

Bulletin Description:

This course presents the nuts and bolts of land use planning as practiced in the US today and provides the opportunity to develop/design a land use plan for a small hypothetical city. Through lectures and readings you will be exposed to contemporary land use planning issues (including urbanization and urban growth trends, ethics, quality of life indicators, ecological land use planning and inner city revitalization).

Detailed Description:

This course also devotes attention to case study analysis of several large-scale planned developments in New York City. Much of our focus will be on what constitutes a comprehensive plan, principles of good plan-making, where to start, specific steps to take, information needs, and how to choose methods to accommodate a range of community situations. You will learn analytic and synthesis skills, practice oral, graphic, and written communication skills, and participate as an effective member of a planning team.

A workbook guides us through the planning process using a computer based (GIS) visual and analytical model of a small hypothetical city, 'HypoCity" (very little GIS experience is necessary). Instructions for applying the plan-making process for HypoCity are included, but the design and character of your HypoCity will be all your (and your group members') own. Students work in groups to flesh out the socio-economic, cultural, environmental and political aspects of the city to form a context for planning that allows pursuit of particular issues of interest.

Course Goal(s):

The objective of this course is to teach students the overall process of land use planning as part of the comprehensive planning process. The tangible result of the semester's work will be a professional-grade land use plan. Previous students have successfully used this document in job interviews.

Student Learning Objectives:

By semester's end, students in the course will have an understanding of how to:

1. Assess existing and emerging community conditions;
2. Formulate goals for land use/comprehensive planning;
3. Translate projections of economic and population change into their land use implications for land, location, and community services;
4. Determine the suitability of land, area requirements and locations for various land uses; and
5. Apply computer technology to specific plan-making tasks such as map presentations, land suitability analyses, and the drawing of plans.