THE ROLE OF THE PLANNER:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
JGI 454 H1F
JPG 1514 H1F

Instructor: Paul J. Bedford
Office: Geography Dept. 5th Floor
Class Times: Tuesday 9-11, September 9-December 2, 2014

Office Hours: After class or by appointment, 5th floor, Geography Dept. Sidney Smith
E-mail: paul.bedford@utoronto.ca

Description:

This course is intended to shake the conventional planning tree. Its purpose is to help
develop future leaders in the urban planning profession who truly want to make a
difference by breaking out of the conventional mindset of North American Planning.
Frequent guest lecturers and stakeholders will be invited to highlight certain matters that will
give students an opportunity to focus on current issues confronting urban planners.

As this is a course specifically focused at students who plan to become professional
planners, it is strongly recommended for students to have completed prerequisite courses. The
course is structured around the following three basic themes.

The Vocation of Planning (September 9, 16, 23and 30)

Weeks 1-4 are up front and provocative. The lectures test the inner motivations for becoming a
planner. In this section of the course we shall ask: What motivates someone to enter the city
planning profession? What values do you believe are important? What principles have
traditionally governed the planning of cities like Toronto in the past? How might the planner be
more relevant? This period is designed to expose planning students to a wide range of soul
searching issues, challenges and practices which have produced our current environment and
why the next generation of planners must do better. Using Toronto's Official Plan, we shall also
examine the political realities and ethics of planning in working in a big city planning
department.

On Saturday September 27, a transit and walking tour of Danforth East will be conducted with
local community representatives. The tour will cover key sites, areas and hot spots that
demonstrate the themes of the course. It is a unique opportunity for all students to become
familiar with the study area and the community representatives. The tour will start at 10am and
likely involve most of the day.
Planning for Changing Societies: Towards a Vision and Action Plan (October 7, 14 and 21)

Weeks 5, 6 and 7 examine the changing nature of our City and the community. We shall ask: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the community? How can the Danforth East commercial strip and community be best intensified to help achieve city-wide and local community objectives? How can planning find common ground among the diverse stakeholders to make a real difference? Do we need to invent a totally new type of community plan in order to make things happen?

Moving Minds: Passion, Perseverance and Presence (October 28 and November 4)

The final weeks will be devoted to turning ideas into action with many references to the highs and lows over my 8 years as Chief Planner. We shall ask: Why is leadership so critical to drive change and get things done? What are the essential ingredients of a good leader? How can you lead while not alienating your political masters? What does it take to move minds?

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE TEAM PRESENTATIONS will be made on Tuesday November 18 on A Vision and Action Plan for Danforth East. The exercise is designed to illustrate the importance of developing leadership, team work, innovative public consultation strategies and creative group thinking. Readings, case studies, guest lectures and class discussions will bring the course to life with a focus on student creativity, observations and originality.

FINAL EXAM/FINAL TERM PAPER

A final exam for undergraduates during December 8-19 based on the entire course content and a final term paper for graduate students will be required.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:

The proposed work schedule and percentage of total course grade is as follows.

ASSIGNMENT ONE: DUE OCTOBER 7 AND RETURNED OCTOBER 14

Short Paper: What do you think the primary role of an urban planner should be in 2014 and beyond? Discuss the rationale for your views and outline changes that you think are needed in the urban planning profession to realize your perspective in a 5 page double spaced paper. Worth 15% of course grade

* Composition of Teams will be determined after Assignment One is graded
ASSIGNMENT TWO: DUE OCTOBER 21 AND RETURNED OCTOBER 28

Short Paper: What do you think are the most challenging problems to address in stimulating re-investment on Danforth East? How can the goals of the Danforth East Community Association and the City best be achieved without losing the prevailing character of the area?
5 pages double spaced
Worth 15% of course grade

ASSIGNMENT THREE:

Graduate and Undergraduate Team Presentations including a written VISION AND ACTION PLAN FOR DANFORTH EAST
4-6 students per team depending on total class size
Emphasis on Team product with Team Presentations on NOVEMBER 18
Worth 35% of course grade (25% on content and 10% on presentation)

FINAL EXAM FOR UNDERGRADS AND TERM PAPER FOR GRADS

A Final Exam for undergraduates on the full course content will be scheduled within the December exam period. A Final Term Paper not exceeding 15 double spaced pages for graduate students will be due on December 5. A choice of three topics will be announced early in the course with students also able to work on a specific topic of their choosing pending my approval. Worth 35% of course grade

Late Penalty

A late penalty of 5% per day will be assigned to all students.

Code of Behaviour Matters:

It shall be an offence for a student knowingly to represent one's own idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or paper or in connection with any other form of academic work is to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offense shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

COURSE READINGS

There is no text book for this course. However, a very extensive list of readings has been assembled that consist of professional journals, planning reports, media articles and selected documents that directly relate to each week's lecture. They include material from both a historical perspective and current planning issues that are currently being publicly debated. Readings for all students are available for purchase and consist of two binders. The binders can be obtained at the University of Toronto Bookstore. A copy will be deposited with the Geography Department Secretary, 5th floor office for students to review.
EXPECTATION OF STUDENTS:

This class is unique with a mix of undergraduate and graduate students so I will call on graduate students to help share the work load and lead the class discussions. You will get out of this course what you put into it. I will expect commitment, energy, creativity, passion and involvement. If you want to do well, you will have to work hard and be fully engaged. If you are shopping courses and are looking for one that you can coast through then do not take this course!

SCHEDULE:

Sept. 9    Introduction

Course Description and schedule  
Student feedback from last year  
Expectations of graduate and undergraduate students  
Assignments and grading  
Team composition and formation process  
Brief Student Questionnaire re: bio, interest and prerequisite courses  
Setting the stage for walking and transit tour of Danforth East  
September 27

Sept. 16   On Being a Planner

Personal life long insights and observations:
Why do you want to be a planner?  
What are your core principles, beliefs and values?  
Does the public sector have the capacity to address society’s challenges?  
Is the private sector better able to respond to society’s needs?  
Do you have the passion to sustain a lifelong mission to nurture the city and live it in your soul?  
Can you be in tune with the prevailing values of society while also being ahead of the curve to anticipate and guide positive change?  
Do you honestly want to make a difference or just go with the flow?  
Are you prepared to stand up for beliefs that may not be challenged by politicians and communities?


Bedford, Paul, "What is Planning in 2010"? The Ontario Planning Journal, Volume 25, No. 4

Cadman, David and Davoudi, Simin, "Is There a Role for the Planner?", Online Planning Journal, April, 1997

Cox, Wendell, "Planners Denying Reality", Toronto Star, September 1, 2007

Forsyth, Ann, "Deciding if You Want to be a Planner", Planetizen, April 5, 2009


Grant, J. "Rethinking the Public Interest as a Planning Concept", Plan Canada, Volume 45, Number 2, Summer 2005


Jacobs, Allan, "The State of City Planning Today and Its Relation to City Planning Education"

Lewyn, Michael, “Planning is not Necessary”, Planetizen, May 19, 2013

Lorinc, John and Agrell Siri, “Canadian Cities trying to define what it means To be an urban planner”, The Globe and Mail, July 6, 2012


Sewell, John, "Are We Screwing Up"?, Toronto Life, November, 1988


Sept. 23

On Being Relevant


Berridge, Joe, "The Creative City", Plan Canada, Spring, 2006


Collins, Robert, "If you're under 43, chances are you will live to see the 21st century", Toronto Daily Star, Canadian Magazine, January 18, 1969

Chronis, P. "City of Toronto Regulates Drive-through Facilities", Ontario Planning Journal, Volume 19, Number 2, March/April 2004

Commissioner, Urban Development Services, "By-law Amendment to Regulate Drive-Through Facilities in the City of Toronto", City of Toronto Planning Staff Report, August 26, 2002

Commissioner, Urban Development Services, "King-Spadina Official Plan Part 11, City of Toronto Planning and Development Department, January 1996

Duarte, Reuben, “The Fall of Planning Expertise”, Planetizen, June 10, 2014


Harris, G. "The Store We Love to Hate", Ontario Planning Journal, Volume 20, No. 3, May/June 2005

Hymon, Steve, "She has a city to build on", Los Angeles Times, April 15, 2007

Hymon, Steve, "Planning panel rejects status quo", Los Angeles Times, April 24, 2007

Hume, Christopher, "Lets find a better way to plan a city", Toronto Star, May 6, 2008

Hume, Christopher, "How Toronto Plans for Failure", Toronto Star May 8, 2010

James, Royson, "Road tolls, a bitter pill that works", Toronto Star, June 17, 2008

Kalinowski, Tess, “Metrolinx: Toronto needs to sign on dotted line for new light-rail plan”, Toronto Star, February 16, 2012

Kaplan, Sam, "Calling Out the Planners", Los Angeles Downtown News, May 9, 2007

Kaye, Leon, “Could cities’ problems be solved by urban acupuncture?”, Guardian, co.uk

Leeming, Dan and Riley, Diane, “We have One Generation in which to Make A Difference”, Ontario Planning Journal, Vol.26, No. 2011

Lubell, Sam, "LA Loses Its Head (of Planning)", The Architects Newspaper, July 6, 2010


McKellar, J. "The Old Versus the New", Plan Canada, Summer 2004

Miller, Glenn, "Growing old in suburbs built for the car: not a pleasant prospect", The Urban Century, Spring, 2008

Murray, Glen, "Our idea of cities needs a rethink", Toronto Star, January 6, 2008


Page, Scott, "Does planning=zoning"? Planetizen


Vazquez, Leonardo, "Improving the Purpose and Accountability of the American Planning Association", Planetizen, April, 15, 2007

Sept. 27 Transit and walking tour of DANFORTH EAST AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT with City of Toronto staff and Community Representatives illustrating key redevelopment issues and opportunities. This will be an invaluable experience to help understand the existing land use pattern, future alternatives and community perspectives.

Sept. 30 The Political Realities and Ethics of Planning

Bedford, Paul, "If I Were the Minister", The Ontario Planning Journal, Volume 22, No. 6, 2007

Bedford, Paul, “Ford’s critical 100 year decisions”, Toronto Star,
February 14, 2011


City of Toronto, “New Official Plan-Consultation Strategy All Wards”, May 13, 2002

Cunningham, Frank, “Populist Politics in Toronto”, 2014

Faga, Barbara, "Two Things People Hate: Density and Sprawl", Planetizen, March 26, 2008

Hume, Christopher, "Downtown density will prevail over slums of suburbia" Toronto Star, March 3, 2008

Hume, Christopher' "City Crumbling, top planner says", Toronto Star, July 11, 2003

Hume, Christopher, "Megacity politics in shambles 10 years later", Toronto Star, January 1, 2008

Hume, Christopher, “From Transit to waterfront, Fords make themselves Irrelevant”, Toronto Star, March 7, 2012

James, Royson, "Amalgamation: 10 years later", Toronto Star, January 1, 2008

James, Royson, "Toronto needs its planner in the works", Toronto Star, July 14, 2003

James, Royson, “Mayor Ford down to his last strike in TTC debacle”, Toronto Star, March 6, 2012

Kalinowski, Tess and Dale, Daniel, “Special Transit Meeting: Mayor Ford dismisses council’s vote against his subway plan”, Toronto Star, February 9, 2012

Kalinowski, Tess and Moloney, Paul, “TTC: Ford loyalists booted; Stintz stays as Chair in expanded board”, Toronto Star, March 5, 2012

McDonald, Marci, “The Incredible Shrinking Mayor”, Toronto Life, May 2012

Novae Res Urbis, "Bedford at the crossroads", July 11, 2003

Preville, Philip, "Hall of Shame", Toronto Life, January 2008

O'Reilly, Dan, "Beyond Density", Toronto Star, January 26, 2008

Sewell, John, "Pushing out planners endangers urban creativity", Now Magazine, November 18, 1993

Siddiqui, Haroon, “Rob Ford is like Stephen Harper but without the power”, Toronto Star, March 7, 2012

Toronto Star, "Media coverage to help public understand planning choices on Toronto Official Plan"

Toronto Star, "Chief Planner's Rx for a declining city", July 12, 2003

WEB SITE ONLY FOR REFERENCE

Oct. 7 Danforth East: Understanding the Community Perspective


About Danforth East Community Association

Barmak, Sarah, “The Other Danforth”, Toronto Star, August 18, 2007

Budak, Jasmine, “Gentrify Me”, The Grid TO, March 26, 2014

Danforth East Community Association Contact Information

DECA Soft Sites Study, Greenwood Avenue to Main Street, July 2014

DECA Visioning Team SWOT Analysis, June 2014

Hume, Christopher, “The Danforth a success despite itself”, Toronto Star, April 4, 2014

Milley, Danielle, “Danforth East’s revitalization slow and steady”, The Mirror, September 8, 2011


Wickens, Stephen, “Jane’s Walk: The Death and Life of Upper Midway”

University of Toronto, PLA 1106: Workshop in Planning Practice (Rankin and Stephens), “Between Monarch and Main”, December 9 2013

Oct. 14 Danforth East: Understanding the City Planning Perspective and City Council Position


City of Toronto, “Final Report-2359 Danforth Avenue, MOTION to Amend Item By Councillor Janet Davis for Chief Planner to undertake a PLANNING STUDY Of DANFORTH AVENUE in two segments from the Don River to Coxwell Avenue and from Coxwell Avenue to Victoria Park Avenue, (Adopted by City Council, July 8, 2014, PAGE 2)


Brook McIlroy, ERA Architects, Quadrangle Architects, Urban Marketing Collaborative, “Avenues & Mid-Rise Buildings Study Executive Summary”, May 2010


City of Toronto, “Mid-Rise Symposium (2005) Summary of Suggestions

City of Toronto, “Mid-Rise Symposium (2005) Summary of What We Heard in Workshop 1
Oct. 21 The Larger Context: Key Components

Alcoba, Natalie, “Downtown Toronto needs a relief line to ease traffic: Study”, National Post, July 21, 2014

Bateman, Chris, “Metrolinx promises Downtown Relief Line by 2028” Blogto.com, July 21, 2014


City of Toronto Planning Division, “How Does the City Grow?” Sept. 2013

Cross, Jessica Smith, “John Tory unveils “One Toronto” transit plan with Smart Track centerpiece, Metro News, July 21, 2014


Jacobs, Jane, “Performance Zoning as an alternative to Use Zoning”, November 28, 1972

Metrolinx, “Regional Relief Strategy: Stakeholder meeting #1”, February 27, 2014

Newsom, Mary, “Mixed-Use Downtown Development Puts Standard Malls’ Tax Yield to Shame”, Citywire, July 9, 2010

Steuteville, Robert, “Postwar neighbourhoods are key to suburban revitalization”, New Urban News Publications, 2013

Toronto Star Editorial, “John Tory’s “Smart Track” may be better at winning votes than moving commuters”, July 21, 2014


WEB SITE ONLY FOR REFERENCE: Metrolinx, ”The Big Move”, November 2008 www.thebigmove.com

Oct. 28 Moving Minds: Towards a New Vision and Action Plan

BBC News, "French Farmers turn Champs Elysees into huge farm", July 9, 2010

Bedford, Paul, "WE WANT CHANGE!", Toronto Star, July 23, 2006


Bedford, Paul, "No time to procrastinate", Toronto Star, April 18, 2008

Bedford, Paul, “Time to make tough choices on public transportation”, Toronto Star


Hume, Christopher, "Density is Not a Scary Word", Toronto Star, May 21, 2007

Hume, Christopher, "Reports of Toronto's demise are exaggerated", Toronto Star, July 19, 2010

Kalinowski, Tess, "Transit road map to recovery" Toronto Star, April 14, 2008

Mulroney, Catherine, "Driven to Extremes", Toronto Star, October 27, 2007

Municipal Art Society of New York, “The City is You”

Project for Public Spaces, "Eleven Principles for Creating Great Community Spaces", New York 2006


The Daily Philosopher, “The Only thing that is Constant is Change”, August 200

Toderian, Brent and Glover, Jillian, “10 Lessons in More Engaging Citizen Engagement”, March 5, 2014


White, Michael, "Public Involvement in Municipal Priority Setting: The City of Vancouver's Public Involvement Review", IP AC, Choosing Municipal Priorities Symposium, Ottawa 2003

The Importance of Leadership: On Being the Chief Planner


Bedford, Paul, "The New City of Toronto", April 18, 1998

Byers, Jim, "Don't stifle development planner says", Toronto Star, March 12, 1987
City of Toronto Announcement July 31, 2012, Chief Planner


Graham, Ian, "The Passion of the Chief, Volume 19, No. 3, May/June 2004

Hume, Christopher, “Toronto seeks a new chief planner; what it needs is a Visionary”, Toronto Star, April 20, 2012

Kuttenbrouwer, Peter, "Letter from Yonge-Dundas Square", National Post, May 9, 2008


Millward, Robert, "City of Toronto: The Big Picture", Plan Canada, Winter 1995


Nov. 11 NO CLASS/TEAM CONSULTATION WITH INSTRUCTOR

Nov. 18 GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE TEAM PRESENTATIONS: VISION AND ACTION PLANS

Graduate teams and Undergraduate teams of 4-5 per team (depending on class size)

Nov. 25 Feedback on Team presentations: Reflections and Directions

What did each team learn from the exercise in terms of working together, defining a clear vision and developing a realistic action plan?
What do you think the chances are to see your vision implemented?
What is the single most important starting point?

Dec. 2 LAST CLASS- Final Thoughts and Course Evaluations

Bedford, Paul, “Make Passionate Love to Your City”, Toronto Star, February 14, 2014
Bedford, Paul, Personal thoughts on skill sets

Forsyth, Ann, "Truly Great Teachers: Remembering Peter Harris", Planetizen, July 4, 2007

James, Royson, “Toronto will miss Tony Coombes, who thought big about what we could be”, Toronto Star, June 25, 2013

Dec. 5  Graduate Term Paper Due

Dec. 8-19  Undergraduate Final Exam to be Scheduled during Exam week