INTRODUCTION

The city planning process is an essential ingredient in the determination of the future of our urban areas. As our urban areas continue to evolve, planners are constantly striving to shape plans and strategies that will maintain or improve the quality of our urban life.

The challenges to the urban planning process are formidable. Given the complexity of urban society, how can one insure that all the important constituencies are active participants in key planning decisions? Given constant changes in the demographic, environmental, and social patterns of our urban areas, how can one be sure these patterns are accurately characterized or that the focus of the plans is correct? Given a limited amount of resources and political will, how can urban plans effectively be implemented? What are the key processes associated with the components of a general plan? These questions, and many more, confront the urban planner.

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an introduction to the city planning process. This introduction will be accomplished in several ways: (1) reading assignments and lectures that will give you a solid background to the subject area; (2) potential guest presentations about urban planning processes in the San Diego region to illustrate and expand your understanding of current practices; (3) a planning commission report (ALL STUDENTS); (4) a planning process report (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY) which will focus on an existing urban planning process in greater depth; and (5) two exams designed to test your comprehension of the material.

REQUIREMENTS

(1) ALL STUDENTS: It will be important for you to attend all scheduled classes. The exams will not only cover reading assignments but also supplemental information presented in lectures, presentations, guest lecturers (if any), and additional materials that you will not find in the readings.

(2) ALL STUDENTS: You are expected to have completed your reading assignments prior to the scheduled class and be prepared to discuss them during that class.

(3) ALL STUDENTS: You will have to submit a three-page report (and no more than three pages) on the planning commission meeting that you will attend. The report will: (a) identify which commission meeting and the date that you attended on your cover sheet, (b) summarize the entire
meeting in one page, and (c) discuss the outcome of ONE of the ACTION agenda items from that meeting in one or two pages. The report should be NO MORE THAN three double-spaced typed pages (250-300 words per page, font 12-14). DUE: November 18th. Reports submitted after the due date are automatically reduced by at least one grade level.

The papers should be two-three pages long. Page one should cover your general observations about the meeting: who was in attendance, the make-up of the commission, the interaction between staff and the commission, the quality of staff presentation, the interest of the commission, etc. The second page should be an analysis of one of the ACTION items on the agenda (an item that was discussed and decided by the commission: a public hearing is an action item). You should describe the project, identify the pros and cons or key issues, describe the commission's decision, and describe your opinion of the outcome.

(4) FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY: You also will have to submit an urban planning process report during the semester. It will be no less than 6 double spaced typed pages nor more than 8 double-spaced typed pages (not counting graphs, diagrams, illustrations, etc.) totaling from about 2,500 to 3,000 words. This requirement is further defined in another handout. DUE: November 25th. Reports submitted after the due date are automatically reduced by at least one grade level.

(5) ALL STUDENTS: You will have to take two exams. The exams will be closed book and closed notes and will take place during classes on the designated dates. They will require specific information and critical analysis that demonstrate a thorough familiarity with the readings and lectures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:
(1) Apply basic planning principles and objectives to the planning processes;
(2) Identify the key steps in the planning process;
(3) Identify the important analysis and implementation techniques in the general plan;
(4) Recognize the legal context of the planning process; and
(5) Identify selected elements of various planning processes.

GRADERS

Your grade will be determined by the following means.

For Undergraduate Students:
(1) Planning Commission Report = 20%
(2) First Exam = 40%
(3) Second Exam = 40%

For Graduate Students:
(1) Planning Commission Report = 10%
(2) First Exam = 30%
(3) Second Exam = 30%
(4) Planning Report = 30%

The first three factors for undergraduate students and all four factors for graduate students will be the sole determinants of your grade; **no opportunities will be provided to do extra credit work to raise a grade for any particular assignment or to raise your overall grade in this course.**

**GRADES (cont.)**

Grades are based on the following scale.

A = 93.5 or higher, A-= 90.0 - 93.4; 
B+= 86.7 - 89.9, B = 83.5 - 86.6, B-= 80.0 - 83.4; 
C+= 76.6 - 79.9, C = 73.5 - 76.6, C-= 70.0 - 73.4; 
D+= 66.7 - 69.9, D = 63.5 - 66.6, D-= 60.0 - 63.4; and F = below 60.0.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


**COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

August 26  
**Introduction and Overview**  
Syllabus  
Review Report Assignments  
The Contexts for City Planning Processes

September 2  
**No Class: Labor Day**

**Part I: Five Key Issues in the City Planning Process**

September 9  
**Issue #1: Participation in the City Planning Process**  
Caves, Chapters 1-3  
Fulton, Chapters 4 and 5

September 16  
**Issue #2: Analysis in the City Planning Process**  
Caves, Chapter 18

September 23  
**Issue #3: The General Plan in the City Planning Process**  
Caves, Chapter 7  
Fulton, Chapters 1, 3, 6, and 24

September 30  
**Issue #4: Implementation in the City Planning Process**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| October 7 | **Issue # 5: Legal Context for the City Planning Process**  
Caves, Chapter 5  
Fulton, Chapters 10 and 13  

**Part II: Key Element Processes in City Planning** |
| October 14 | Key Elements in the Planning Process: Transportation  
Caves, Chapter 13  
Fulton, Chapters 19 and 20  

Key Elements in the Planning Process: Housing  
Caves, Chapter 14  
Fulton, Chapter 16  
**Review Exam # 1** |
| October 28 | **Exam # 1** |
| November 4 | **No Class: To make up for having to attend a Planning Commission meeting** |
| November 11 | **No Class: Veterans Day** |
| November 18 | Key Elements in the Planning Process: Smart Growth  
Caves, Chapter 9 and 11 (New Urbanism)  
Fulton, Chapters 11 and 17  
 **Planning Commission Report Due: All Students** |
| November 25 | Key Elements in the Planning Process: Environment and Sustainability  
Caves, Chapters 16 and 17  
Fulton, Chapters 9, 18 and 21-22  
**General Plan Report Due: Graduate Students Only** |
| December 2 | Key Elements in the Planning Process: Growth Management  
Caves, Chapter 9 and 10  
Fulton, Chapter 11  
**Review Final: Exam #2** |
| December 9 | **Final: Exam #2** |