What are the current issues and emerging trends in different areas of planning and urban designs – land use, zoning, municipal planning, urban design, transportation, housing, and community engagement?

The course allows students to hear from practitioners and reflect on the goals, best practices and tools of planning and urban design. The profession is profiled through the American Planning Association (APA) survey, the field’s journals, newsletters, websites and blogs, the types of public, private and non-profit organizations involved, and the types of work products and their influence.

Practitioners and faculty come to class to give their overview perspective on the state of their practice area or field. Small panels of UEP alumni present what they do, how they define and engage their different constituencies, and what they see as critical issues in their area. Students post observations about the readings and guest speakers, submit short reflective essays on what they are learning, and present a final paper on a topic of their choice related to planning and urban design.

Powerpoints and readings are complemented by an in-class exercise in site panning, and a tutorial on SketchUp.

Students will gain a deeper understanding of what urban planners and designers do and critically assess the limitations, successes and potential of the profession.

Objectives
- To gain an understanding of the planning and urban design professions;
- To reflect on practice issues through discussion and writing, and apply some planning concepts and skills through exercises;
- To hear from planners what are their work experience, accomplishments and challenges.

Requirements, Assignments and Grading
Students are required to keep up with the readings posted on Trunk. There are two ungraded in-class exercises, one on site design and one on SketchUp.

Assignments consist of:
- Weekly observations, and comments on other students’ observations, to post on Trunk about the readings, presentations and panels, by 4 pm on Mondays (30% of the grade);
- Six short essays (one to two pages) on lessons learned over the preceding two weeks due on Fridays by 9 pm (30%); suggested questions to answer will be posted on Trunk under Assignments; and
- A paper on an aspect of the planning profession to explore (40%); two presentations, one of the draft and one of the final paper; draft paper due on April 5, final presentation on April 26 and final paper on May 6. Format and possible topics will be described at Assignments.

Contact
Christine Cousineau
72 Professors Row, room 204
cell: 781-228-8148
office: 617-627-5331

Office Hours Can be scheduled on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.
Schedule of classes and assignments

Week 1

Tues Jan 24 6 pm  **Introduction** – profile of the profession, historical overview.

*Readings:*
Brief History of American Planning and Urban Design, Part I
[https://tufts.box.com/s/rma7e4dd8m064fcp00j85ij9e7vfbpdx](https://tufts.box.com/s/rma7e4dd8m064fcp00j85ij9e7vfbpdx)

Brief History of American Planning and Urban Design and Part II
[https://tufts.box.com/s/6c1p295cw92my8fkgk2hbu1xnxq42zjm](https://tufts.box.com/s/6c1p295cw92my8fkgk2hbu1xnxq42zjm)

Part IV The Public Image and the Leadership Role of the Profession, pp. 207-223

Planetizen Top Planning Trends 2014

Powerpoint on the Planning Profession (presented in class the posted on Trunk)

Week 2

Tues Feb 2 4 pm  Observations and comments on readings: Rodwin, Planetizen, and three powerpoints

Tues Feb 2 6 pm  **Site Planning Exercise**, in class
Design of housing development with building footprints on blank site; presentation of site plan as built.

Fri Feb 5 9 pm  Short essay 1: reflections on weeks 1 and 2

Week 3

Tues Feb 9 4 pm  Observations and comments on readings for 2/9

Tues Feb 9 6 pm  **Land use, zoning and municipal planning**
Guest speaker: Barbara Huggins, attorney, Huggins and Witten, LLC

*Readings:*
Website to browse: American Planning Association – Massachusetts Chapter

Powerpoint on Zoning – [https://tufts.box.com/s/9icyps9145o5ibkea0e4n88akyowpjt2](https://tufts.box.com/s/9icyps9145o5ibkea0e4n88akyowpjt2)

Elliott, Donald, Matthew Goebel and Chad Meadows. *The Rules that Shape Urban Form.* (PAS 570) APA, 2012
Ch. 3  Form-Based Controls in the Broader Planning Context, pp. 69-102

Ch. 2  Development Codes and Smart Growth, pp. 6-23
Land Development Regulations and Unified Development Codes, pp. 5-8
### Week 4

**Tues Feb 16** 4 pm  Observations and comments on 2/9 presentation/discussion

**Tues Feb 16** 6 pm  **Panel of UEP alumni in municipal planning**
- Kristen Kassner, Planning Director, Town of Burlington
- Melissa Peters, Land Use Planner, City of Cambridge
- Lara Curtis, Senior Planner, Town of Brookline
- Stephen Pantalone, Senior Planner, City of Newton

Questions asked of the panelists (all sessions):
  - What do you do day-to-day in your job?
  - Who are your constituencies and how do you engage with them?
  - How do you use design in your work?
  - What do you see are the important and emerging issues in (your field of) planning?

**Fri Feb 19** 9 pm  Sort Essay 2: reflections on weeks 3 and 4, including municipal planning panel

### Week 5

**Tues Feb 23** 4 pm  Observations and comments on readings for 2/23

**6 pm  Transportation planning**
Guest speakers: **Mark Chase**, Lecturer, and **Mary Davis**, associate professor, UEP.

*Readings:*
*t.b.d.*

### Week 6

**Tues March 1st** 4 pm  Observations and comments on 2/23 presentation/discussion

**6 pm  Transportation** panel
- Justin Schreiber, Assistant Transportation Planner, City of Cambridge
- Jennifer Molina, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Somerville
- Caitlin Bettisworth, Technology Policy Analyst, Volpe Center
- Jay Monty, Transportation Planner, City of Everett

**Fri March 4** 9 am  Short essay 3: reflections on weeks 5 and 6, including transportation panel

### Week 7

**Tues March 8** 4 pm  Observations and comment on 3/8 readings

**Tues March 8** 6 pm  **Affordable housing: policy, production and financing**
Guest speaker: **Jennifer Molinsky**, Senior Research Analyst, Joint Center for Housing Studies

*Readings:*

---

HousingPolicy.org Tool Box:  [http://www.housingpolicy.org/toolbox/index_MA.html](http://www.housingpolicy.org/toolbox/index_MA.html)


Ch. 16 Community Development Corporations, pp. 340-359


Ch. 5 The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, pp. 103-124

### Week 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues March 15</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Observations and comments on 3/8 presentation/discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>Housing</strong> panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Meredith Levy, Deputy Director, Somerville Community Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Peter Hollands, Vice President, Boston Private Bank and Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Meena Jacob, Director of Real Estate, Coalition for a Better Acre, Lowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Amanda Roe, Senior Loan Officer, Massachusetts Housing Partnership</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fri March 18  Short Essay 4: reflections on weeks 7 and 8, including housing panel

March 19 – March 27  Spring break 🎉

### Week 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues March 29</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Observations and comments on 3/15 panel/discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>Sketchup</strong> tutorial and in-class exercise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Week 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues April 5</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Draft papers posted on Trunk at Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>Student presentations</strong> of draft paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fri April 8  9 pm Short essay 5: reflections on weeks 9 and 10

### Week 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues April 12</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Observations and comments on readings for 4/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>Urban Design and Innovation panel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Marcia Ostberg, Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics, Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Alison LeFlore, Urban Planner, The Cecil Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Michelle Moon, Project Manager, Fairmount Greenway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Nella Young, Program Director, Design Leadership, Enterprise Community Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Readings:*


The Cecil Group, community planning projects

Create a Fairmount Greenway  
http://fairmountcollaborative.org/our-work/create-a-fairmount-greenway/

Fairmount/Indigo Line Community Development Corporation (CDC) Collaborative  
(with movie)  https://www.huduser.gov/portal/iod/iod_2015_1.html

Enterprise Community Partners, Rose Architectural Fellowship  
http://www.enterprisecommunity.com/solutions-and-innovation/design-leadership/rose-architectural-fellowship

Week 12

Tues April 19  4 pm  Observations and comments on 4/12 panel discussion

6 pm  Urban Design in Seattle  
Guest speaker (through videoconferencing): Nick Welch, Senior Urban Planner,  
Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development.

Ch. 1  The Design Dividend, pp. 5-31

Fri April 15  Short essay 6: reflections on weeks 11 and 12, including urban design in Seattle

Week 13

Tues April 26  4 pm  Final presentations posted on Trunk at Assignments

6 pm  Student presentations of final paper

Week 14

Tues May 3  4 pm  No observations

6 pm  Roles, styles and personalities. Planning websites and community engagement platforms. Debriefing and wrap-up session.

Fri May 6  9 pm  Final papers due: posted on Trunk or emailed to instructor.