

# Introduction to Environmental Planning

PLAN4579

Introduction to Environmental Planning

Fall 2012

Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Fayerweather or Avery Hall (TBD)

Peter J. Marcotullio.

Adjunct Professor

## Course description

This course provides an introduction to the background of the practice of urban environmental planning. Students should have a basic foundation in environmental studies, although we will spend the first portion of the class reviewing human impact on the environment. The class is run in seminar fashion, meaning that there is a heavy reading load and participation in class discussion is vital to a successful semester.

## Course methods

Classes will be held on Thursdays, from 9:00 – 11:00 am. During the semester we will focus on four areas of the urban environment. First, we delve into history. Here two books provide the background necessary to understand the trajectory of environmental concerns and provide a basis for understanding today's urban planning and policy challenges. Next we focus on two important environmental sectors: biodiversity and transportation. Finally, we conclude the semester with an introduction to climate change and urban mitigation and adaptation planning. Through these texts, as well as supplemental articles and chapters, students are introduced to urban environmental planning issues both in the developed and developing worlds. For each class, reading requirements are provided in the syllabus. There will be full lectures for the first few classes. Thereafter, classes are led by students and based on the readings.

All students are required to do preparatory reading and participate in every class, as well as help lead a seminar session. Leading a seminar includes preparing a short summary of the reading (PPT or other), providing questions for the class to help guide discussion and leading classmates through the reading and its important planning aspects and implications in a class discussion.

## Student evaluations

Evaluations are based upon:

- 1) Class attendance and participation. Participation in class discussion is vital. As mentioned, a significant portion of class time is devoted to discussion of readings and class lectures;
- 2) The completion of three assignments. Each student will be required to run a seminar. They will also prepare a paper based upon, or related to that specific seminar. The final paper should be approximately 4-

6,000 words including bibliography. Finally, on the last days of the semester, students will provide group presentations on an environmental planning topic of choice, related to course discussions.

<u>Class activity</u>	<u>Percent of final grade</u>	<u>Due date</u>
Class participation	20%	Throughout
Assignment 1 – Leading a seminar	20%	
Assignment 2 – Paper related to seminar session	40%	12 December
Assignment 3 – Final group presentations	20%	4 December

### **Reading materials**

- Charles Redman, *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*, University of Arizona Press; Reprint edition (February 1, 2001)
- Ian Douglas (2013) *Cities, An Environmental History*, New York, I.B. Tauris Press
- Timothy Beatley, *Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning*. Island Press (October 25, 2010)
- William R. Black (2010) *Sustainable Transportation, Problems and Solutions*, New York and London, Guilford Press
- Alisdair McGregor, Cole Roberts and Fiona Cousins (2013) *Two Degrees, The Built Environment and Our Changing Climate*, London, Routledge

All books can be purchased at the school bookstore. Supplemental readings may be posted on Columbia's Courseworks.

### **Office hours and classroom policies**

I am available for discussion most Thursdays. I do not, however, have an office here on campus, so we will meet in common spaces at Columbia. Note that while I respond to email as promptly as possible, if you send me an email late on Friday I may not respond until Monday.

During class time, please turn off your phones and do not bring/use earphones.

### **Academic integrity**

Columbia University regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The University is committed to enforcing its Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Columbia University College regulations.

## Tentative semester schedule

1. 4 September – Introductory lecture
2. 11 September – Charles Redman, *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*, Chapters 1-5 pages 1-80.
3. 18 September – Charles Redman, *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*, Chapters 5-8, pages 81-219.
4. 25 September – Ian Douglas *Cities and Environmental History*, Chapters 1-4, pages 1-105.
5. 2 October – Ian Douglas *Cities and Environmental History*, Chapters 5-7, pages 106-210.
6. 9 October – Ian Douglas *Cities and Environmental History*, Chapters 8-10, pages 211-309.
7. 16 October – Timothy Beatley, *Biophilic Cities, Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning*, Chapters 1-6, pages 1-158
8. 23 October – William Black, *Sustainable Transportation*, Part 1, Chapters 1-7, pages 3-80.
9. 30 October – William Black, *Sustainable Transportation*, Part 2, Chapters 8-15, pages 81- 188.
10. 6 November – William Black, *Sustainable Transportation*, Part 2 and Part 3, Chapters 16-22, pages 189-271.
11. 13 November – Alisdair McGregor et al *Two Degrees*, Chapters 3, 5 (part) and 6-14 pages 27-40, 49-51 and 55-173.
12. 20 November – Alisdair McGregor et al, *Two Degrees*, Chapters 5 (part) and 15-20, pages 52-53, 175-243.
13. 4 December - Student group presentations