PA 350
CONTEMPORARY URBAN METROPOLITAN ISSUES:
MEASURING, UNDERSTANDING AND REALIZING
SUSTAINABILITY, LIVABILITY & SOCIAL EQUITY

DRAFT FALL 2013 SYLLABUS
September 26, 2013

The syllabus and reading assignments are subject to change throughout the semester. Students are responsible for obtaining the most up-to-date information.

Course Details
Time: 2:00-3:15 PM Tue/Th
Venue: ARTN 412
Units: 3
Instructor: Dr. Bruce Appleyard bappleyard@mail.sdsu.edu
Office hours: Wed 4-5:30 117 SPA

Course Description
A majority of the world’s population now lives in urban areas, and public professionals play an important role in shaping metropolitan evolution and growth, as well as tackling issues such as economic vitality, housing, traffic safety, crime, and social equity.

This course will give students the basic tools and ideas needed to understand metropolitan planning and design, and to participate as activists and/or professional planners. The concepts of sustainability, livability, social equity and fundamental urban design principles will serve to frame our discussion and analyses, and will enable us to fully explore the complex range of factors that have contributed to the evolution of urban planning.

Additionally, this course will be a part of unique partnership between National City and SDSU’s new Community Engagement for Sustainable Cities initiative (for more information, see the document “2013-14 National City Project List”).

Learning goals
By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and critically analyze the concepts of sustainability, livability and social equity as they relate to a range of metropolitan movements and mechanisms.
- Analyze and reflect upon the concepts listed above as part of professional work, civic engagement, and everyday experience of urban and regional space.
- Participate in metropolitan planning and design processes and create strategies to advance sustainability, livability and social equity objectives.

Format
Class time will be divided into the following activities:

1. Lecture/discussions by the instructor and the class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions, and are expected to have read and reflected upon the weekly assignments. Participation in class discussions is expected. Relevant and thoughtful questions will be appreciated as much as good answers.

2. Group discussions. During some classes, students will be asked to discuss selected policy issues in small groups and reach group conclusions about the assigned topic. Each group will then be responsible for selecting a group leader to report on the results of their discussions and respond to questions from the class. Attendance and participation are required.
3. Guest lecturers with a focus on specific policy topics. Several guest lecturers will be invited to make presentations during the semester about various aspects of public education policy issues that are current in our region. Students will be expected to research these policy issues in advance of each class and be prepared to address guest speakers with cogent questions as well as participate in class discussion of the policy issue.

4. Reading. Two excellent books are assigned that provide a historical and current overview of the difficult policy issues facing cities and metropolitan regions. These texts will be used for lecture and discussion material. Students are expected to thoroughly read all assigned materials and be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Readings
The following textbook is required for this course:


Additional readings will be available on Blackboard for this course. All readings are to be done BEFORE the class for which they are assigned. Please refer to the footnotes for advice on what to focus on for particular pieces.

Course Assignments
Exams. There will be two exams for this course: a mid-term and a final. The exams will be based on the assigned readings and the lectures.

Student Movie Project. There will also be one independent student project. Students will form teams of three to four, and be asked to select a National City policy topic. These teams will prepare an animated movie dialogue (3 to 5 minute in length) discussing that topic and proposing a preferred policy direction. The instructor will provide training and examples at the beginning of the course for this project.

For this project, students will use an online application called Xtranormal which allows the user to convert type into a fully-animated CG movie. The application is available on YouTube at [http://www.youtube.com/create_detail/Xtranormal](http://www.youtube.com/create_detail/Xtranormal). Student movies will be posted to You Tube and shared with the class. Grading of this assignment will be focused on the demonstration of understanding of the Metropolitan planning issues related to sustainability, livability and/or social equity discussed in the dialogue and on creative approaches to demonstrating the policy concepts. All students should plan on investigating some issue important to National City. (For more information on possible topics, see the document “2013-14 National City Project List”.) Students, however, may apply to cover a different community and/or issue, pending my approval.

Grading will be determined by the following Criteria:

Highest potential grade:
A+  Movie + Paper + In-Class Presentation/Discussion
A  Movie + Paper or In Class Presentation/Discussion
A- to A Poster + Paper or In Class Presentation/Discussion
A-  National City Movie
B-  National City Poster & None of the above

The rest of your grade will be determined by:
Quality of Online Participation
Quality of In-Class Participation

5-Page Paper  (Due on the Dec. 12th)
National City Movie or Poster  (Due December 6th)