Potential New Course Offerings: Fall 2014

Advanced Quantitative Reasoning
This course will cover advanced data analysis tools relevant to policy and planning specialists. Topics include standard linear regression, as well as time series, panel data, and discrete dependent variable analysis. Other advanced method topics will be driven by student interests and may include GIS/spatial analysis, experimental design, factor analysis, nonparametric methods, environmental statistics, and simultaneous equation models, among others.

Agriculture and Food Law
This module provides a survey of the key legal and related policy issues relating to the provision and regulation of food (growing it and providing it), primarily in the U.S. It looks at key statutes and regulatory programs, examines central policy concerns, and studies specific controversies (e.g., GMO foods, bottled water, ethanol, organic food labeling, etc.).

Built Environment and Active Transportation
(Environmental Health Planning and Policy)
This course will explore topics related to the role of the built environment in fostering or inhibiting active transportation modes, as well as the importance of active lifestyles in improving public health outcomes. The course will cover the scientific and policy literature on design and implementation strategies for improving the built environment and creating a more active and livable community.

Children and the Built Environment
(Environmental Health Planning and Policy)
This course will broadly explore the relationship between the built environment and children in urban settings. Topics will include a discussion of the unique susceptibilities of children to environmental pollution and urban settings and their impact on learning and brain development, as well as the growing literature on access to green space, among others.

Collaboration and Partnerships in Policy and Planning:
When, Why, and How to Work With Others
Increasingly, policy and planning efforts span organizational boundaries. Working together allows organizations to take advantage of partners’ diverse resources, expertise, and constituencies to advance common goals. But collaborating is challenging; it consumes time and other resources and often exacerbates frictions among actors with divergent perspectives and priorities. Case studies offer lessons and introduce techniques regarding topics that include: responding to pressures to collaborate; choosing among different structures for working in partnership (eg. informal networks and alliances; planned coordination; formal contracts and coalitions; mergers); cultivating trust, leveraging difference, and managing conflict; and planning and distributing the tasks of partnership. (The course may be taken in tandem with “Effective Organizations and Leadership Development” but also works as a standalone module.)
Communications and Media for Policy and Planning
This module introduces communications theory and tools for policy and planning practice. Readings will cover various theories of communication and media and their roles in public policy and planning and formation of ideology. Some of the tools that will be introduced include strategic communications planning, messaging and framing, media relations, and social media. Examples of news media and the use of communications by policy and planning practitioners will be used throughout the module.

Community Practice Theory and Methods
This module introduces students to the theoretical frameworks and some of the methodologies for community-driven policy and planning practice. Students will be introduced to literature covering citizen participation, democratic practice, community organizing, social movements, and community action research. Case studies will be interwoven throughout to provide practical examples of methodologies at work. Special attention will be paid to the intercultural aspects of community practice, particularly looking at race, class, and gender.

Contemporary challenges in Corporate Social Responsibility
The goal of this course is to examine the theory and practice of corporate social responsibility (CSR). We will explore:
• The history and contested nature of CSR
• The role of CSR in diverse policy and planning contexts
• Contemporary manifestations and critiques of CSR
We will rely primarily on peer reviewed literature to develop an understanding of theoretical and historical underpinnings, and we will examine a range of resources for illuminating current practice including business school cases, company publications, government and non-government organization reports and media coverage of company actions.

Effective Organizations and Leadership Development
Course introduces skills for being an effective change agent in organizations dedicated to urban, environmental, and/or social issues. Case studies and hands-on exercises introduce ways of thinking and strategies for acting within public and nonprofit organizations. Topics to include: aligning organizational mission with external pressures and developments in the field; sustaining motivation and commitment; tapping the power of routines; learning from and with others; communication techniques; teamwork; and cultivating leadership and followership among staff, board, volunteers, and constituents. (The course may be taken in tandem with “Collaboration and Partnerships in Policy and Planning” but also works as a stand alone module.)

GIS Basics – Data Sources and Mapping (Module 1)
This module introduces students to the use of geographic information systems in the urban/suburban/metropolitan environment. Students will learn to work with urban spatial databases (including data sets pertaining to land use/land cover, parcel records, census demographics, environmental issues, water, transportation, food systems, local government, community development, and businesses). Students will learn how to find sources of information for metropolitan spatial databases, integrate data from a variety of sources, understand the relevance of database structure and design issues, and assess data quality. Students will also learn cartographical principles to create
effective maps and visualizations of spatial patterns pertinent to urban and environmental policy and planning. The final product will be a portfolio of maps relevant to a student’s field of interest. No prerequisites.

**GIS Analysis (Module 2)**
This module would introduce students to GIS models and analysis tools commonly used in urban and environmental policy and planning professions. Students will first learn about the types of analysis models typically performed in the urban and environmental policy fields and will dissect these into a series of analytical steps. GIS analysis tools to be covered include spatial overlays, proximity analysis, network analysis, hotspot and density analysis, and basic spatial statistics. The student will learn these tools through working on an analytical project of his/her own choosing, or applying them to a set of demonstration projects relevant to their field of interest. The final product will be a portfolio explaining the project or demonstrations. Prerequisite: GIS Basics Module or an introductory GIS course.

**Health Impact Assessments**
*(Environmental Health Planning and Policy)*
This course will explore the role of health impact assessments to inform planning and policy initiatives directed at improving the built environment and creating more sustainable and livable urban communities. The course will evaluate the role of health impact assessments in developing healthy urban policies, including an exploration the scientific literature and existing assessments, as well as the development of a potential health impact assessment projects based on student interests.

**International Best Practices in Community Development**
This collaborative research seminar focuses on the social, economic and political impacts and implications of “rooted” institutions in a variety of international settings. Rooted institutions are fixed in place and committed to engaging with and investing in the communities where they are located (e.g., universities/colleges, hospitals, faith-based institutions). In regions around the world, such institutions are working with and strengthening communities by providing workforce training, incubating the development of new businesses, providing educational and social services, and contributing to the development of public policies. In some instances, institutions are moving from “partnerships with” the community to “becoming part of” the community. By discussing in-depth case studies in a variety of countries (e.g., Egypt, Spain, Malaysia, Chile, Mexico, South Africa, Australia), students who participate in this seminar will acquire the following knowledge and skills:

**International Water Policy**
This module is a companion to part of my summer air and water policy course, looking at the management – from a legal, policy and political view – of major water conflicts across the globe. After a brief introduction to the general analytic frameworks that assist in understanding water issues – particularly those in the developing world and those involving trans-boundary conflict – we will look at an illustrative set of specific controversies, selected to enrich student understanding of this area of critical concern.

**Planning and Urban Design**
The course offers an overview of the practice of physical planning: land-use decisions, urban
development and urban design. It includes site planning exercises to apply design principles. Students learn best practices in urban development and place-making, transit-oriented development, a variety of housing types, mixed-use projects, public space, streetscape and landscaping, neighborhood-oriented retail uses, and community engagement. The emphasis is on project-based planning, design and implementation. LEED for Neighborhood Development criteria are used as guidelines.

Planning in the Intercultural City
What is the role of the professional in planning and urban design in the shift toward intercultural cities? It is important to note that the professions most closely associated with the policy, planning, design, and development of public and open spaces are not known for their difference or diversity, nor for their cultural heterogeneity nor cultural competency. There is a solid case to be made that the training and recruitment of professionals who more fully reflect the make-up of our ‘cities of difference’ would help speed the production, quality, and maintenance of culturally inclusive spaces, and, critically, the embedding and ultimately the mainstreaming of culturally inclusive practice(s) within those professions. Planning and design professionals’ cultural awareness, beliefs, knowledge, skills, behaviors, and professional practice can and do influence everything from the level and tone of outreach and representation at meetings to the interpretation of codes and the content of reports, and from the design of public spaces to the land use regulations within a region.

Policy and Planning for an Aging Population
The course examines the policy and planning implications of our aging population. Topics include: Who are “the elderly? Revisiting institutional approaches to caring for the elderly. Aging in place and in community. Issues of mobility and access to services. Social isolation and inter-generational civic engagement.

Power Dynamics: Policy, Technology and Renewable Energy
According to the Energy Information Administration only 9% of primary energy consumed in the US in 2011 was from renewable sources and 82% was from fossil fuels. The emphasis on fossil fuels can be viewed as a legacy of past policies, interests and development plans. Widespread reliance on fossil fuels has resulted in serious human health problems, environmental degradation and security concerns. Increasing reliance on renewable energy brings a different set of challenges including reliability, community acceptance and transition costs.

This course builds an understanding of energy systems currently in place and examines prospects for a power shift to increasing adoption and use of renewable energy emphasizing actors and institutions, knowledge and resources as they interact with policy, technology and market factors. In addition to examining renewable energy technologies and their uptake in the US the course also examines select policies and prospects in other national contexts.

Property
This module examines different property rights regimes (including those of other cultures and other historical periods), particularly around public resources, such as shared environmental resources. The goal would be to gain a more sophisticated understanding of the variety of rights, privileges and duties attendant on various types of property, and to examine how these concepts influence and sometimes
fully determine policy outcomes.

**Public and Private Planning**
What types of organizations – state agencies, city departments, private non-profits and private consulting firms – are engaged in planning? What different kinds of planning do they do? What statutes and legal framework are they organized under? How do they define their mission, constituents, clients, and the public interest? How do they measure success? The course offers a map of where planning occurs in the public and private sectors, with current examples of planning projects, programs and initiatives where they collaborate, intersect or conflict.

**Real Estate Development for Planners**
How can planners and policy makers be more effective in negotiating with developers? How can they influence private development to benefit their community? The course explores the relationship between real estate development and the community planning process. Students learn the rules of development in commercial and mixed-use markets, the different funding sources and criteria for market-rate versus affordable housing, and strategies for community engagement. Practical applications include producing a development budget and pro-forma, and putting together a development proposal in response to an RFP. Field trips to local affordable housing and mixed-use developments include their developers as guest speakers.

**Retrofitting Suburbs**
What do we do in response to suburban sprawl? While we redevelop cities and inner-city neighborhoods, low-density outlying suburbs represent a greater land area and challenge. The course presents the environmental, social and economic drivers of the need to retrofit suburbs, which can be improved in density, mix of uses, transportation choice, and affordability. Failed shopping centers and foreclosed subdivisions offer redevelopment opportunities. Public transportation, civic/commercial centers in residential subdivisions, and different types of housing in commercial areas, are other approaches being used. The course will look at examples of retrofitting strategies and evaluate them against stated goals.

**Risk and Its Reform**
This module looks at the notion of risk as it is (or is not) incorporated in the policymaking process – along a range that on one side is a formal, numerical coefficient, and on the other is a generalized judgment. In the process, we will consider cultural determinants of risk, expert assessments (and methodologies), and the question of institutional setting (and competence). A proposed focus is the so-called “precautionary principle” -- what it is, how to apply it, and whether it makes sense (or needs to be reformed).

**Shared Streets**
What role does the concept of shared street play within the larger transportation landscape of the US? What tools can municipalities use to develop and implement shared street policies and programs? The course explores recent movements toward increasing the use of public right-of-ways for pedestrians and bicyclists: the woonerf (The Netherlands, Belgium, Canada); home zone (UK); wohnstrasse (Germany, Austria); shared zone (Australia); shared street, complete street and parklet (USA). For each type of
shared street, we look at its history, goals, most representative examples, design considerations, perceived benefits, impacts achieved so far, and the controversies surrounding some of them.

**Telling the Story: Narrative Techniques for Policy Analysis and Advocacy**
A good story can influence how we see urban, environmental, and social problems, portray an alternative vision for cities and regions, and persuade people to take action to make it a reality. This course explores three ways narratives contribute to policy and planning: Identifying narratives to analyze the popularity and assess the effectiveness of policies and plans. Eliciting stories from constituents to guide agenda setting, advocacy, and implementation. Crafting stories for public education, advocacy, and organizing. In addition to readings and class exercises, students apply these techniques to a specific policy or plan of their choice.

**Transportation and Public Health**
*(Environmental Health Planning and Policy)*
This course will explore topics related to the impact of transportation networks on human health, including but not limited to the health effects of air pollution and noise on populations living or commuting near dense urban roadways. Particular attention will be paid towards susceptible sub-populations and environmental justice issues as it relates to transportation-related pollution exposure. Alternative strategies for reducing negative transportation-related effects will be explored, such as improved engine standards and transportation planning initiatives.

**Understanding Neoliberalism and Emerging Alternatives**
This module seeks to provide students with theoretical frameworks and historical analysis of neoliberalism and the global economy since World War II. It will look at neoliberalism as an ideology and a set of political and economic practices that are deeply embedded in public policy and planning. The recent great recession will be analyzed using these theoretical frameworks. Students will then explore alternatives to neoliberalism that are emerging from the Global South as well as the North.