General Objective

At the end of the semester it is expected that the student will have an understanding of the issues that planners must face and deal with. The student will have a sense of the difficulties of developing plans within a context of a democratic society. To understand that planners must find compromises with what often seem contradictory objectives, such as public versus private interests, economic versus ecological values, etc. The student will realize that planning is a multidisciplinary field and therefore planners must think holistically and be able to use a variety of theoretical and methodological tools.

Specific objectives:

- To define what planning is and what planners do.
- To discuss the legal bases of planning so the student will be able to understand and evaluate the legal implications of the actions and proposals of planners.
- To understand the role that planning plays with regard to land use and how this affects the quality of life of local communities.
- To apply multidisciplinary knowledge and methods to analyze planning issues such as housing, transportation, environment, etc.

Required Books

The following books are required and can be purchased at the UTEP bookstore. In addition to the required books there is a list of articles and book chapters selected by the professor to complement the readings for the course.


There will be a reader available at Copy Miner located in the UTEP library with additional readings.
Class format

The class will be conducted as a seminar and it is expected that the student will come prepared to class with the readings previously assigned. The professor’s role will be to introduce the topic with a brief lecture and identify key questions or topics that will guide the discussion. It is also expected that the student will submit questions to the professor and his/her fellow students previous to our class time; the questions should be as broad as possible such that they would open discussion or generate debate rather than be specific in nature.

Grading

Take home exam (30%)
Homework (4)* (20%)
Group project ** (40%)
Class participation*** (10%)
TOTAL 100%

Less than 60% F
61% to 69% D
70% to 79% C
80% to 89% B
≥ 90% A

*Each homework assignment counts as 5% of your grade. The homework will be related to applications of techniques discussed in class.
** The group project will consist of developing a study for a community or position paper; for instance, providing water to colonias, economic development plan for El Paso, pros and cons of TIFs, etc. The study will be presented at the end of the semester and hopefully we will invite people interested in the issue. Due date May 5 (Happy 5 de Mayo)
*** Class participation includes showing up for classes, sending questions, and being active in class discussion.

Class schedule topics and readings:

Topic 1: Introduction to urban planning & theory (January 14)
Topic 2: Planning History (January 21)
- LJ (pp. 1-61)

Topic 3: Planning Context & Types (January 28)
- ICMA (pp:1-60)
- LJ (pp: 103-113)
- Kaufman, Jerome & Jacobs, Harvey. “A Public Planning Perspective on Strategic Planning” in *Readings in Planning Theory*. Blackwell Publisher; Malden, MA 1997. (pp.305-322)

Topic 4: The legal bases of planning (February 4 & 11)
- ICMA (pp. 341-374)
- LJ (pp. 62-77)

HOMEWORK 1

Topic 5: Sprawl & Growth Management (February 18)
- LJ ( chapter 9 & 14)
- ICMA (chapter 15)
(February 25)


MIDTERM EXAM

Topic 6: Housing & Community Development Planning (March 3)

- LJ (Chapter 7 & 11)
- ICMA (Chapter 10 & 11)

HOMEWORK 2

Topic 7: Economic Development Planning (March 10)

- JL (Chapter 13)
- ICMA (Chapter 6 & 12)

HOMEWORK 3

(March 24)

- ICMA (Chapter 16)

**HOMEWORK 4**

**Topic 8: Transportation Planning**  (April 7)
- LJ (Chapter 12)
- ICMA (Chapter 9)
- Ross, Catherine L. et al. (1997). “Land Use Transportation Interaction: An Examination of the 1995 NPTSD Data” U. S Department of Transportation FHA:

**Topic 9: Environmental Planning**  (April 21)
- LJ (Chapter 15)
- ICMA (Chapter 5 & 8)

**Topic 10: Planning for Regions**  (April 28)