University of California at Irvine  
School of Social Ecology  
Department of Planning, Policy and Design  

U219/U203, Planning Theory, Spring Quarter 2009

Instructor: Victoria A. Beard  
Office: 206 B Social Ecology I  
E-mail: vbeard@uci.edu  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 to 12:00

Teaching assistant: Carolina Sarmiento  
E-mail: csarmien@uci.edu  
Office hours: email for appointment

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to planning theory and give you an analytical framework and conceptual tools for critical thinking about planning practice. The course examines (1) the role of knowledge-action paradigm in planning thought and practice, (2) modernist and neo-liberalist influences on planning and critical responses to these influences, and (3) the relationship between planning theory and different modes of planning practice. The course begins with John Friedmann's knowledge-action paradigm, which defines planning’s theoretical objects and outlined the contours of the discipline. The second part of the course critically examines the influence of modernism and neo-liberalism on planning, and it examines critiques leveled by neo-Marxist, feminist, postmodernist, post-colonialist and other theorists. The third part the course analyzes modes of planning practice, such as rational-comprehensive, collaborative, communicative, community-based, radical and insurgent. The course is taught as a graduate seminar with a strong emphasis placed on critical thinking and active student participation in class discussions.

Course Requirements

The seminar format works best when all members of the class attend each session and participate fully. Consequently, you will be expected to (1) read every assignment prior to the class session, (2) make formal presentations with other students, (3) participate actively in class discussions, (4) attend all film screenings and (5) complete three written assignments. The course readings will be divided among the members of the class for presentation. Each reading will have two discussants that will take the lead presenting the reading as a prelude to a broader class discussion. A more detailed explanation of the discussant assignments and papers will be provided in class.

Grades

Your grade in the class is based on three areas of performance: (1) formal presentations of the course readings, (2) participation in class and attendance at film screenings, and (3) three written assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage of course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal presentations of course readings</td>
<td>--20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussion and film screenings</td>
<td>--20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 written assignments</td>
<td>--60% (20%, 30%, 10%)</td>
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Two of the written assignments are take-home essays. Questions will be handed out in class and your essay response is due in class the following week. Each essay exam is limited to a maximum of 10 double spaced pages. The book review is due by Wednesday, June 8th by 5:00 p.m. in Carolina Sarmiento’s mailbox room 209, Social Ecology I. The book review is limited to 1000 words. The distribution and due dates for the written assignments are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Given</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
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Assignments sent as an email attachment and late assignments will not be accepted. Incomplete grades will not be given. Sorry, no exceptions.

Course Materials
Most of the required readings are accessible through the EEE course dropbox (http://eee.uci.edu/). There is one required book for the course by John Friedmann, Planning in the Public Domain: From Knowledge to Action (1987). It can be purchased online or at the UCI Bookstore. Attendance at the four film screenings is also required. The film screening dates and locations will be announced throughout the quarter.

Course Outline

I. The ‘Terrain of Planning Thought’
Week 1 The Planning Discipline

II. Planning Theory and Its Critics
Week 2 Modernism, Liberalism and Planning
Week 3 Neo-Marxism, Advocacy Planning and Equity Planning
Week 4 Feminist Theory, Gender and Planning
Week 5 Postmodernism, Post-Colonialism, Post-Liberalism and Planning

III. Modes of Practice
Week 6 Rational-Comprehensive and Synoptic Planning
Week 7 Communicative Action and Collaborative Planning
Week 8 Civil Society and Community-Based Planning
Week 9 Covert, Radical and Insurgent Planning

IV. Planning Thought and Practice
Week 10 The Deliberative Practitioner
Reading Assignments

I. The ‘Terrain of Planning Thought’

Week 1 — The Planning Discipline


Further readings:
II. Planning Theory and Its Critics

Week 2 — Modernism, Liberalism and Planning


Further readings:

Week 3 — Neo-Marxism, Advocacy Planning and Equity Planning


Further readings:

Week 4 — Feminist Theory, Gender and Planning


Further readings:
Week 5 — Postmodernism, Post-Colonialism, Post-Liberalism and Planning


Further readings:


III. Modes of Planning Practice

Week 6 — Rational-Comprehensive and Synoptic Planning


Further readings:
**Week 7 — Communicative Action and Collaborative Planning**


Further readings:

**Week 8 — Civil Society and Community-Based Planning**


Further readings:

**Week 9 — Covert, Radical and Insurgent Planning**


Further readings:
IV. Planning Thought and Practice

Week 10 — The Deliberative Practitioner


