

Politics/UEP 265

Community Planning and Politics Practicum

Fall 2017

Fowler 309

T/Th 1:30-2:55 PM

Professor Regina Freer

Office Hours

Johnson Hall 305

T 3-4 ; W 1-3

X2924

and by appointment

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the history, theory, issues, concepts, tools, techniques, and controversies of urban planning. In addition to examining a wide body of literature pertinent to the theory and practice of urban planning, students will also study and discuss current planning issues and politics in Los Angeles with a particular focus on community-based planning initiatives. What are the politics of planning in LA? To extend Harold Laswell's description of the study of politics: *Who Gets What, When, How* in the sphere of urban planning and land use in Los Angeles? This introduction will serve as a foundation for case studies and community based research projects conducted in partnership with local non-profit community based organizations engaged in the planning process. Students will develop community-based research, writing, and presentation skills.

Through this course, students will gain an understanding of the impact that planning decisions have on the lives of city residents and how these community members can actively and effectively engage in the politics of planning.

Course Texts

Readings for the course are available on Moodle or accessible on-line with provided links. Readings associated with each topic should be completed before the class meeting and unless otherwise noted, all are required.

We will begin most class sessions with a discussion of "What's in the News" related to planning. These discussions will be tightly focused on planning, describing the story and either why it is significant or what questions it raises. Contributions should not stray to extraneous topics. Active and insightful engagement in these discussions will be evaluated as a part of your participation grade. To prepare for

these discussions, students should develop a daily habit of reading the Los Angeles Times and relevant websites and blogs. Some important ones are listed below:

Planetizen - <http://www.planetizen.com/tag/los-angeles>

The Planning Report - <http://www.planningreport.com/>

CityLab - <http://www.citylab.com/>

Streetsblog LA - <http://la.streetsblog.org/>

Curbed LA - <http://la.curbed.com/>

LA Observed - <http://www.laobserved.com/>

Course Requirements

(The professor reserves the right to amend these requirements during the semester.)

Assignment	Worth
<i>Paper #1 (Due 9/26)</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Paper #2 (Due Date of Final Exam)</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Walk Reflection Essay (Due 9/12)</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Public Meeting Reflection Essay (Due 10/12)</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Community Event Reflection Essay (Due 11/7)</i>	<i>5%</i>
<i>Council Research Brief (Group – Due 11/30)</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Class Attendance & Participation</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>CBLR Projects</i>	<i>20%</i>

The class will be run much like a graduate seminar, requiring you to come to class having read all of the assigned material and being prepared to discuss its content and the questions raised by it. Lectures will be infrequent.

In addition to writing two standard essays, you will also complete three 2 page reflection essays based upon observations from field work. More detailed assignments describing expectations for these essays will be provided in class. Because this is a community based learning and research course you will also have

assignments connected to work with our community partner. One such assignment is a group-based research brief on an assigned council member and their district. Others may include the design of an education, outreach, and engagement strategy for the partners, a review of popular education planning tools used by them, survey design and implementation, petition development and signature gathering, and planning and attendance for events . These partner-connected assignments will become more concrete as the semester proceeds and you will have a hand in shaping them. Clear criteria for evaluating your participation in these efforts will be communicated as soon as the expected outcomes are concretized.

Because the community-connected work involves on-going and evolving work, we will all have to be flexible and prepared to change plans. This is a part of the learning process.

Plagiarism

Part of our responsibility as members of a scholarly community is to acknowledge the hard work behind the development of ideas. In this spirit it is important that you avoid plagiarizing the work of others. Please review Occidental College's policy on plagiarism located within the statement on Academic Ethics:

<http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics> or

<http://www.oxy.edu/center-academic-excellence/writing-center/citing-sources>.

NOTE: I encourage you to consult the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE), located on the ground floor of the Library, to assist you with all aspects of the essay writing process (from brainstorming to final revision). The CAE offers evening drop-in sessions with trained Peer Writing Advisors, appointments with Faculty Writing Specialists, and Student Success Seminars (which deal with notetaking, reading efficiency, test-taking, time management).

Should you need resources related to sexual assault, the Survivor Advocate, can advise you confidentially as can counselors at Emmons Wellness Center and Rev. Susan Young, Director of the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life. You can also contact counselors at the 24/7 Hotline [323-341-4141](tel:323-341-4141). The Survivor Advocate can also help you access other resources on campus and in the local community. You can reach the Survivor Advocate at [323-259-1359](tel:323-259-1359) or survivoradvocate@oxy.edu and their office is in Stewart-Cleland Hall Lower Lounge.

The sexual misconduct policy can be found at <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. There you will find the policies, definitions, procedures and resources.

Students with documented disabilities who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who experiences physical or mental impairments may contact Disability Services at

(323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

T 8/29 - Introduction

- Eligon, "In Charlottesville Some Say Statue Debate Obscures a Deep Racial Split"
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/18/us/charlottesville-racial-disparity-vinegar-hill.html?mcubz=1>

Th 8/31 - Community Partner Introductions: Skid Row Now and The People's Plan

- <http://cangress.org/>
- <http://www.innercitylaw.org/>
- <http://www.unidad-la.org/>
- <http://allianceforcommunitytransit.org/community-plan-updates/>
- <http://www.dtl2040.org/>

T 9/5 – What is Planning?

*Fulton, "Introduction: How Planning in California Really Works" in Guide to California Planning 4th ed. Pp 3-28

*Los Angeles City Planning Department Website - <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/>

Th 9/7 – Planning Historiography

*LeGates and Stout, "Modernism and Early Urban Planning"

*Hall, "The Turbulent Eighth Decade: Challenges to American City Planning"

*Responses to Hall's "The Turbulent Eighth Decade"

*Sandercock, "Framing Insurgent Historiographies for Planning"

T 9/12 – Planning and The Planner – Ideology, Process, and Outcomes
(***Walk Reflection Essay Due 9/12***)

*Fainstein and Fainstein, “City Planning and Political Values: An Updated View”

*Stein, “The Poverty of Planning”

One of the following according to your last name:

*Davidoff, “Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning” (names A-F)

*Forester, “Planning in the Face of Power” (names H-K)

*Harvey, “On Planning the Ideology of Planning” (names M-S)

*Friedman, “The Mediations of Radical Planning” (names U-Z)

W 9/13,14,15 and 19 – “City Rising” KCET documentary on gentrification (watch online)

- <https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising>

Th 9/14 -“Citizen Jane” Documentary Film in class

T 9/19 – LA History and Space

*Davis, “Fortress LA”

*Whittemore, “One Hundred Years of Land-Use Regulation”

*Soja, “Seeking Spatial Justice in Los Angeles”

*Wachs, “Autos, Transit, Sprawl, Los Angeles”

Th 9/21 – Land Use: Regulation, Structures, and Tools

*Fulton, Guide to California Planning 4th ed. pp.47-168

*LA Department of City Planning Generalized Summary of Zoning Regulations, City of Los Angeles

<http://www.planning.lacity.org/HousingInitiatives/HousingElement/Final/HEAppendixE.pdf>

*Los Angeles Department of City Planning Website

<http://cityplanning.lacity.org/>

*TBA on RECODE

T 9/26 – Community Planning – Grounding the Theory (**Paper #1 Due 9/26**)

Film, “Holding Ground : The Rebirth of Dudley Street” or “Gaining Ground?”

*Kennedy, “Transformative Community Planning: Empowerment Through Community Development”

<http://www.plannersnetwork.org/magazine-publications/case-studies-and-working-papers/transformative-community-planning-empowerment-through-community-development/>

Th 9/28 Politics, Power, and Planning

*Sonenshein, Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government

http://www.lwvlosangeles.org/files/Structure_of_a_City.pdf

T 10/3 – The Planners’ Perspective

(Guest: TBA Los Angeles Department of City Planning)

*TBA

Th 10/5 – Privilege, Critical Race Theory, and Planning

*Vasquez, “Principals of Culturally Competent Planning and Placemaking” <http://rutgerspdi.blogspot.com/2009/11/principles-of-culturally-competent.html>

*Chavez et al, “The Dance of Race and Privilege in Community Based Participatory Research”

*Purtill, “A Call for Critical Race Studies in Urban Planning”

T 10/10 FALL BREAK – NO CLASS

Th 10/12 –

T 10/17 Community Plans

*<http://www.dtla2040.org/>

*<https://planning.lacity.org/cpu/SouthELA.html>

*<https://planning.lacity.org/cpu/SouthLA.html>

Th 10/19 – – (**Public Meeting Reflection Essay Due 10/12)

**Guest Rosten Woo

Planning, Gentrification, and Displacement in South LA and Downtown

“The Gentrification of Skid Row”

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/mar/05/gentrification-skid-row-los-angeles-homeless>

- Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD)
<https://www.lapovertydept.org/>

T 10/24 - Popular Education and Planning

*Dr. Pop What is Popular Education?

<http://drpop.org/what-is-popular-education/>

*Blocks and Lots

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/461934/manualandkit%20for%20website.pdf>

*What is Affordable Housing?

<http://rostenwoo.biz/index.php/whatisaffordablehousing>

*What is Zoning, Center for Urban Pedagogy?

http://welcometocup.org/Store?product_id=64

*Freudenberg, Pastor, and Israel, "Strengthening Community Capacity to Participate in Making Decisions to Reduce disproportionate Environmental Exposures" American Journal of Public Health

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3222508/>

Th 10/26 – People's Planning

*ELACC Plan del Pueblo

http://issuu.com/eastlacommunitycorporation/docs/plandelpueblo_english_digital_versio

*Forester, "Challenges of Deliberation and Participation"

*Arnstein, "The Ladder of Participation"

*LAFLA Public Participation

http://www.lafla.org/pdf/PublicParticipation_ENGLISH.pdf

*Lauren Ahkiam, "Learning from Los Angeles: People's Planning in the City of Angeles." Progressive Planning summer 2012

http://www.plannersnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/PPMag_SUM12.pdf

- UNIDAD's "People's Plan"

<http://www.unidad-la.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/peoples-plan-report-FINAL.pdf>

*Our Skid Row

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/future-of-skid-row-housing>

T 10/31 – Staples Center, Farmer's Field, CBAs
(Guest: TBA)

*Jaqueline Leavitt, "Linking Housing to Community Economic Development with Community Benefit Agreements: The Case of the Figueroa Corridor Coalition"

for Economic Justice” in Ong and Loukaitou-Sideris eds *Jobs and Economic Development in Minority Communities* 2006 (e-copy in library)

Th 11/2 – USC and Lorenzo
(Guest:TBA)

*UNIDAD Coalition Report

*Paulina Gonzalez, “South ‘Central’ Los Angeles: Residents Fight to Save Their Beloved Community in the Face of USC Expansion Plans

http://www.plannersnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/PPMag_Gonzalez.pdf

T 11/7 Debrief / CBL Work
(***Community Event Reflection Essay Due***)

Th 11/9 – CASP
(Guest:TBA)

*SEACA Presentation, “The Arroyo Seco Specific Plan”

<http://cpehn.org/sites/default/files/vfccasp2014.pdf>

T 11/14 –Planning and the Ballot Box – Measures JJJ and S

TBA

Th 11/16 - Understanding the Development Process
(Guest:TBA)

*TBA

Tu 11/21 - Debrief / CBL Work

Th 11/23 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**

T 11/28 – Planning Commission
(Guest: TBA)

*Allor, "Toward a Longer View and Higher Duty for Local Planning Commissions"

* "Do Real Planning"

<http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Reorganization/DoRealPlanning.pdf>

T 11/30 Debrief / CBL Work

Council Brief Due 11/30

T 12/5 Wrap Up / Evaluations