GEOG 425: Urban & Regional Planning  
Course Syllabus (FALL 2010)

Instructor: Dr Jeremia Njeru  
Class Time: Mon and Wed 3.30pm-4.45pm  
Class Location: 225 Brooks  
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2.00pm-3.00pm or by appointment  
Office: 235 Brooks  
Phone: (304) 293-0382  
E-Mail: jeremia.njeru@mail.wvu.edu

PREREQUISITES:
Completion of Geog 210 (Urban Geography) or Political Science 221 is recommended prior to taking this course.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
This course explores concepts, techniques, and processes of physical and socioeconomic planning and their application to urban and regional problems.

COURSE PURPOSE:
This course introduces YOU to the planning process in the public sector with particular attention given to North American experiences. In the first part of the course we’ll explore the basic planning concepts, historical overview of planning, and planning methods. We’ll then apply these basic ideas and principles to problem-solving in urban and regional contexts. Specific topics will include: land use planning and zoning, planning for housing and economic development, transportation and environmental planning.

In addition to our survey of urban and regional planning literature, the course will provide opportunities to develop your critical skills of analysis, oral and written communication skills, and introduce you to ‘real life’ planning process.

Learning Objectives
At the end of this course YOU should:
• Be able to identify key concepts in urban and regional planning.
• Understand the general planning process.
• Be familiar with the history of planning in the United States.
• Have a basic understanding of the major planning issues and debates.
• Be able to understand and apply planning principles to problems in land use planning, environmental planning, and economic development.
• Be able to acquire and analyze the essential data used in urban and regional planning.
• Be a better thinker, by strengthening such cognitive skills as analysis,
interpretation, synthesis and evaluation.

- Identify a planning problem in a city YOU are familiar with and use planning concepts to solve the problem

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

- *The Urban and Regional Planning Reader, Eugenie L. Birch (editor):* London & New York: Routledge, 2009 (This is a required textbook which is available in the WVU bookstore-you need to buy it!)

- Additional readings will be drawn from:
  
  
  
  
  o There will also be a number of readings from journal articles
  
  o NOTE: The additional readings will be made available on E-Campus. It is your responsibility to download and do the readings.

COURSE FORMAT AND REGULATIONS

This course is based on a combination of lectures, reviews, student discussions and assigned readings, guest lectures and writing assignments. Students are expected to have read prior assigned materials before each class.

ASSIGNSMENTS & COURSE EVALUATION

There are 425 points possible as outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points (~ %)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final projects</td>
<td>100 (23.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question and answer pairs activity</td>
<td>85 (20.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflexive writing summaries</td>
<td>30 (7.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning meeting reports</td>
<td>30 (7.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Exam</td>
<td>80 (18.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 (23.5%)</td>
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**Total Points** 425 (100.0%)
Participation
You will be expected to attend all classes and engage in class discussions, and clearly demonstrate your familiarity with assigned reading material.

Question and Answer Pairs Activity (QAP) (85 Points)
You will be required to prepare and bring to class ONE question generated from the assigned readings about a concept, theme, or an issue. **You will reference the page/s in the readings from which your question is based.** You will be given about five minutes to share your prepared question with one fellow student. Your question and your answer to someone else’s question should demonstrate your familiarity with the readings. You will grade each other’s response on a scale of 1-5. Each activity will be worth **5 points later allocated by me.**

NOTE:
- Questions written in or during class will not be accepted!
- There are a total of 20 classes when you can prepare questions (as shown on the schedule). You will be allowed to miss 3 (hence the total: 85 points), those of you who will bring questions for every class will have the rest as extra credits (15 points).
- I will also select some of your questions and discuss them in class.

Reflexive Writing Summaries (30 Points)
You will be required to write 1/2-1 page summarizing 3 talks or presentations given by guest speakers. Each activity will be worth 10 points.

Planning meeting reports (30 Points)
You will be required to attend **TWO public** meetings of either: the City of Morgantown Planning Commission, Monongalia County Planning Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals and write a brief report summarizing the meetings (1-2 pages, typewritten). Each Report will be worth **15 points.**

Examinations (Mid-80 Points; Final 100 Points)
Exams will draw questions from lectures/discussions/guest talks and the assigned readings. The Exams will primarily consist of definitions, short-answer, and essays.
Final Projects (100 Points)

Each student will be required to identify a specific planning problem or issue (e.g., relating to housing, transportation, economic, environment) in a familiar city, and present a plan addressing it. You will submit a 4-6 pages typewritten plan and participate in a very brief presentation to the class regarding the planning project.

In-class brief presentations of the projects will be limited to 8 minutes each.

The presentation – reflecting originality, relevance of topic to urban planning, quality of research, will be worth 30 points. The remaining 70 points will go to the write up.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each student in this class is expected to: a) attend class regularly, b) complete assignments on time, and c) participate in class discussions. There will be NO “make-ups” for missed assessments, Other than the Exams. None-the-less, if you miss a class, borrow a classmate's notes and ask the instructor for clarification of anything that is unclear in the notes.

GRADING SCALE

A  90-100
B  80-89
C  70-79
D  60-69
F  59 and below
SCHEDULE, READINGS, & ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

The outline may be subject to change (with advance warning) so please assume responsibility for keeping up with classroom announcements.

INTRODUCTIONS

Aug. 23: Course, Instructor, & Students

        (Daniels, Keller & Lapping, pages 1-10)
        (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 238-241)

PLANNING ENVIRONMENTS

Aug. 30: Environments in which Urban and Regional Planning Operates
        (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 14-20, 47-53, 231-237) (QAP)

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING IN AMERICA

Sept. 1: Early Urban and Regional Planning
         (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 55-66, 75-82) (QAP)
         (So & Getzels, pages 20-59: recommended but not required)

Sept. 6: Labor Day (no class)

Sep. 8: The Evolution of Anglo-American Planning Theory
        (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 96-113) (QAP)

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Sept. 13: What are General/Master Plans?
          (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 140-147) (QAP)

Sept. 15: How do General Plans Work
          (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 199-106) (QAP)
LAND USE PLANNING AGENTS

Sept. 20: Who are Players in Land Use Planning
(Eugenie L. Birch, pages 207-215) (QAP)

LAND-USE CONTROLS, ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Sept. 22: The Workings of Land Use Zoning
(Eugenie L. Birch, pages 216-225) (QAP)

Sept. 27: Creating a Zoning Ordinance
(Daniels, Keller & Lapping, pages 157-193) (QAP)

Sept. 29: Land Subdivision Regulations
(Daniels, Keller & Lapping, pages 194-216) (QAP)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAND USE PLANNING

Oct. 4: What is Environmental Planning?
(Eugenie L. Birch, pages 297-306) (QAP)

MID EXAM

Oct. 6: Mid exam

Oct. 11: Environmental Planning Processes
(Daniels, Keller & Lapping, pages 130-144; So & Getzels, pages 117-131) (QAP)

(First Planning Report Due)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Oct. 13: What is economic Development?
(Eugenie L. Birch, page 73; Daniels, Keller & Lapping, pages 262-268; So & Getzels 288-299) (QAP)

(Present to me a title of your project)

Oct. 18: Economic Development Planning Process
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & LAND-USE


(Present to me an abstract of your project, along with at least 3 sources-5 points Extra Credits for meeting the deadline)

PhD. Student provide me with a three page review of literature on urban design.

MORGANTOWN PLANNING ISSUES

Oct. 27: Guest Speaker (TBA)

Nov. 1: Guest Speaker (TBA)/Field Trip of Morgantown

Nov. 3: Guest Speaker (TBA)

PLANNING FOR THE REGIONAL CITY: ADDRESSING URBAN SPRAWL


Nov. 10: Rethinking Metropolitan Region (Eugenie L. Birch, pages 183-186; 334-342) (Calthorpe & Fulton, pages 15-40) (QAP)

PLANNING FOR REGIONAL CITY: THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE REGIONAL CITY
Nov. 15: Key Elements of Regional City Planning
(Calthorpe & Fulton, pages 43-60) (QAP)

Nov. 17: Public Policy and Regional City Planning
(Calthorpe & Fulton, pages 61-102) (QAP)

(Students present to me first draft of their project; 5 points extra credits for meeting this deadline)

THANKSGIVING RECESS

Nov. 22 & 24: No classes

REGIONAL CITY EMERGING

Nov. 29: Regional City Ideas at Work
(Calthorpe & Fulton, pages 105-125; Eugenie L. Birch, pages 187-190) (QAP)

Dec 1: Regional City Ideas at Work Cont’d
(Calthorpe & Fulton, pages 126-158)

(2nd Planning Meeting Report Due)

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Dec 6: First Group
Dec 8: Second Group

(Final Projects Due)

FINAL EXAM IN CLASS

Dec. 15: 11:00-1.00pm
OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

West Virginia University expects every member of its academic community to share the historic and traditional commitment to honesty, integrity, and the search for truth. Academic dishonesty is defined to include but is not limited to any of the following:

1. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined in terms of proscribed acts. Students are expected to understand that such practices constitute academic dishonesty regardless of motive. Those who deny deceitful intent, claim not to have known that the act constituted plagiarism, or maintain that what they did was inadvertent are nevertheless subject to penalties when plagiarism has been confirmed. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: submitting, without appropriate acknowledgement, a report, notebook, speech, outline, theme, thesis, dissertation, or other written, visual, or oral material that has been copied in whole or in part from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual’s academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper.

2. **Cheating and dishonest practices** in connection with examinations, papers, and projects, including but not limited to:

   a. Obtaining help from another student during examinations.
   b. Knowingly giving help to another student during examinations, taking an examination or doing academic work for another student, or providing one’s own work for another student to copy and submit as his/her own.
   c. The unauthorized use of notes, books, or other sources of information during examinations.
   d. Obtaining without authorization an examination or any part thereof.

3. **Forgery, misrepresentation, or fraud:**

   a. Forging or altering, or causing to be altered, the record of any grade in a grade book or other educational record.
   b. Use of University documents or instruments of identification with intent to defraud.
   c. Presenting false data or intentionally misrepresenting one’s records for admission, registration, or withdrawal from the University or from a University course.
d. Knowingly presenting false data or intentionally misrepresenting one's records for personal gain.
e. Knowingly furnishing the results of research projects or experiments for the inclusion in another's work without proper citation.
f. Knowingly furnishing false statements in any University academic proceeding.

DAYS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

WVU recognizes the diversity of its students and the needs of those who wish to be absent from class to participate in Days of Special Concern, which are listed in the Schedule of Courses. Students should notify me by the end of the second week of classes or prior to the first Day of Special Concern, whichever is earlier, regarding Day of Special Concern observances that will affect their attendance. Further, students must abide by the attendance policy of this class, as stated on the syllabus. I will make reasonable accommodation for assignments that a student misses as a result of observing a Day of Special Concern, so long as I am notified in advance as specified above.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I support that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. WVU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).