DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING

Introduction

The KU Urban Planning program emphasizes policy planning and analysis within the context of urban or urbanizing environments. Policies affecting urban issues are formulated at all levels of government—federal, state, regional, and local—as well as in the private sector. The MUP program is geared towards meeting the needs for public planning policy in all these forums.

Courses

UBPL 200. Sustainability and Society. 3 Hours AE51/GE11/GE3S.
This course will introduce the concept of sustainability, examining its early iterations, recent applications, and possible future transformations. Critical analysis of sustainability as a concept and societal goal will be a course cornerstone. We will examine two contemporary social issues that are relevant to students at the University of Kansas. Social science perspectives will be emphasized; but, because sustainability necessitates an interdisciplinary perspective, the course will consider the contributions of a wide range of disciplines to these issues. LEC.

UBPL 300. Planning the Sustainable City. 3 Hours GE3S.
A broad introduction to the field of urban planning as a technical profession, a process of decision-making, and a governmental function. The multi-disciplinary nature of planning as an area for professional practice in the geographical, socio-economic and political contexts of the U.S. is stressed. We will explore the promise and limitations of planning in the context of mitigating and adapting to climate change. The course is intended for both the student who is considering planning as a major field of study and the student with primary interest in a related field who would like a working knowledge of past and current planning in the U.S. LEC.

UBPL 502. Special Topics in Urban Planning: ____. 1-6 Hours.
Intended for undergraduate individual or group projects/research in an urban planning topic. LEC.

UBPL 522. History of the American City I. 3 Hours.
This course examines the evolution of American cities from their European antecedents through the late 20th Century, from the urban planning perspective. It focuses on the changing spatial forms and functions of American cities and how these changes relate to socioeconomic and political aspects of urbanization as well as changes in technology. Emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationships between historical development patterns and the current range of problems facing most U.S. cities. (Same as UBPL 722 but gives undergraduate credit.) LEC.

UBPL 538. Environmental Planning Techniques. 3 Hours.
The course covers a variety of topics within environmental planning. Each topic is examined with respect to the scope of the issues, the methods of analyzing and/or measuring those issues, and the ways planners can address those issues in order to avoid or mitigate environmental problems. LEC.

UBPL 565. Introduction to Sustainable Land Use Planning. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the issues that planners and decision makers face as they strive to protect environmental resources, especially within the context of land use planning. Emphasis will be placed on the theoretical and policy considerations that guide the work of environmental planners. LEC.

UBPL 662. Twentieth Century American Landscape. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to investigate the relationships between the American culture and the resulting built and natural landscape. Issues of building types, public places, and land use arrangements will be studied from a socio-historical perspective. (Same as ARCH 662.) LEC.

UBPL 701. Directed Readings. 1-6 Hours.
Designed to meet the needs of students whose study in urban planning cannot be met with the present courses. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LEC.

UBPL 705. Economic Analysis for Planners. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the concepts and analytical techniques of economics that are most relevant to urban planners. The first part of the course is devoted to microeconomic theory, welfare economics, and the role of the government in the economy. The remainder covers public finance, investment analysis, and methods of determining the allocation of public resources (such as benefit-cost analysis). LEC.

UBPL 710. Introduction to Housing Policy. 3 Hours.
Designed to provide an introduction to the various methods used by the public sector in order to intervene in the housing market. Many different programs are used by governments at all levels to serve many different housing goals. This course will examine many of these programs in an effort to understand what they are supposed to accomplish and how well they work. In all cases, the objective of the course is to train planners so that they have a firm understanding of housing programs that exist now as well as a grasp of the methods used to select housing strategies for implementation by the public sector. LEC.

UBPL 714. Local Economic Development Planning. 3 Hours.
This course provides a broad overview of local economic development planning. Emphasis is on the role of the practitioner and the various activities that can be pursued to encourage and enhance the economic base of a locality. The objectives of the course are to answer the questions: who are economic development planners; what backgrounds and interests do they have; what types of activities do they perform and initiate to encourage and enhance economic development; and how do they decide upon which activities to pursue? Prerequisite: UBPL 764 or permission of instructor. LEC.

UBPL 715. Community” in Neighborhood Planning and Design. 3 Hours.
This course provides a place-centered approach for understanding and applying the idea of community to local neighborhood planning. The course explores social theories of community and how these have influenced prescriptive models for neighborhood development and design. The course also evaluates the interplay of social, environmental, and economic forces at the neighborhood level and their relationship to community development and well-being. LEC.

UBPL 716. Community and Neighborhood Revitalization. 3 Hours.
The course examines the fields of community development and the revitalization of urban neighborhoods. In the course, students study the theories of community redevelopment as well as the methods of analysis guiding the planning of neighborhoods. The course also reviews the many programs that exist to assist the neighborhood revitalization process and looks at the literature evaluating the implementation of these programs. As an implementation course, students complete a project that calls for them to apply the knowledge learned to real world setting. Prerequisite: UBPL 764 or permission of the professor. LEC.
UBPL 722. History of the American City II. 3 Hours.
This course examines the evolution of American cities from their European antecedents through the late 20th Century, from the urban planning perspective. It focuses on the changing spatial forms and functions of American cities and how these changes relate to socioeconomic and political aspects of urbanization as well as changes in technology. Emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationships between historical development patterns and the current range of problems facing most U. S. cities. (Same as UBPL 522 but gives graduate credit.) LEC.

UBPL 730. Plans and Planning Processes. 3 Hours.
This course is about how to create plans and put the pieces of cities together in a sustainable manner, balancing the competing values of economy, ecology, equity, and livability. It introduces students to the planning process in the U.S., what makes great plans, the basic implementation tools for planning (zoning, capital improvement plans, engineering standards, and subdivision regulations.) We will learn about the Comprehensive Plan along with specialized plans for transportation, housing, land use, and the environment. LEC.

UBPL 735. Site Planning and Design. 3 Hours.
Site planning is the arrangement of elements (buildings, landscaping, parking, open space) on particular pieces of property. This class focuses on the site planning process and the implementation of site design standards through regulations. We will delve into the elements and principles of design and ask these big questions: What makes great public spaces? What makes great neighborhoods? What makes great streets? What can we do to steer development in the direction of greatness? LEC.

UBPL 736. Planning Institutions. 3 Hours.
This course explores the legal principles underlying the institutions, practices and processes of city planning. Subjects to be discussed include zoning, eminent domain, subdivision regulation, transfer of development rights, environmental regulation, growth management, and other planning mechanisms used to guide urban growth and control the use of land. Students should emerge from the course with a solid understanding of both the logic and routine practice of planning in a procedural and institutional context. LEC.

UBPL 737. NEPA Environmental Assessments. 3 Hours.
This course provides an understanding of how to effectively manage and conduct environmental assessments as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Topics include the history and intent of NEPA; the steps, players and assessment types; techniques used to balance environmental concerns with the social and economic considerations; and the role of the courts and environmental advocacy groups in challenging NEPA assessment findings. The class also addresses the role of leadership, conflict resolution, and consensus building in managing environmental assessments. Case studies are used to examine different assessment types and process approaches. LEC.

UBPL 738. Environmental Planning Techniques. 3 Hours.
The course covers a variety of topics within environmental planning. Each topic is examined with respect to the scope of the issues, the methods of analyzing and/or measuring those issues, and the ways planners can address those issues in order to avoid or mitigate environmental problems. LEC.

UBPL 739. Issues in Growth Management. 3 Hours.
This course examines various aspects of growth management including its history, legal foundations, and application at different levels of government. Growth management not only means dealing with the rapid growth of cities, it also includes managing slow growth, no growth, and negative growth with the ultimate goal being sustainability. Impacts on affordable housing, economic development, social equity, transpiration, and environmental conservation are also explored. LEC.

UBPL 741. Quantitative Methods I. 3 Hours.
Introduction to quantitative techniques utilized in planning analysis. Introduction to research design, inferential statistics, and survey methods. LEC.

UBPL 742. Quantitative Methods II. 3 Hours.
Advanced study in planning techniques in the areas of population forecasting, analysis of variance, and regression. The course makes extensive use of microcomputers. Prerequisite: UBPL 741 or consent of instructor. LEC.

UBPL 746. GIS Applications for Design and Planning. 3 Hours.
This course will explore a range of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications for students in architecture and planning. It will be structured as a workshop, starting with a review of basic GIS concepts and procedures. Different digital data sources will be explored, along with file sharing (import and export) capabilities. The focus will be on applications at different scales using projects in architecture, site planning, environmental planning, urban analysis, and regional analysis. Three dimensional analysis will also be introduced. Each student will develop a final project as a synthesis of earlier exercises and as an application relevant to their individual professional interests. LEC.

UBPL 750. Introduction to Transportation Planning. 3 Hours.
This course is a survey course covering multiple modes of transportation (planes, trains, buses, automobiles, bicycles, and walking). The field of transportation planning is examined within a policy analysis framework. Knowing the policy context and understanding how decisions are made will assist transportation planners in understanding the world in which they operate. In addition to the policy context, this course will focus on the technical knowledge transportation planners are expected to know like federal requirements, traffic modeling, and specific topics like bicycle and pedestrian planning and traffic calming. LEC.

UBPL 755. Planning Intercity Transportation Systems. 3 Hours.
This course explores the supply and demand of intercity multimodal movement of people and goods from megaregional to global scales. Students will learn the characteristics and performance of rail, aviation, and marine travel, the nuts and bolts of supply provision, effects of intercity connections on communities, and mechanisms for planning at across state and national borders. LEC.

UBPL 756. Travel Demand Forecasting Methods. 3 Hours.
The course is intended to provide a working knowledge of analytical transportation planning; it emphasizes two elements. One emphasis is to describe the fundamental principles of transportation planning through the review of transportation modeling theory and practice. The second emphasis is to work with the TransCad model. Students learn how to use these models by running TransCad (GIS based modeling software), building a transportation model, and using it to forecast future transportation conditions. Prerequisite: UBPL 750 or consent of instructor. LEC.
UBPL 757. Transportation Planning Implementation. 3 Hours.
A variety of transportation implementation methods and strategies are explored. Project management with an emphasis on finance is the major focus of this course. This is a significant responsibility of transportation planners, consisting of several key steps including project initiating, planning, execution, and control. Other techniques included in this course deal with air quality conformity, congestion management, environmental reviews, developing performance measures, scenario testing, highway capacity analysis and micro-simulation modeling, and executing public involvement programs. LEC.

UBPL 758. Public Transit. 3 Hours.
This course familiarizes students with core concepts and practices in public provision of local transit systems from high-capacity heavy rail to on-the-fly demand response. Course modules examine modes, system design, planning issues, organizational relationships inherent to public transit, and technical operations. The course concludes with an examination of comprehensive transit systems. LEC.

UBPL 760. Historic Preservation Planning. 3 Hours.
In addition to studying the history of the preservation movement in the United States, the course will discuss preservation at the state and local level, preservation at the private level, ordinance creation, legal aspects of preservation, technical issues and contemporary issues and controversies in the field of preservation. Projects will deal with philosophic and current issues in preservation. LEC.

UBPL 761. Historic Preservation Economics. 3 Hours.
This course considers the economic strategies for the historic preservation of the built environment. Topics include investment tax credits, tax increment financing and tax abatement, bond issues, historic preservation grants, and revolving funds. Students will analyze case studies and meet guest speakers who make preservation projects work. Class projects may include market analyses, economic feasibility studies, rehabilitation/redevelopment plans, and technical research papers. LEC.

UBPL 762. Sustainability and the Future of the Built Environment. 3 Hours.
This course critically examines the evolving relationship between rehabilitation preservation, and new construction in creating a sustainable built environment in the United States during the twenty-first century. Some observers insist that we cannot build our way to sustainability, but instead must conserve our way to it. What is the appropriate balance of rehabilitation and new construction in creating sustainable built environment? What is the appropriate role of planning and design professionals in this movement? What knowledge and skills will be necessary? The course surveys the contemporary discussion about defining and evaluating a sustainable built environment as well as the economic and social requirements for creating a sustainable society. LEC.

UBPL 763. Professional Practice. 3 Hours.
This course seeks to provide students with both skills and evaluative frameworks to enhance their work as practicing planners. We will focus specifically on issues related to ethics, citizen participation, dispute resolution, and management. Considerable attention will be paid to "real life" lessons. Prerequisite: UBPL 741 and UBPL 815. LEC.

UBPL 764. Real Estate Development I. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide a working knowledge of the mechanics of real estate investment analysis. As a planning course, the emphasis is placed upon the process as performed by the practicing planner working with the public sector. This means that the course covers much of the same material that is normally included in a real estate development course in a business school. However, this material is augmented with the study of techniques used to achieve public sector goals. Among the topics covered in the course are: the calculation of return on investment in real estate; the financing of real estate development; the various forms of property ownership; and the implications of tax laws upon the rehabilitation of historic properties and the provision of low-income housing. Prerequisite: Knowledge of spreadsheet software on a personal computer. LEC.

UBPL 765. Introduction to Sustainable Land Use Planning. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the issues that planners and decision makers face as they strive to promote sustainability, especially within the context of land use planning. Emphasis will be placed on the theoretical and policy considerations that guide the work of planners. LEC.

UBPL 766. Real Estate Development II. 3 Hours.
This course extends the study of real estate development planning begun in UBPL 764: Real Estate Development Planning I. The course will examine various forms of public-private participation in the real estate development process. Advanced study of various public sector programs to guide and direct the real estate development process will be undertaken, including the use of tax credits for affordable housing and for historic preservation. Projects developed within the region will be examined to illustrate the application of these techniques. Prerequisite: Successful completion of UBPL 764 or permission of instructor. LEC.

UBPL 773. Sustainable Land Use Planning Implementation. 3 Hours.
This course emphasizes the development of sustainability-focused plan elements that ensure successful implementation. While the course topic changes each year, the techniques and processes studied will be broadly applicable. Students will also apply their skills and knowledge to a service learning project using real-world data. Prerequisite: UBPL 765, UBPL 738, or consent of instructor. LEC.

UBPL 802. Special Topics: ______. 3 Hours.
This course is intended to afford the opportunity for individual or group projects/research in an urban planning topic. RSH.

UBPL 806. Thesis - Graduate Research. 1-6 Hours.
Independent study and research related to the master's thesis. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. THE.

UBPL 815. History and Theory of Planning. 3 Hours.
The course serves as an introduction to the history of city planning and "how to plan" in general. Planners are particularly concerned with future consequences of current action. In looking to the future, knowing past history is a good place to start. Also, planning theorists have thought deeply about how best to plan and their thoughts and advice can serve planners and decision-makers well when they are facing unknowns. LEC.

UBPL 816. Politics and Planning. 3 Hours.
Planners operate within a highly technical yet political environment. Planners often try to bring consensus and action-taking to communities but the very structure of our democracy promotes conflict and stalemate. Understanding how power, structures and agencies influence policy-making will help planners become savvier as they balance their roles as advisors, educators, facilitators, advocates, and administrators. This class explores the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of planners as they deal with politics. LEC.
UBPL 850. Urban and Regional Theory. 3 Hours.
The course explores the forces that shape the structure and function of cities and regions, drawing upon insights from planning, geography, economics, sociology, demography, and political science. Special attention is paid to theories that can be applied by urban planners to improve the economic performance, quality of life, and social equity of urban areas. Topics covered include the origin and development of cities, agglomeration economies, location theory, central place, mix-and-share analysis, economic base, input-output, labor markets, urban models, regional development planning, globalization, high technology, urban poverty, and problems of regional governance. Prerequisite: UBPL 741 and UBPL 815. LEC.