download/