As a discipline, urban planning is as old as the earliest human civilizations. The Mesopotamians, Egyptians and the city states of the Indus Valley all practiced some type of land use regulation. Though often concerned with land use, planning’s ambit today includes housing, economic and community development, transportation and environmental policy. In many instances, the problems address by planners cut across several of these sub-disciplines and cannot be addressed by any one public or private agency. Planning’s wide scope of practice requires that its practitioners acquire some familiarity with a number of theoretical perspectives from various academic disciplines.

This course will provide an introduction to various ideas, concepts and methodologies that undergird the practice of planning. The class will provide an overview of historical and international approaches to city planning, a review of the intellectual foundations of planning theory, the impact of the tension between the market and the state on planning, critiques of planning theory, an overview of traditional land-use planning theories, and a review of alternative approaches to ‘top-down’ planning. Additionally, the course includes a discussion of the relationship between demography, public health and planning (these topics, though essential for understanding the relationship between people and the built environment, are often left out of the planning conversation).

**Expectations and Class Format**

As this is a graduate level course covering a complex topic, students are expected to complete the assigned readings for each class prior to the lecture and come prepared to demonstrate, discuss and defend their perspectives. This will also make the class more fun!

The class format will include didactic presentations by the instructor, presentation of the readings and a case study that illustrates the week’s readings by students, and group discussion of the readings and concepts presented in lecture. Occasionally, the class may be split up into two or more groups, each tasked with arguing a particular planning perspective.
**Evaluation**

The final grade will be determined by attendance and class participation, as measured through completion of in-class assignments (10%), student presentations (20%), one midterm (30%), and a comprehensive final exam (40%). The mid-term and final exam will be open book and open note and administered online through eee. The mid-term will be posted online by the end of the 5th week (2/8/12) and remain open through the weekend. The final exam will be posted by Monday, March 18th (1:30 pm) and remain open for the 3 days till Thursday (3/18), 5pm. You can take the exams at a time suitable for you when they are open (though you will only be allowed one attempt to complete the exams).

**Students Presentations**

As planning is explicitly concerned with the built environment, students will be required to discuss the application of a particular idea or concept to a ‘real world’ planning issue. In addition to providing a presentation on each week’s readings, students will discuss how the reading(s) apply to a planning related issue (i.e. a case study). The presentation on the readings and presentations should not exceed 40 minutes (20-25 minutes for the readings, 10-15 minutes for the case study). Another 10 minutes will be allotted for questions.

**CLASS TOPICS, SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

Note** All readings will be available online through eee. Deletions or additions may be made to the reading list as the quarter progresses.

**Week 1: Course Overview, City Planning: A Global and Historical Context**


**Week 2: Theory-Practice and the Planning Ambit**


Week 4: Intellectual Foundations: Constructing Altery


Week 5: Antipodes? Markets and the State


Week 6: Critiques


**Week 7: Planning Modes and Practice: Demography**


**Week 8: Planning Modes and Practice: Land Use and Comprehensive Planning**

Haar, CM (2009) The Master Plan, an impermanent constitution. The Urban and regional planning reader. Editor, Eugenie Birch, pp 140-147


**Week 9: Planning Modes and Practice: Collaborative & community based planning**


**Week 10: Planning and Public Health**
