U280A: Planning Studio – B
(site planning and urban design emphasis)
Winter Quarter 2009 / Tuesday: 7:00 – 9:50 pm
Social Ecology I – Room 315

Lecturer: H. C. “Chip” Clitheroe, Jr., Ph.D.
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in conjunction with U280-A: Planning Studio – A
(assessment and analysis emphasis)
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Overview
The PP&D Planning Studio will challenge students to integrate other planning coursework, prior academic work, their own life experiences, professional training and experience, and an understanding of urban life in response to a real-world project that will require broad, detailed data collection and analysis and the development and presentation of appropriate planning goals, recommendations, policies, concepts, plans and designs at either a regional, local, or site-specific scale.

The course has the following objectives:
1. To develop a familiarity with the urban planning process.
2. To experience a studio approach to urban planning, including client relations and professional project management.
3. To develop an awareness of the complexity of urban planning projects and the diverse stakeholders who become involved.
4. To develop planning-related data collection and analysis skills.
5. To develop planning-related decision making and presentation skills.
6. To demonstrate an ability to understand and make appropriate recommendations for a complex, long-term urban planning challenge.
Course Organization

The Studio Experience
A planning “studio” is a unique professional milieu. It is common in both academic programs and professional practice. In a typical studio, planning students or planning professionals are assigned to a group to respond to a specific planning challenge: the “project”. The project may be site specific (a new city hall), infrastructure-related (a recreation master plan), political (revision of city’s zoning ordinances), regional (a commuter light rail transportation system). The group organizes itself, and pursues the project in a largely self-directed manner, taking the initiative to define the tasks that need to be accomplished and assigning responsibilities to individual members. Task deadlines are either determined by the project’s client (professional studio) or instructors (academic studio). In either case, meeting deadlines is important if the project is going to be completed in a quality manner without inconvenience to the client. Time commitments are open-ended: group members are expected to devote whatever time is needed to meet the expectations of the next deadline.

Two Studios: Regional and Site Specific
Urban Planning Studio is a two-quarter course that will critically consider a real-world planning project involving the City of Fountain Valley, which will serve as the “client” for this project. Two sections of the course will be offered, each approaching the project at a different scale.

Studio A: the “Regional” Studio will focus on understanding the issues, opportunities and constraints of the City of Fountain Valley’s redevelopment area, adjacent jurisdictions (other cities, specific municipal agencies, intra-county agencies), the County of Orange, larger regional concerns, and State of California. The goal of the Regional Studio will be to make over-arching, long-term, and politically realistic planning recommendations related to the city’s re-development area and the site of the site planning studio.

Studio B: the “Site Planning” Studio will focus on a precisely defined project area and its adjacent neighborhoods, transportation facilities, municipal utilities, and the various communities it serves. The goal of the Site Planning Studio will be to develop site-specific re-development recommendations, plans, and design guidelines.

Each studio will generally consider the City’s short and long term goals and plans, community character, technical feasibility (especially infrastructure), and economic viability. The course will begin with a structured, facilitated planning charrette.
Two Quarters: The Planning Process
The Winter Quarter will focus on understanding the project through data collection and analysis. The Spring Quarter will build on the Fall Quarter, and students will develop and present specific planning recommendations to the project’s “client.” The two studios will meet together and separately. Each studio will “report” relevant findings and information to the other in structured sessions and through informal contact. Client presentations and community interaction will be conducted jointly by both studios. Informal “critiques” of student teams’ work in progress will be available in the planning studio during the course’s “lab” session, TA office hours, and others times by arrangement with the instructors.

Course Sessions: Each course session will begin promptly at 7pm with announcements and course administration. Assignments will be collected. A lecture / demonstration / presentation of approximately 60 minutes will follow. Attendance will be taken. Students will be expected to return following a short break to work in their assignment teams. The instructor (and guests and presenters) will be available to work informally with teams during the second part of the session.

Student Teams: Students will select one of the two studios. Some “balancing” of overall studio size may be necessary. Students will be divided into 4-6 person teams. Teams will stay intact for both quarters. Teams will organize themselves, including specific team roles assigned by the instructors.

Resource Materials: Consistent with a studio approach, students will be expected to identify and acquire the background materials necessary to successfully respond to the project. The instructors will provide resource lists that students will find useful, and may place copies of some materials on reserve or make them available to students in the studio space. Students should expect to identify and acquire additional resources on their own, and to share them with the other students in their group and with their studio.

Student Responsibilities
Students are responsible to:
--attend and participate in all class sessions
--participate collaboratively, flexibly, consistently, and productively as a member of their assigned project group
--identify, acquire, and effectively utilize resource materials as recommended by the instructors and as determined by each group
--consistently access and review all information posted on the course website
--maintain and regularly check a campus email account
--access and regularly check their 'eee' account
--complete all assignments on time and comply with assignment instructions
--promptly ask the instructor or TA for clarification of all assignments and other course assignments, as necessary
--comply with all University rules concerning academic honesty

**Instructor: H. C. "Chip" Clitheroe, Jr., Ph.D.**
Chip has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Masters of Science in Administration and Ph.D. in Social Ecology degrees from UCI. Chip has been a member of the faculty of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona and the Department of Architecture at the Parsons School of Design/Otis Art Institute, and regularly lectures at UCI in the Planning, Policy and Design Department in the School of Social Ecology. His dissertation project, "Mapping the Creative Context of Architects" identifies a broad range of contextual factors affecting the creativity of architects in architectural organizations. Chip’s planning experience has focused on the design and facilitation of large and small-scale public participation programs, and conceptual recreation planning and design.

**Evaluation**
Students will be evaluated individually and within their assigned groups. The following grading elements will determine each student's final course grade. The instructor will provide specific due dates and times, and specify the manner of submission for their studio. The instructor reserves the right to modify the following assignments and grading criteria as appropriate for their individual studio. Any changes to the following will be promptly discussed with students and posted on the course website. The following apply to the Winter Quarter only.

**Attendance & Participation**
Students are expected to be present and to participate at all course sessions. Attendance will be taken and participation noted. (10%)

**Community / Professional**
Students are required to spend at least 8 hours each quarter attending community or professional meetings. These meetings should contribute either to their understanding of the studio project or planning in general, or to the development of professional planning skills. The instructors will provide suggestions for appropriate meetings. A report describing each meeting or event will be required. (10%)
Individual Projects
Each student will define an individual project related to the studio project or a topic of interest to them. The instructor will define specific assignment expectations and due dates / times. (20%)

Group Project (60%)
The following assignments will be completely defined and discussed with students during the course of the quarter.

Site Analysis Report: Each team will consider some or all of the following: on-site observations, data supplied by the City of Fountain Valley, interviews with property owners, and county-wide factors. The report will also review current planning / redevelopment themes and approaches. The findings from this report will be reported to the other studio and included in the client presentation.

Community Workshop: Per the City’s request, the studio will develop a community input workshop for property owners and tenants in the study area. Students will give notice of the workshop, and prepare, facilitate, record the input received, and report the results of the meeting. The findings from this report will be reported to the other studio and included in the client presentation.

Initial Findings Report: Each team will integrate all of their findings and results in a client-appropriate report format for delivery to the client at the client presentation.

Client Presentation: Both studios will work together in a coordinated effort to develop a presentation describing the data collected and analyzed for the client in Week 11. A “practice” presentation to professionals will be held in Week 10.

Extra Credit
Extra credit will consist of an additional Individual Project or other assignment approved by the instructor in advance to be completed and due no later than Week 11. (maximum = 10%)

Late Work
Late work will be accepted. 10% of the possible grade will be deducted for each week the assignment is late.
**Course Schedule**
The following schedule is tentative. Topics may be re-arranged in response to client and/or presenter availability, student progress, and other project-related situations and developments that may arise. Students will be promptly notified of any changes.

**Winter Quarter: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT**

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**Week 1:** January 6  
**STUDIO INTRODUCTION / SITE ANALYSIS OVERVIEW**

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**Week 2:** January 12 / 13 (joint meeting of studios -- two sessions)  
**Urban Land Institute URBAN PLAN CHARRETTE**

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**Week 3:** January 20 (joint meeting of studios)  
**Urban Land Institute URBAN PLAN PRESENTATIONS** (conclusion)

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**Week 4:** January 26 or January 29 (to be confirmed with client)  
**Client Kick-Off Meeting**

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**Week 5:** February 3  
**Planning Graphic Presentation Workshop**

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**Week 6:** February 10  
**Community Participation Overview**

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**Week 7:** February 17  
**Site Analysis Reports**

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**Week 8:** (date to be determined)  
**Community Workshop**

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**Week 9:** March 2 or 3 (joint meeting of studios)  
**Studio Presentations: INITIAL FINDINGS**
Week 10  March 9 or 10  (joint meeting of studios)
Practice Client Presentation

Week 11  (date and place to be determined)
Client Presentation