

**Appalachian State University
Department of Geography & Planning**

Spring 2015

PLN 2410-101: Town, City and Regional Planning

Course Syllabus

Administrative Information

Instructor: Ric Kolenda
Time: MWF 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.
Location: Rankin Science West 349
Office Hours: MW 8–9 a.m., 10–11 a.m. & 3–4 p.m.; F 8–9 a.m. & 10 a.m.–1 p.m. or by appt.
Office: Rankin Science West 361
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NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If a change does occur, sufficient notice will be given through AsULearn and class announcements.

Course Description

This course introduces students to community and regional planning. Topical discussion includes the planning process; the relationship between planning and interactions of human occupants with the physical environment; and processes, concepts, and theories that help to interpret cultural and physical patterns on the landscape. This course describes how planning research and practice helps to build a variety of cross-disciplinary bridges that address contemporary urban and regional problems and issues in America. Special designator CD (for cross-disciplinary): related disciplines include geography, political science, public administration, economics, technology, architecture and landscape architecture, sociology, sustainable development, history, American studies, and others.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Practice critical writing skills through argumentative essays on planning topics.
- Learn about different planning areas, e.g.: design, economic development, transportation, environmental, coordinated human services, and housing.
- Gain an understanding of the interconnectedness and complexity of planning, issues in planning, and the methods with which planners try to manage divergent goals.
- Learn about planning as a profession, what a professional planner does, required skills for a professional planner, and what it means to be a Certified Planner.
- Be introduced to basic data resources, planning methods, project evaluation, and policy formation.

Course Materials

Required Text:

Levy, John M. (2011) *Contemporary Urban Planning*, Tenth Edition. Boston: Pearson Publishing. Digital edition available here:

http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/4695979/9780205854936?__hdv=6.8

Other readings and course materials will be available online and/or posted on **AsULearn**.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Class sessions will be a mixture of lectures and class discussions. Mondays and Wednesdays will be mostly lecture-oriented. Fridays students will meet in groups to discuss the week's reading memos, and report back to the class. Course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Quizzes	20%
2. Reading Memos	20%
3. Midterm Examination	20%
4. Planning Issue Report	20%
5. Final Examination	20%

Graded Assignments

Quizzes: Each Friday there will be a **quiz** on the material covered earlier that week. These may be administered in class or on AsULearn. There will be at least twelve (12) such quizzes, and the lowest two (2) scores will be dropped from your final grade. There will be no make-up quizzes, barring extraordinary circumstances (e.g., an extended medical issue requiring missing more than 2 class sessions). The quizzes will add up to 20% of your final grade.

The **Reading Memos** are weekly memos summarizing and synthesizing key points from the text(s). The memos should be no more than one page single-spaced, and should address the following points:

- What are the 2-3 key points of each reading?
- Identify 3 questions about each reading for further study.
- (When applicable) Explain how the readings engaged each other, identifying points of similarity and differences, and when different, which you thought was stronger and why.

Timeliness is important. These memos must be turned in via AsULearn before class on the Monday of the week to be covered. These memos are worth 20% of the total grade. These should also be available for Friday discussion periods, where your discussion group will report out based on the best of individual memos. They are pass/fail, and the lowest two (2) scores will be dropped from your final grade.

Each student is required to write a short **Planning Issue Report**. This will be worth 20% of your total grade. Topics will be chosen by the student from the issues covered in class, and submitted on AsULearn for approval by the instructor no later than March 20. Students will then have about four (4) weeks to research and write the report. The reports should use articles from planning and other scholarly journals, published agency reports, interviews with experts, or other similar sources. Reports must:

- Include an abstract (~100 words, which does not count against the word total)
- Use correct spelling and grammar

- Include at least five referenced sources (besides the text) with proper citations
- Summarize and integrate each source into your points
- Discuss the relevancy of each source to the topic
- Develop the student's own conclusion regarding the topic based on evidence and arguments from the assembled articles.

Planning Issue reports may not exceed six (6) pages (about 1,500 words). The reports must be typed, 1 or 1.5 spaced, and conform to APA style for in-text citations (author, year) and endnotes (see <http://www.apastyle.org>). Students may consult the instructor for guidance in finding articles and other sources of information. Report grades will be based on the following elements:

- Is the report on time? Did the student follow directions?
- Is the report grammatically sound? Can I understand what you wrote?
- Does the student demonstrate knowledge or understanding of the topic?
- Did the student integrate external sources into a nuanced exposition?
- Was a short presentation prepared and delivered?

The **Midterm & Final Examinations** will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true-false, short answer and essay questions. They will draw on the class lectures and readings, and require students to assimilate materials learned throughout each portion of the course; i.e., exams will not be cumulative. Each is worth 20% of the total grade. ***Make-up exams will only be given for extraordinary conditions, and only at the discretion of the instructor. Final Exam Period is Tuesday, May 5, 9-11:30 a.m.***

Class participation is an important part of this course, and as such, attendance and participation are required. Participation means that you actively engage in classroom discussions and in-class assignments.

Student attendance is mandatory, and more than six (6) absences can be grounds for failure. Please consult with the instructor if you are in danger of getting a seventh absence. It is recognized that students may be unable to attend class as a result of observance of recognized religious holidays of the student's faith, serious illness, or family emergencies. In such cases, students are responsible for informing the instructor (in advance if possible), getting any missed material, and obtaining class notes and announcements from other students.

Assignments are due by the beginning of class or by the specified time via AsULearn. If you have materials that are hard-copy only, they must be turned in on time as well. Late assignments will be graded down substantially, and a passing grade will not be assigned unless all assignments are completed.

Reports and exams are due by the beginning of class or by the specified time via AsULearn. If you have materials that are hard copy only, they must be turned in on time as well. Late assignments will be graded down substantially, and a passing grade will not be assigned unless all assignments are completed.

Extra Credit: From time to time, the instructor may offer the students opportunities to earn extra credit points on existing or for additional assignments. In addition, you are also encouraged to bring in newspaper and magazine articles related to current local planning issues up to three (3) times a semester during the Friday discussion sections. These articles can be on issues from anywhere in the world, but it is important that during the course of the semester everyone gets a sense of how public policy analysis works in the real world. Please email me at least 24 hours

before that week's discussion class with your intention to present an article, including the title and a link to the article. No more than three (3) articles will be presented in each class, and will be chosen on a first-come first-served basis. Only one (1) article per person per class session. Extra credit points will be granted as following:

- 1 Article = 4 percentage points toward your final grade
- 2 Articles = 7 percentage points toward your final grade
- 3 Articles = 9 percentage points toward your final grade

For example, if your other assignments add up to 88% of 100% of the final grade, and you present 2 articles during the semester, your final grade will be based on 95% of 100%. Extra credit is not guaranteed, however, and will be offered only at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Cancellation Policy: If classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, you will still be responsible for the readings and lecture for that session. Lecture notes will be posted on AsU Learn, and the instructor will be available for questions via email and AsU Learn forums. The schedule may be adjusted to make up for missed classes.

Computation of Grades: Grades will be computed on the following scale:

A>93%; A-=90-93; B+=87-89; B=83-87; B-=80-83; C+=77-79; C=73-77; C-=70-73; D+=67-69; D=63-67; D-=60-63; F=<60

Please note that A="Excellent"; B="Above Average"; C="Average"; D="Below Average"; F=Failure. Coursework will not be "curved." Grades cannot be replaced or raised through "extra credit."

University & Course Policies

Academic Integrity

As a community of learners at Appalachian State University, we must create an atmosphere of honesty, fairness, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of each other. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an Appalachian degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form and will oppose any instance of academic dishonesty. This course will follow the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found on the Office of Student Conduct Web Site:

<http://www.studentconduct.appstate.edu>.

Statement on Student Engagement with Courses

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at "providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers" as well as "maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students." Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Disability Services

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

Religious Observances Policy

Faculty members are required to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays. All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term “religious observance” to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student’s faith that require absence from class. Faculty, at their discretion, may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student's final grade in the course. On the first day of class, faculty must inform students of their class attendance policy and the effect of that policy on their final grade; both policies must be clearly stated in the class syllabus.

Course Policies

In addition to these university-wide policies, the following apply to this course:

- (1) This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Guest lectures and field trips might be scheduled along the way and students will be notified in advance.
- (2) When communicating via email or voicemail, please be sure to include the following information: full name, course name, course & section number.
- (3) All general questions regarding assignments and exams will be posted on the appropriate discussion forum in AsU Learn so that I may answer for the whole class. Only email me directly if you have a question or concern specific to you or your work. Please alert me if I or another student is not able to answer your question in a timely fashion.
- (4) Turn off cell phones and keep them off the desk during lectures. Text messaging during class is strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal.
- (5) Laptops and tablets are allowed for instructional use only; any prohibited uses will be grounds for dismissal.
- (6) Final grades will not be posted or given out over the phone or via email.

Class Meeting Dates

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Readings*	Assignment Due	Quizzes
1	1/12	Course Overview & Introductions			
	1/14	Overview of Planning	Levy Ch. 1		
	1/16	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #1
2	1/19	No Class - MLK Day Holiday			
	1/21	Urbanization	Levy Ch. 2		
	1/23	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #2
3	1/26	History of Planning: Part I	Levy Ch. 3		
	1/28	History of Planning: Part II	Levy Ch. 4		
	1/30	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #3
4	2/2	Planning Theory	Levy Ch. 19		
	2/4	The Ethics of Planning	AICP Code of Ethics		
	2/6	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #4
5	2/9	Social Issues & Social Justice	Levy Ch. 7		
	2/11	Social Issues & Social Justice	TBA		
	2/13	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #5
6	2/16	Legal Basis of Planning	Levy Ch. 5		
	2/18	Planning & Politics	Levy Ch. 6		
	2/20	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #6
7	2/23	The Comprehensive Plan	Levy Ch. 8		
	2/25	Tools of Land Use Planning	Levy Ch. 9		
	2/27	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #7
8	3/2	Urban Design	Levy Ch. 10		
	3/4	Transportation Planning	Levy Ch. 12		
	3/6	Midterm Exam		Midterm Exam Essays	
	3/7-15	No Class - Spring Break			
9	3/16	Urban Renewal & Community Development	Levy Ch. 11		
	3/18	Urban Renewal & Community Development	Levy Ch. 11		
	3/20	Discussion & Quiz		Planning Issue Topic Due	Quiz #8
		Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal			
10	3/23	Growth Management, Smart Growth & Sustainability	Levy Ch. 14		
	3/25	Growth Management, Smart Growth & Sustainability	Levy Ch. 14		
	3/27	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #9
11	3/30	Economic Development Planning	Levy Ch. 13		
	4/1	Economic Development Planning	Levy Ch. 13		
	4/3	Discussion & Quiz			Quiz #10

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Week	Date	Topic(s)	Readings*	Assignment Due	Quizzes
12	4/6	No Class - Easter Holiday			
	4/8	Appalachian Voices - Environmental Justice			
	4/10	Special Presentation (film or guest speaker)			
13	4/13	Environmental & Energy Planning	Levy Ch. 15		
	4/15	Environmental & Energy Planning	Levy Ch. 15		Quiz #11
	4/17	Discussion & Quiz			
14	4/20	Planning for Metropolitan Regions	Levy Ch. 16		
	4/22	U.S. National Planning	Levy Ch. 17		Quiz #12
	4/24	Discussion & Quiz			
15	4/27	Planning in Other Nations	Levy Ch. 18	Planning Issue Report Due	
	4/29	Final Exam Review			Quiz #13
	5/1	Last Day of Class			
	5/5	Final Exam - Tuesday, May 5, 9:00-11:30 a.m.		Final Exam Essays	