

PPD 227 Urban Planning and Development

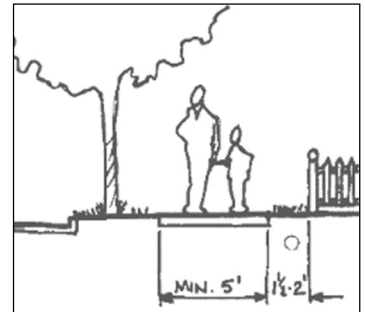
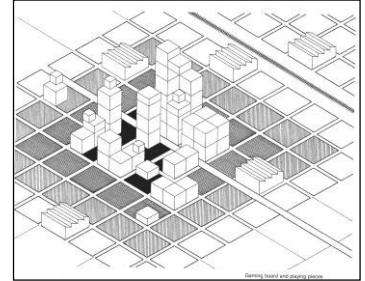
University of Southern California
Sol Price School of Public Policy
Fall 2021
Section 51100R
4 Units

Mondays & Wednesdays
8:00-9:50 am
VPD 110

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Office hours: Mondays 10:00 am-11:00 am

Phone: (310) 704-3679



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Urban planning and development are powerful and complex enough to influence modern life in ways too numerous to list. Whether or not you eventually choose a career in one of the many fields of urban planning or real estate development, we are *all* consumers of planning and development—the outcomes (good, bad and otherwise) of countless debates and decisions involving public policy, private investment, community participation, political wrangling, and other messy forces continuously shaping and reshaping the physical environment of our streets, parks, neighborhoods, buildings, and homes. A basic understanding of the processes and practices at work will help anyone become a better-informed urban citizen, and, perhaps in the future, a trained professional taking part in the action.

Planning and development together comprise the city-building process, a phenomenon far too diverse and multi-faceted to completely cover in a single course. Though the emphasis of this course is on legal parameters of planning which define the rules in which development takes place, a discussion of the interplay of market forces of development on the fulfillment of and development of policy will also be discussed. PPD 227 will provide an introduction to this important subject.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Give an overview of the relationship between urban planning and urban development
- Describe the tools and techniques of professional planning
- Define the major theories informing planning practice and the main sub-fields of professional planning
- Observe and describe the urban design aspects of a commercial neighborhood
- Identify, analyze and discuss the key stakeholders, stakes, concepts, and techniques at work in planning and development processes and projects.

COURSE NOTES

University-level study is a stage in professional life; everyone should conduct themselves accordingly. This means that the classroom is a workplace where we get things done—hopefully with some enjoyment as we learn. You're expected to participate in the learning process; to complete assignments on time; to actively participate in discussions; and to treat your colleagues and instructor with courtesy and respect. This expectation of professional conduct extends outside the classroom to any and all correspondence and meetings.

Given that a pandemic has moved the classroom to Zoom and not everyone will be in Los Angeles or California or the same time zone, attendance will not be a determinant of active participation. Circumstances may vary from person to person. I've done my best to design the course to accommodate everyone's needs. The midterm and final exam will require more effort to accommodate alternate schedules, so please let me know if you will not be able to participate on the day and time in the schedule so I can make an accommodation.

Course Design

- Assigned readings and video recordings are to be completed prior to each class. These will be made available on Wednesday for the following week. Videos for the first week are available now. The materials cover the concepts identified in the syllabus for each class session.
- On eight Mondays, a short writing assignment will be due on the readings and video recordings for that day.
- On eight Wednesdays, a short open-book, timed quiz will be held at the beginning of class reviewing the material assigned for the previous lecture (from Monday).
- During class we will discuss and conduct active learning projects to apply the information from the readings and recordings.
- The midterm and final exam will be open-book and timed, beginning promptly at 8 AM on the scheduled day.

Blackboard

- This course utilizes the Blackboard web platform at <https://blackboard.usc.edu>, where you'll log in with your USC ID and click on the PPD 227 module. Digital versions of course documents, announcements, and supplementary readings will be posted there.
- Course materials such as lecture PowerPoint files, videos, and assignments, are available weekly for class sessions.
- You will upload your written assignments there.
- You are responsible for checking Blackboard frequently for updates and notices.
- [Blackboard help for students](#)

COMMUNICATION

- Email is the best way to contact me. I check it frequently, and usually respond within 24 hours.
- You are responsible for checking your USC email (@usc.edu) frequently. It is that address to which any course-related emails will be sent.
- I'll regularly be available during office hours and can also arrange alternative times to meet by appointment.
- Please communicate any concerns or problems you may be having as soon as you're aware of them, rather than waiting until later in the semester, when solutions are few or no longer possible.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbooks are available at the USC bookstore. (**Reading assignments / page numbers are based on these specific editions in print;** if you purchase from another source, make certain to get the correct edition. If you opt to purchase another edition, you are still responsible for all assigned material.)

William Fulton & Paul Shigley, *Guide to California Planning, 5th Edition* (Point Arena, CA: Solano Press, 2018)

- Book is available for purchase or rent from the bookstore
- Kindle version is available on Amazon

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Board (10% of course grade)

- Participation is measured by completion of blog assignments about the reading and commenting on two posts by others

Quizzes on Readings (10% of course grade)

- Prior to each class, you will have one or more chapters to read in the text and several video presentations to view.
- You should attend class each day having completed that day's readings and video recordings. I recommend taking notes on major points, themes, and concepts, as well as jotting down any questions you have—then raising them in class for discussion. Both techniques will help in your comprehension of the material.
- Eight short reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester—at the very beginning of class on Wednesday. Each quiz will cover *only* that Monday's assigned reading and is intended to gauge your grasp of the material and encourage you to keep up. All of the quizzes will be open book however they will be timed.

Research & Writing Assignments (35% of course grade)

- You will research and write two assignments, allowing you to use and demonstrate investigatory, analytical, and communications skills—abilities that are important to future professionals in every field. Both assignments taken together will constitute a complete, introductory case study of a public plan or private development project. Specifics will be provided and discussed when each assignment is distributed.
- Each assignment will be turned in online, uploaded to Blackboard in MS Word on or before the due date and time (listed in the

schedule below). It is late if turned in after that date and time and will be graded down accordingly.

- Because writing skills are crucial for professional work, elements such as grammar, spelling, syntax, and clarity will be evaluated. Assignments should be single-spaced, Times New Roman size 12 font. No indents at beginning of each paragraph with one line between paragraphs.
- If you need help with writing, I highly recommend contacting the USC Writing Center (<http://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/>) early in the semester. It is an excellent resource for those wanting to improve this very important skill set.
- You are also strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss your work on the assignments—the earlier the better.

Walking Tour assignment (5% of course grade)

- The assignment will be to tour a commercial neighborhood and write your observations. It will be due on Wednesday December 1st.

Examinations (40% of course grade; 20% each)

- Both the midterm and final exams will test on material from readings, lectures, and the vocabulary. No make-up exams will be given. Exam format may include any combination of true-false, multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering the entire semester.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

The breakdown for different coursework elements is as follows:

Assignment	% of Grade
Discussion Board Participation	10
Reading Quizzes	10
Midterm Exam	20
Case Study Assignment (Part 1 + Part 2)	35
Walking Tour Assignment	5
Final Exam	20
Total	100

GRADING SCALE

The University standard for undergraduate-level grades will apply (from the *USC Catalogue*):

- A Work of **excellent** quality
- B Work of **good** quality
- C Work of **fair** quality (Note for PPD majors, C– is the minimum passing course grade)
- D Work of **minimum passing** quality
- F **Failure** to adequately complete all course work

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES (ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION, GRADING TIMELINE, LATE WORK)

Assignment Submission

All written assignments shall be submitted in MSWord to Blackboard by 8 AM on the due date. Please note, that when converting Google docs to MSWord formatting is not always consistent. Formatting is graded, so it is recommended that you transfer your assignment to MSWord before the final edit.

Grading Timeline

Quizzes and exams will be graded by the following Monday. Written assignments will be graded within 14 days of submission.

Late Work

Late work will be graded down one half a grade for each day it is late. After 5 days it will not be accepted.

COURSE EVALUATION

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class. The process and intent of the end-of-semester evaluation is to improve the future delivery of the course. A mid-semester course evaluation will also take place in conjunction with the midterm exam to solicit feedback on the delivery of the course to provide any mid-course correction.

COURSE SCHEDULE: A WEEKLY BREAKDOWN

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Assignments Due
Week 1 8/23	- Review syllabus, class structure, use of Blackboard - What is Planning and Development?	- None	- Discussion Board – in class
8/25	- Stakes and stakeholders, local government - Case Study Part 1	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapters 1, 4 & 5	- Quiz #1
Week 2 8/30	- Planning tools: Comprehensive / General Plans	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 6	- Discussion Board
9/1	- Planning tools: Zoning	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 7, Chapter 3 (pp 51-60)	- Quiz #2
Week 3 9/6	Labor Day - No class on Monday	- None	- None
9/8	- Historical arc of urbanization & suburbanization	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 3	- None
Week 4 9/13	- Planning's legal foundations	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 13, review Chapter 3 (pp 51-60)	- Case Study Topic
9/15	- Exactions, paying for development	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 10	- Quiz #3
Week 5 9/20	- Planning & development tools: The Subdivision Map Act	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 8	- Discussion Board
9/22	- Planning & development tools: Specific Plans and Development Agreements	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 12	- Quiz #4

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Assignments Due
Week 6 9/27	- California Environmental Quality Act	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 9	- Discussion Board
9/29	- Review for midterm	- None	- Case Study Assignment (Part 1)
Week 7 10/4	- Midterm	- None	- Midterm
10/6	- Urban design, its tools and goals, shaping the public realm	- Fulton & Shigley review Chapter 3 (pp 47-50)	- None
Week 8 10/11	- Urban Plan Exercise	- Urban Plan RFP Packet	- None
10/13	- Urban Plan Exercise	- none	- Present Urban Plan
Week 9 10/18	- Infrastructure, public capital improvements, public works	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 18	- Discussion Board
10/20	- Economic development and the fiscalization of land use	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 14; review Chapter 1 (pp 20-23)	- Quiz #5
Week 10 10/25	- Housing policy, how affordable housing is financed	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 15	- Discussion Board
10/27	- Attempts to direct & shape continuing growth	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 11	- Quiz #6
Week 11 11/1	- Transportation modes, meanings, & preferences, and relationship to urban form	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 19	- Discussion Board
11/3	- Infill and Transit-Oriented Development	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 17	- Quiz #7

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Assignments Due
Week 12 11/8	- Natural Hazards	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 22	- Discussion Board
11/10	- Structure of Natural Resources Protection	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 20	- Quiz #8
Week 13 11/15	- Endangered species habitat protection	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 21	- None
11/17	- Case study discussion	- None	- Case Study Part 2
Week 14 11/22	- Walking Tour	- None	- None
11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday	- None	- None
Week 15 11/29	- Climate change and sustainability	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 16	- None
12/1	- Planning issues in California, course wrap-up	- Fulton & Shigley, Chapter 23	- Walking Tour Write-up
FINAL 12/8	FINAL EXAM 8 AM	- None	- None

Note: Schedule is subject to revision during the semester.

STATEMENT ON SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplcity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

END OF SYLLABUS