

THE ROLE OF THE PLANNER: POLICY, POLITICS AND PUBLIC OPINION

JGI454 H1F

Instructors: Dr. Gary Davidson and Beate Bowron
Office: Geography Department, 5th Floor
Class Times: Tuesdays, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
September 15 - December 8, 2015 (Fall Break/No
class on November 10)

Office Hours: After class and by appointment
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Course description:

This course is a joint course with graduate course PLA1514H. It is led by a team of two seasoned professionals and aimed at students who want to enter the planning profession. The course explores the multiple roles planners play in building communities and achieving sustainable development.

Future planners will be exposed to the planner as 'Expert'; as 'Negotiator/Facilitator'; as 'Educator/Change Agent'; as 'Implementer'; and as a well-rounded 'Professional'. The discussion of planners' roles is coupled with case studies from the instructors' Canadian and international experiences. In addition, three guest lecturers will share their wisdom "from the trenches".

Assignments and Grading:

Assignments should be submitted to the instructors in hard copy. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. Assignments are due by the end of class or as otherwise indicated.

October 6: Short Paper (15%): The Generalist versus Specialist Dichotomy
5 pages, double-spaced, returned at October 13 class

Team Project (50%) on the role(s) of planners in a current planning project:

- **September 29:** Selection of teams
- **October 13:** Overview presentation of team projects (10%), instructors' and students' feedback at class
- **November 17 or 24:** Team presentation (15%), instructors' and students' feedback at class
- **November 20 or 27:** Team Report (25%), 10 pages, double-spaced, delivered to Geography Department office during office hours

Term Paper (35%) on how one of the major roles of planners contributes to comprehensive planning solutions:

- **November 12:** Term Paper Outline (10%) [objectives, scope, annotated section headings]
2 pages, double-spaced, delivered to Geography Department office during office hours; returned at class November 17
- **December 8:** Term Paper (25%), 5 pages (10 pages for graduate students), double-spaced

Late Penalty

5% per day. Assignments will not be accepted after Friday noon of due date week. In case of illness, a U of T medical note should be submitted to the instructors by the assignment due date.

Resources and Readings

A list of resources and readings is posted on Blackboard.

Recording Lectures/Accessibility Needs

Students may not create audio recordings of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to beginning to record lectures. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/Home/About-Us.htm> as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation (and quotations marks when using an author's words). Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Penalties for plagiarism can include grades of zero on an assignment or course, notations on transcripts, and suspension from the university. For further clarification and information, please see the Faculty of Arts & Science policy on Academic Misconduct at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/what-is-academic-misconduct> and consult the 'How not to plagiarize' website at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

SCHEDULE

Session One - September 15, 2015

Course overview. Logistics. Assignments. Expectations and grading. Overview of the principal roles of planners and general discussion of the 'Specialist' versus 'Generalist' dichotomy. Comprehensive planning. Assignment of the short paper.

Session Two - September 22, 2015

'The Planner as Expert.'

Substantive knowledge and planning specialties. Discussion of the planner as expert witness. Functional and enabling competencies.

Session Three - September 29, 2015

'The Planner as Expert' continued.

Detailed discussion of generalist versus specialist dichotomy. Difference in objectives and points-of-view. How to achieve integration.

Selection of project teams (5 to 7 per team, graduate/undergraduate mix). Teams meet to select a current project with focus on the role(s) a planner or planners play in achieving 'good planning'.

Session Four - October 6, 2015

'The Planner as Negotiator/Facilitator'.

Introduction to principled negotiations, including 2 paired exercises. Negotiating inside a group, among groups and with the outside world (developers, NGOs, stakeholder groups).

Time for discussion of team projects with instructors. Short paper due.

Session Five - October 13, 2015

'The Planner as Negotiator/Facilitator' continued.

Negotiations group exercise. Guest lecture: Working with developers to build community.

Overview presentations of team projects. Instructors' and students' feedback at class.

Session Six - October 20, 2015

'The Planner as Educator/Change Agent'.

The role of public engagement in planning. Public engagement techniques. Strengths and weaknesses. Designing a public engagement process for an Official Plan Review.

Session Seven - October 27, 2015

'The Planner as Educator/Change Agent' continued.

Guest lecture: The View from the Community.

Session Eight - November 3, 2015

'The Planner as Implementer'.

Challenges and opportunities.

Guest lecture: How to get things done in a large bureaucracy.

November 10, 2015 - Fall Break/NO CLASS

Term Paper Outline due November 12.

Session Nine - November 17, 2015

Team presentations of projects. Instructors' and students' feedback at class.

Team reports due November 20.

Session Ten - November 24, 2015

Team presentations of projects continued. Instructors' and students' feedback at class. Team reports due November 27.

Session Eleven - December 1, 2015

'The Planner as Implementer' continued.

The politics of planning. Advocacy planning.

Session Twelve - December 8, 2015

'The Planner as a Professional'.

OPPI Professional Code of Practice. Integrating planners' roles.

Term Paper due.