

8/22/24

Urban Planning 140 – Fall 2024

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

Department of Urban Planning
TR 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., AUP Building Room 110 Room 170
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

INSTRUCTORS

Faculty team leader

- Larry Witzling, larry.witzling@graef-usa.com
- Deja Imani Taylor, Elizabeth Mae Willimas – teaching assistants
- Guest lecturers

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 including social and economic conditions. Planners influence the city’s 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.*

Part 3 *Planners will be facing great challenges over the next decades. How can we make a difference?*

CLASS FORMAT

1. Students will attend two lectures and one discussion session each week.
2. Lectures take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm (in person).
3. Full attendance during all sessions is required and will be monitored during the class

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, but not all, readings overlap lecture material, but they should always be considered independent sets of ideas that you should learn.
 - The course readings and assignment for Part 1 will be made available after September 1
 - 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 learn and practice.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

1. Weekly assignments must be completed by **noon** on the Monday following the date of the assignment.
2. **All assignments must be received by your TA by noon, via the web, on the Monday following the assignment.**
3. Late assignments will NOT be accepted, and you will receive a grade of F for late assignments.
4. 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.
5. No hard copy submissions.
6. No file formats other than PDF.
7. Essays, quizzes, and projects. There will be several types of assignments.

- a. Essays: Essays will be required almost every week. All essays should be 1-2 pages (250-500 words). You are expected to write clearly, spell words correctly, and use correct grammar. TAs are not expected to correct your written assignments. For those who have difficulty writing there are on-campus resources you may access for assistance.
 - b. Quizzes: The number, content, format, and schedule for quizzes will be determined by the TAs and communicated to students in the discussion sections.
 - c. Projects: During Part 2 of the course we will assign short projects that require both team work and preparation of slides to be discussed in class during Part 3..
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 each discussion class and come prepared to take part in discussion. Class participation during discussion sessions will be included in your evaluation.

1. 60% of your grade will be based on the sum of all grades for your essays and quizzes. Each essay or quiz will be weighted as follows:
 - a. 20% relevance to the assigned topic
 - b. 20% clarity of expression
 - c. 20% demonstration of critical thinking
2. 20% of your grade will be based on your project
3. 20% of your grade will be based on both of the following:
 - a. Faculty evaluation of your class participation and attendance.
 - b. The number of **unexcused** absences which 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 30 @ 1.3 hours each
12	Discussions 15 @ .8 hours each
53	Weekly readings 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 (if you are unable to access this information please inform the course TAs):

www4.uwm.edu/secu

<https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

<https://uwm.edu/cetl/covid-19-syllabus-statements/>

Panther Community Health and Safety Standards: UWM has implemented reasonable health and safety protocols, taking into account recommendations by local, state and national publichealth authorities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a member of our campus community, you are expected to abide by the Panther [Interim COVID-Related Health & SafetyRules](#), which were developed in accordance with public health guidelines. These standards apply to anyone who is physically present on campus, UWM grounds, or participating in a UWM-sponsored activity. All individuals visiting UWM facilities must follow UWM health policies and procedures regarding public health precautions.

CLASS SCHEDULE, TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENT

Part 1 – Understanding The Form Of The City And How It Is Planned

- Wk 1 **Tuesday 3-Sept - Witzling**
Introduction: role of planners in “making” cities – experience from the field
Thursday 5 -Sept Taylor and Williams
The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces (film) by William H. Whyte
Readings: go to larrywitzling.com Open “City Land essays” and then “Learn To Practice”
Assignment: Describe the “places” where you grew up from the viewpoint of a community observer.
- 2 **Tuesday 10-Sept Witzling**
Learning the form of cities: maps, plans, learning to read a city – visual literacy
Thursday 12-Sept Witzling
Attitudes toward urban form: changing attitudes by communities and city makers
Readings: excerpt from the Intellectual vs the City (White)
Assignment: make a hand drawn map
- 3 **Tuesday 17-Sept Witzling**
Example: MacArthur Square - freeways and city form
Thursday 19-Sept Witzling
Learning the form of cities – grids and networks
Readings: excerpt from the Architect and the City (J.B. Jackson)
Assignment: quiz – questions regarding the form and activity around UWM
- 4 **Tuesday 24-Sept Witzling**
Learning the form of cities – organic forms
Thursday 26-Sept - Witzling
Principles for form –why does it matter; Camillo Sitte
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 1-Oct Witzling**
The City Beautiful and the Congress for the New Urbanism
Readings: excerpt from City Planning According to Artistic Principles, (Sitte)
Thursday 3- Oct Witzling
Public places – the street – the Stroget
Readings: excerpt from American City Planning Since 1890 (Mel Scott)
Assignment: possible quiz questions about the period Mel Scott called “the spirit of reform”
- 6 **Tuesday 8-Oct Witzling**
Public places –theories and methods (Colin Rowe, Chris Alexander, Kevin Lynch)
Thursday 10-Oct Witzling
Generating alternative design concepts
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 15-Oct Witzling**
Form fits in, style stands out
Thursday 17-Oct Witzling
The need for precedents
Readings: go to larrywitzling.com Open “City Land essays”, then “CityForm”, read first 2 essays
Assignment: quiz – questions regarding streets in Milwaukee

Part 2 – Making Communities

- 8 **Tuesday 22-Oct - Guest lecturer**
Topic/issue TBD
Thursday 24-Oct Guest lecturer
Topic/issue TBD
Readings: go to larrywitzling.com Open “City Land essays” and then “City Form”, read the next 3 essays
Assignment: Project
- 9 **Tuesday 29-Oct – Guest lecturer**
Topic/issue TBD
Thursday 31-Oct - Guest lecturer
Topic/issue TBD
Readings: “Cityform” continued, read the last 2 essays
Assignment: Project
- 10 **Tuesday 5-Nov - Guest lecturer**
Topic/issue TBD
Thursday 7-Nov Guest lecturer
Topic/issue TBD
Readings: TBD
Assignment: Project
- 11 **Tuesday 12-Nov - Guest lecturer**
Topic/issue TBD
Thursday 14-Nov - Guest lecturer
Topic/issue TBD
Readings: TBD
Assignment: Project
- 12 **Tuesday 19-Nov – Guest lecturer**
Topic/issue TBD *Readings: TBD*
Thursday 21 – Guest lecturer
Topic/issue TBD *Readings: TBD*
Assignment: Project

Part 3 – Can collaboration work?

- 13 **Tuesday 26-Nov Guest lecturer**
Milwaukee’s planners
Thursday 28-Nov Thanksgiving
- 14 **Tuesday 3-Dec**
Project discussions
Thursday 5-Dec
Project discussions
- 15 **Tuesday 10-Dec Class discussion**
What didn’t I learn?
Thursday 12-Dec
Experiential learning day (TBD)