ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN PLANNING: 
CITY MAKERS IN URBAN DESIGN AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

Department of Urban Planning, Online – synchronous 
TR 3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. 
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

INSTRUCTORS

Faculty team leader
• Larry Witzling, larry.witzling@graef-usa.com (team leader)
Instructor team members
• Stephanie Hacker 
• Tanya Fonseca
• Ben Block
• Danya Littlefield
Teaching assistant
• Carl Thomas Glasemeyer, glaseme2@uwm.edu

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

All questions concerning course should be directed to the Teaching Assistant who leads your discussions section. Office hours and additional contact information for TAs will be established at the first lecture.

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the issues, concepts, and tools for professional city planning. The class will provide students with a broad base of knowledge about the planning profession.

Part 1 City planners “make” cities by influencing the form of the city. The physical form of the city determines constraints upon, and opportunities for, human activity. Planners influence the form by planning the community's visual character, sustainability and resilience, circulation systems, social and economic activities, natural environment, and the ongoing operation and maintenance of the city. To understand this complex and never-ending process, we need to begin by understanding the form of the city.

Part 2 Once planners understand the form of the city, we can begin to explore how city form influences, and is influenced by, human activity.

CLASS FORMAT

1. Students will attend two lectures and one discussion session each week.
2. Lectures take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm Online Web
3. At this time, all classes will be conducted using Zoom
4. You will be sent the appropriate codes and links via email
5. The class will use a synchronous online format
6. All students are expected participate with their camera engaged from a laptop or desktop (not a smartphone)
7. Full attendance during online sessions is expected and may be monitored during the class. Attendance during the schedule synchronous class time is required and will be monitored
8. At this time, it is anticipated that recordings of the class will be available for use by students who could not attend due to illness or other extenuating circumstances. Students may also use the recordings to review the content of the lecture (but not as a substitute for attendance).
9. Students who participate with their camera engaged or who utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their audio/video or image recorded. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.
LECTURES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE SEPARATE, INDEPENDENT TRACKS FOR LEARNING

- The lectures focus on the practice of planning and its history based on the expertise of the faculty.
- The readings represent important ideas collected from the vast literature on urban planning. Some readings overlap lecture material, but they should always be considered independent set of ideas that you should learn.
  - The course readings and assignment for Part 1 will be distributed after August 29th
  - A second set of course readings for Part 2 will be distributed later in the semester.
- The assignments require you to engage in critical thinking – the assignments are not intended to overlap with lectures or readings but to challenge you to think critically and independently – a skill that all planners must exercise.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

1. Weekly assignments must be completed by noon the following Monday, one day before your discussion section meeting. All assignments must be received by your TA by noon, via the web, on the Monday following the assignment.
2. Late assignments will NOT be accepted, and you will receive a grade of F for late assignments.
3. Assignments which are delayed or missing due to problems with email, computer use, technology or internet will NOT be accepted. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure they are received on time.
4. No hard copy submissions.
5. No file formats other than PDF.
6. All essays should be 1-2 pages (250-500 words). Submission requirements for other non-essay assignments will be described in class.
7. You are expected to write clearly, spell words correctly, and use correct grammar. TAs are not expected to correct your written assignments. If you have difficulty writing there are other on-campus resources, you may access for assistance.
8. Your assignments will be graded based on relevance to the assigned topic, clarity of expression, and demonstration of critical thinking.

GRADING

Students are expected to complete readings and assignments in advance of the discussion and come prepared to take part in discussion. Class participation during discussion sessions will be included in your evaluation.

1. 75% of your grade will be based on the sum of all grades for your assignments. Each essay grade will be weighted:
   a. 25% relevance to the assigned topic
   b. 25% clarity of expression
   c. 25% demonstration of critical thinking
2. 25% of your grade will be based on both
   a. faculty evaluation of your class participation and (b) attendance.
   b. Unexcused absences will result in grade reductions as follows:
      • 2 unexcused absences = maximum grade of B, grade may be lower based on essays and participation
      • 3 unexcused absences = automatic D, grade may be lower based on essays and participation
      • 4 unexcused absences = automatic F

EXPECTED TIME INVESTMENT (IN HOURS) FOR 15 WEEKS

39 Lectures 29 @ 1.3 hours each
12 Discussions 15 @ .8 hours each
53 Weekly reading averaging 3-4 hours per week
53 Weekly assignments @ average of 3-4 hours each
5 Miscellaneous research and discussion
0 No midterm or final exams
162 TOTAL

Additional policies are stated by the Secretary of the University at this website:
www4.uwm.edu/secu
https://uwm.edu/cetl/covid-19-syllabus-statements/
WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE, TOPICS, READINGS, AND ESSAYS

INTRODUCTION

1  Thursday 3-Sep - Witzling
   Introduction: role of planners in “making” cities – experience from the field
   Why would someone become a planner? How can you plan in today’s diverse communities?
   Description of the course framework and purpose.
   Readings: Chapter on Physical Planning (Witzling)
   Assignment: Describe the “places” where you grew up from the viewpoint of a community observer.

PART 1 – UNDERSTANDING CITY FORM AND HOW IT IS PLANNED

2  Tuesday 8-Sep - Witzling
   Learning the form of cities: maps, plans, learning to read a city – visual literacy
   Thursday 10-Sep - Witzling
   Attitudes toward urban form: changing attitudes by communities and city makers
   Readings: Excerpt from The Intellectual Vs the City (Morton and Lucia White)
   Assignment: Make a hand drawn map of places for the campus and surrounding area (instructions will be presented in class and will not require use of special software)

3  Tuesday 15-Sep - Witzling
   Example: MacArthur Square -- freeways and city form
   Thursday 17-Sep - Witzling
   Learning the form of cities – grids and networks
   Readings: Excerpt from The Architect and the City (J.B. Jackson)
   Assignment: Essay – Describe form and activity around UWM

4  Tuesday 22-Sep - Witzling
   Learning the form of Cities – organic forms
   Thursday 24-Sep - Witzling
   Principles for form – why does it matter; Camillo Sitte “City Planning According to Artistic Principles”
   Readings: Excerpt from City Planning According to Artistic Principles, (Sitte)
   Assignment: Essay – Can a city be a work of art? Or only a place where artists work? Why?

5  Tuesday 29-Sep - Witzling
   Camillo Sitte and “City Planning According to Artistic Principles”
   Thursday 1-Oct Glasemeyer
   How do you become a planner?
   Readings: Excerpt from American City Planning Since 1890 (Mel Scott)
Assignment: Essay – after the time period Mel Scott called “the spirit of reform”, what issues, attitudes and ideas seem to be the same, which seem to be different, and why?

6 Tuesday 6-Oct – Witzling
The City Beautiful and The Congress for the New Urbanism
Thursday 8-Oct-19 - Witzling
What is the role of urban designers?
   Readings: Excerpt from The Death and Life of Great American Cities (Jane Jacobs)
   Assignment: Essay: describe the good, the bad, and/or the ugly of Wisconsin cities and justify your opinion

7 Tuesday 13-Oct-19 - Witzling
Public Places – the street – the Stroget
Thursday 15-Oct - Witzling
Topic to be determined
   Readings: an RFP (to be distributed in class)
   Assignment: Essay – outline the major ideas you would emphasize in the RFP ‘approach’ and explain why you think it would be a successful proposal

8 Tuesday 20-Oct – Witzling
Public Places –theories and methods (Colin Rowe, Chris Alexander, Kevin Lynch)
Thursday 22 October Hacker
Welcome to the block – who really makes the city?
   Readings: TBD
   Assignment: TBD

PART 2 – MAKING COMMUNITIES

9 Tuesday 27-Oct - Littlefield
Why is community engagement important, models of participation, NIMBY-ism, the “right” to the city
Thursday 29-Oct - Fonseca
Who improves the neighborhood?
   Readings: TBD
   Assignment: TBD

10 Tuesday 3-Nov - Block
What metaphors have planners and thinkers used to understand the city, and how have they impacted the design of cities?
Thursday 5-Nov - Fonseca
Land Use + Zoning Lecture
Types of zoning, relationship of zoning to land use
   Readings: TBD
   Assignment: TBD

11 Tuesday 10-Nov - Littlefield
Placemaking and design for public spaces: the village square; William White; “Tactical” urbanism; Project for Public Spaces, privately-owned public spaces (POPS), commodification of public spaces
Thursday 12-Nov – Fonseca
Urban Renewal
   Readings: TBD
   Assignment: TBD

12 Tuesday 17-Nov - Block
Density, diversity and innovation: what is density, how is it related to diversity? How are they both related to innovation?
Thursday 19-Nov – Fonseca
Regional Planning
   Readings: TBD
   Assignment: TBD

13 Tuesday 24-Nov- Littlefield
Understanding our communities through sketching, mapping, and visual notation
Example topics: Kevin Lynch, alternative/subversive mapping, dimensional accuracy and distortions, narrative maps

**Thursday 26 – thanksgiving**
- Readings: TBD
- Assignment: TBD

14 **Tuesday 1-Dec - Block**
- Smart Cities – Block
- What is a smart city, and how is it different from the cities of today?

**Thursday 3-Dec-19 – Faculty panel**
- Parking – history, value, dilemmas of circulation in cities
- Readings: TBD
- Assignment: TBD

15 **Tuesday 8-Dec-19 – Faculty panel**
- More and more parking – what should planners do?

**Thursday 10-Dec-19 - Hacker**
- What should planners do in your lifetime?