

ESP 171 Urban and Regional Planning

Lectures: TTh 12:10-1:30, via Zoom or (possibly) 1309 The Grove

Instructor	Office	Office Hours	Email
Prof Susan Handy	2138 Wickson	W 2-4 or by appt	slhandy@ucdavis.edu
Jessica Grant	2143 Wickson	TBD	jesgrant@ucdavis.edu
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Section	Time	Location	TA
A1	W 9:00 – 9:50	Wellman 235	Ryan
A2	W 10:00 – 10:50	Bainer 1060	Jessica
A3	W 11:00 – 11:50	Physics 148	Jessica
A4	W 12:10 – 1:00	Physics 148	Ryan
A5	W 1:10 – 2:00	Physics 148	Amy
A6	W 2:10 – 3:00	Physics 148	Amy

Background and Objectives

“How to meet the needs of more people in California, while at the same time respecting fundamental limits on our tax dollars and natural resources is one of the inexorable challenges we face.”

- Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor, 1978

Although population growth in California has slowed in recent years, the state still added almost 200,000 new residents in 2018, according to the Department of Finance. That increased the state’s population to nearly 40 million. Projections suggest California’s population will balloon to more than 44 million by 2030 and more than 51 million by 2060. The fastest growth has been and is expected to continue in the Central Valley, the Sierra foothills, and the Inland Empire of Southern California. If development continues according to recent patterns, more than 60,000 acres of agricultural land will be lost to urban development each year, according to the American Farmland Trust.

This growth will exacerbate current problems associated with our existing population: vehicle travel is growing faster than population, over 80% of Californians currently breathe unhealthy air, water supplies are unreliable and diminishing, increased impervious cover is degrading water quality, native vegetation important for biodiversity has been lost, habitat quality has worsened, and the number of endangered animal and plant species in the state has increased. How population growth in California is accommodated will determine how much worse such problems will get: the future of our cities and the future of our environment are inextricably linked.

This course explores the methods local governments use to plan for growth and asks how they can

shape their future in a way that minimizes the harm to the environment while also meeting the needs of their residents. The course will introduce students to standard city planning tools (e.g. the general plan and zoning ordinances), as well as innovative tools that cities are using to manage their growth in an environmentally sensitive way. The course focuses on local planning practices in California but considers examples from elsewhere in the U.S. and the relationships between local, state, and federal policy. *The objective of the course is for students to acquire a basic understanding of local and regional planning with respect to law, policy and practice, and to consider the broader societal debates that shape and are shaped by planning.*

Assignments and Grading

The assignments for the course are designed to ensure that students learn basic concepts of city planning, explore ways in which city planning can address environmental problems, think critically about important planning debates, and further develop skills in data analysis, research, critical thinking and effective writing. Students will complete exercises, a demographic report, and a short “white paper” over the course of the quarter, as described below. In addition, a midterm and a final will be given. Students are also expected to watch lectures, preferably live, participate in discussion sections, and complete assigned readings.

Assignments

Exercises: Planning Basics

In three short take-home exercises, you will take a look at key components of planning in California: development styles, general plans, and environmental impact reports. The exercises will lead you through a series of activities and questions designed to help you understand and think about each component. *Due on 4/9 (exercise 1), 4/16 (exercise 2), 4/28 (exercise 3).*

Report: Demographic Analysis

In the report, you will analyze demographic characteristics for a U.S. city of your choice in relation to an issue of your choice. The decennial U.S. Census of Population and Housing and the annual American Community Survey are invaluable sources of data for local planners on the characteristics of the residents as well as the housing stock of the community. Analyses of these data are often the starting point for efforts to address issues such as the aging populations, auto dependence, or gentrification. In preparing the five-page report, you will extract, analyze, and present data from these sources to convey a clear and accurate assessment of the community. Section Exercise 2 on 5/6 will be devoted to getting you started. *Due on 5/12.*

Paper: Critical Issue “White Paper”

In the paper, you will select a specific planning-related problem that cities in California or elsewhere in the U.S. are facing and assess potential solutions to that problem. For example, many cities in California do not have enough affordable housing to accommodate the demand, leading to long commutes for low-wage workers, with both environmental and societal costs. In response, some cities are encouraging infill development and “granny flats” as a way to increase the stock of affordable housing. In the form of a five-page “white paper,” you will describe the problem and its extent, the implications of the problem for the environment and/or society, and outline the potential solutions. To complete the paper, you must undertake a literature search to find credible sources to support your discussion. *Topic due 5/14, draft paper due 5/26, final paper due 6/2.*

Mid-term and final

A midterm and a final will also be given. The purpose of these exams is to ensure that you have acquired an adequate understanding of the material covered in the class. The midterm will be given midway through the quarter (4/30) and will cover material from Week 1 through Week 5 (Chapters 1-9, and 12 of the textbook plus additional assigned readings and other media). The final will be given during the assigned finals period for the course (6/8 at 1:00 pm) and will focus on the material from Week 6 through Week 10 of the course (Chapters 10, 11, 13-24 plus assigned readings and other media).

Sections

Sections, conducted via Zoom, are a critical part of the course. There are ten sections during the quarter. Sections will be devoted to a mix of activities. Many sections will be devoted to discussions of topics of debate within the planning field. These discussions represent an important opportunity for you to formulate and express your own views on these topics; several of these discussions may be structured as group exercises. We will use one section to discuss the demographic report and how to analyze census data, and you will also discuss the white paper assignment. One section is reserved for a review for the midterm and one for the final. Attendance and participation in sections will be given credit in the final grades.

Grading

The breakdown in grading for these assignments is as follows:

Weekly Exercises:	10% (3.33% each)
Demographic report:	20%
White paper:	25%
Midterm:	15%
Final:	20%
Sections:	10%

Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted for full credit except with a written request and prior permission or because of a medical emergency. A late assignment without an acceptable written excuse will lose 10 percent per day for each day it is late. Rewrites will not be accepted; you have time to talk with me or the TAs for clarification and/or explanation prior to the assignment due date and you should avail yourself of this opportunity.

Readings and Resources

The primary text for the course is *Guide to California Planning* by William Fulton and Paul Shigley (Solano Press Books, 2018, Fifth Edition). A Kindle version is also available online, and three copies will be on reserve in the library (assuming it remains open). Additional required readings and other media are available through the links below and in the Canvas files for each lecture. Additional resources and references – including general writing resources, white paper resources, planning in the news, and other references – are provided in a series of Canvas pages and related files.

These two resources will enrich your exposure to the planning field:

- Sign up for Planetizen's newswire, a weekly catalogue of newspaper and webpage articles

addressing current planning issues. This is a great way to learn about what's going on in the field, and might give you ideas for paper topics. The website: <http://www.planetizen.com/> (click on "join").

- Sign up for CityLab Daily, a daily email with links to CityLab articles as well as articles from other sources. This is another great way to learn about what's going on in the field, and it might give you ideas for paper topics. The website: <https://www.citylab.com/> (scroll to the bottom to sign up).

I also highly recommend the Daily Overview. It provides a bit of daily joy and wonder. The website: <https://www.over-view.com/>

Expectations

We expect you to watch and participate in lectures, read assigned chapters and articles, participate in discussion sections, and submit assignments that reflect your own original work. Plagiarism, the intentional or inadvertent use of someone else's work without appropriate credit, will not be tolerated! Cutting and pasting material from the web and claiming it as one's own is a serious offense that merits disciplinary action. Lots of useful websites are available to help you determine when citations are appropriate and to avoid accidental plagiarism (e.g., <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>). We encourage you to discuss your work with your classmates in discussion sections and outside of class, but the work you submit must be your own. Please familiarize yourself with the [Code of Academic Conduct](#).

Learning is ultimately your responsibility, but we have an obligation to facilitate that learning by providing a coherent guide to the course material and assigning activities that give you an effective opportunity to apply that material. You can expect me and the TAs to provide clear direction and timely feedback on assignments and to provide adequate response to questions and concerns. You can expect me and the TAs to be fully prepared for class sessions and available during office hours.

UC Davis is committed to educational equity in the academic setting, and in serving a diverse student body. I encourage all students who are interested in learning more about the Student Disability Center (SDC) to contact them directly at sdc.ucdavis.edu, sdc@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-3184. If you are a student who currently receives academic accommodation(s), please submit your SDC Letter of Accommodation to me as soon as possible, ideally within the first two weeks of this *course*. Students who will be missing class or cannot meet assignment deadlines for religious or medical reasons or for essential family business should let me know as far ahead as possible and must provide written documentation if we request it.

Schedule

The schedule, outlined below, is **subject to change**. The current version of the schedule will be posted on the Canvas home page. PowerPoints and study sheets for each lecture will be posted on Canvas before the start of each lecture. Questions based on guest speakers may be included in the midterm and the final. Additional readings and other media besides those listed in the schedule may be assigned and will be available via Canvas.

Date	Day	Topics	Readings	Assignments
3/31	Tues	Introduction	Chapter 1 and 2	Sign up for Planetizen and CityLab (and Daily Overview)
<i>Section</i>		<i>Introduction</i>		
4/2	Thurs	Planning evolution	Chapter 3	
4/7	Tues	Who does what	Chapters 4 and 5	
<i>Section</i>		<i>City vs. Suburb</i>		
4/9	Thurs	Vision	Chapter 6	Exercise 1 due
4/14	Tues	Implementation I	Chapters 7 and 8	
<i>Section</i>		<i>Zoning exercise</i>		
4/16	Thurs	Planning in Practice <i>Chris Granger?</i>	<i>Catch up or read ahead</i>	Exercise 2 due
4/21	Tues	Implementation 2	Chapter 12	
<i>Section</i>		<i>Role of the planner</i>		
4/23	Thurs	CEQA	Chapter 9	
4/28	Tues	Planning in Practice <i>Lucas Griffith, UCD</i>	<i>Catch up and study!</i>	Exercise 3 due
<i>Section</i>		<i>Midterm review</i>		
4/30	Thurs	MIDTERM		
5/5	Tues	Development types	Chapter 17	
<i>Section</i>		<i>Census exercise</i>		
5/7	Thurs	Managing growth	Chapters 11, 13, and 10	
5/12	Tues	Encouraging growth	Chapters 14 and 16	Demographic report due
<i>Section</i>		<i>Eminent Domain</i>		
5/14	Thurs	Planning in Practice <i>TBD</i>	<i>Catch up or read ahead</i>	White paper topic due
5/19	Tues	Housing	Chapter 15	
<i>Section</i>		<i>Gentrification</i>		
5/21	Thurs	Infrastructure	Chapters 18 (up to 333) and 19	

Date	Day	Topics	Readings	Assignments
5/26	Tues	Ag land preservation <i>Guest speaker</i>	Chapter 20	Draft white paper due
<i>Section</i>		<i>White paper discussion</i>		
5/28	Thurs	Natural resource protection	Chapter 21	
6/2	Tues	Disasters and Resilience	Chapter 22	White paper due
<i>Section</i>		<i>Final review!</i>		
6/4	Thurs	Wrap-up	Chapter 23	Extra credit due
6/8	Mon	FINAL	1-3 pm	