Course Description and Objectives

This course provides a critical overview of the basic elements of planning and public policy formation and application, involving a range of environmental and social policy issues. Materials are aimed to give students an introductory understanding of key spatial and non-spatial issues and challenges in planning and public policy. Select issues are utilized in each area to emphasize major ideas and debates regarding planning and public policy. Additionally, the materials and presentations are aimed to help students understand how planning and public policy are both distinct, and overlapping. The course is organized into three sections: Concepts, Contexts, and Key Issues; Interplay Between Planning, Environment, and Social Welfare; and Influencing and Implementing Public Policy: Select Issues.

Required Texts


The required supplementary reader is available for purchase at Gnomon Copy, located behind campus at 348 Boston Ave. Gnomon Copy is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Gnomon Copy can be reached at (781) 391-6666.
Class Organization and Activities

The course uses required readings, lectures, guest presentations, and small group discussion in order to provide students with a range of ‘windows’ by which to examine, analyze, and understand essential planning and policy dynamics and elements.

As early as possible, we want to help you to articulate your own policy/planning area of interest as this will feature strongly in your assignments. You should declare your policy/planning area of interest to the TAs by September 12th. While we have selected topics germane to the course objectives, students will have opportunities to suggest other topics for further, in-depth small group discussions throughout the semester.

Please check Blackboard weekly for announcements. Tufts’ Blackboard can be found at http://crs.ase.tufts.edu. Please note as well that many of the readings are posted on Blackboard. This reduces the paper used and the purchase price of the reader.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Your grade will be based on classroom participation and an indication that required readings assignments have been completed; an interview essay with a ‘practitioner’ on a topic or issue related to the course; a ‘journalistic’ account of a community or government meeting involving public discussion of a topic related to the course, a policy memo describing a planning or policy issue in the environmental or social welfare fields, and a portfolio and poster.

Pre-Assignment: Declare your policy/planning area of interest by September 12th

Assignment #1 (10%): Interview report – Due Sept. 26th; 3-4 double-spaced pages

The major goal of this assignment is to give you some experience articulating questions related to planning and public policy. It is an opportunity to talk with someone who has experience in your policy/planning area of interest. To do this, you will need to find a cooperative second-year UEP student (TAs will assist) and ask for about 15 minutes of her/his time. Your job is to learn as much as you can about her/his experiences with their policy/planning interest last year and to seek their help.

Your written assignment should include a brief description of your preliminary topic your policy/planning area of interest, how your ideas about it changed (or didn’t change) as a result of the interview, and what major insights or lessons the second-year student gave you about this interest area. Also, please include the name of the second-year UEP student and the questions you asked. A final paragraph should provide a summary statement. The paper can be structured in a question-and-answer format, if desired.
Assignment #2 (20%): Journalistic account of public meeting – Due by Oct. 22nd; 4-5 double-spaced pages

This assignment will require that you attend a community or government meeting focusing on an issue or concern, preferably in your policy/planning area of interest. This assignment should be completed in October. The meetings can include Board of Selectmen/Aldermen/City Council meetings; Planning Board or Zoning meetings; Historic Preservation Commission meetings, or community meetings organized by neighborhood groups. The TAs will put a list of local meetings, together with dates, on Blackboard. The journalistic account should include information about what happened during the meeting; analysis of one key issue that was discussed, and whether the issue deals with spatial or non-spatial concerns; and the account must reference at least two of the required course readings. Some of the papers will be selected for presentation to the class.

Assignment #3 (20%): Policy/Planning memo Due November 7. 4-5 double-spaced pages.

The purpose of the policy/planning memo is to provide readers with an overview of a particular issue, including its status, significance, and debates about its development. The policy memo should integrate readings completed in class and also include suggestions for at least two further readings about the issue, problem, or challenge. The memo must cover an issue that is not directly related to your portfolio topic. The analysis should include a definition of the “problem/situation” (and how the particular definition emerged); the range of policy/planning responses proposed and the intellectual or theoretical basis of such; the key policy/planning or research questions that remain unanswered; and your own assessment of the policy/planning issue or problem.

Assignment #4 (40%): The portfolio and poster (Due December 10th). 15 double-spaced pages for the analysis paper.

The major assignment of the semester involves your development of a Policy/Planning Portfolio. This represents a semester long tracking of your choice of a policy or planning topic. It is an opportunity for you to become informed and keep current, over a prolonged period, about an important policy/planning area. Your material will be affected by your choice of topic and scale. For instance, if your topic is global climate change, we expect you to use a considerable amount of international material. If it is welfare policy in Massachusetts, we expect you to use local, state and national materials.

The Portfolio should include: newspaper, book and journal article excerpts or quotations; documents (or excerpts) produced by government or non-government organizations and think-tanks; and data from databases. At the end of the semester, you are to hand in your completed portfolio of information, including a 15 page, double spaced, analysis of your planning/policy topic. This analysis should include a definition of the “problem/situation” your area addresses, a literature review, a discussion of what’s being/been/might be done to deal with the problem/situation, the overlaps with other policy/planning domains, your insights on policy/planning approaches that could be a solution, your assessment of the quality of the materials you were able to gather, and your evolving understanding of your domain over time.
and how your perspective may have changed with your data. We expect you to use several class readings to develop your analysis. The analysis should be carefully documented and your citations should use the Chicago Manual of Style (you may use either the author date system or you may use end notes). Your reference and bibliography pages will not count toward the 15 page upper limit for this assignment.

Your session with Regina Raboin, Librarian, will be of great assistance to you. The completed portfolio and poster are due on December 10th. On December 10th you will have the opportunity to present your work in a poster format so that the rest of the class and well as the UEP community can learn about your topic. This is not a prepared presentation, but a poster that allows others to learn about your topic and an opportunity for them to ask you questions.

Classroom Participation (10%)
Course Schedule and Readings

Section 1: Concepts, Contexts, and Key Issues

Sept. 5: Student and faculty introductions; course organization, goals, and requirements (Hollander and Rappaport)

Readings:

Sept. 10: Public Policy and Policy Analysis (Rappaport)

Readings:

DECLARE POLICY/PLANNING AREA OF INTEREST BY SEPT 12

Sept. 12: What is Planning? (Hollander)

Readings:
Sept. 17: Framing a Public Problem and Causal Stories (Rappaport)

Readings:


Sept. 19: Justification for Public Policy and Planning: Key Issues (Hollander)

Readings:


Sept. 24: Evolution of Planning (Hollander)

Readings:


**INTERVIEW REPORT DUE BY SEPT 26**
Sept. 26: Public Policy and Social Welfare (Prof. James Jennings)

Readings:


Oct. 1: Research, Bias, and Policy Analysis (Prof. Shelly Krimsky)

Readings:


Oct. 3: Public Policy and the Private Sector (Rappaport)

Readings:


Oct. 9 Research in Planning and Policy Analysis I
(Regina Raboin, Librarian)

Library for group #1; small group discussion for group #2

Oct. 10: Research in Planning and Policy Analysis II
(Regina Raboin, Librarian)

Library for group #2; small group discussion for group #1
Section 2: Interplay Between Planning, Environment, and Social Welfare

Oct. 15: The Sustainability Challenge (Rappaport)

Readings:


Oct. 17: Race, Gender and Public Policy (Prof. James Jennings)

Readings:


JOURNALISTIC ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC MEETING DUE BY OCT. 22

Oct. 22: Land Use I: Ownership, Regulatory, and Legal Issues (Prof. Jon Witten)

Readings:


(continued)


**Oct. 24: Land Use II: Growth Control, New and Old Visions (Hollander)**

*Readings:*


**Oct. 29: Evaluation and Public Policy (Prof. Fran Jacobs)**

*Readings:*


**Oct. 31: Environmental Justice and Planning (Prof. Julian Agyeman)**

*Readings:*


(continued)
Nov. 5: Foundations and Field Projects (Rusty Russell)

**MEMO ASSIGNMENT DUE NOV. 7**

Nov. 7: Planning and Urban Settlements (Hollander)

Readings:


Nov 14: Poverty and Public Policy (Jennings)

Readings:


Nov. 19: The Mechanics of Planning Plans (Hollander)
Readings:


Nov. 26: Citizen Participation and Planning (Rappaport)

Readings:


Section 3: Influencing and Implementing Public Policy: Select Issues

Nov. 28: Planning and Public Policy (Hollander and guest)

Readings:


(continued)

Rachelle Alterman and Duncan MacRae, Jr. (1983). “Planning and Policy Analysis.” Journal


Dec. 3: Communication and the Role of the Media
(Rappaport)

Readings:


Dec. 5: Legislative Politics and the Policy Agenda (Hollander and guest)

Readings:


“Overview of the Massachusetts legislature and how to affect it.” In Lobbying on a Shoestring. pp. 21-39.


Dec. 10: Poster session for Portfolio Projects

PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT DUE BY 5:00 P.M. DEC 10