

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT
WINTER 2020

URP 542 – ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00 to 2:30 P.m. / 2222 Arch & Arch Bldg (North Campus)

Instructor: Professor Richard Norton (rknorton@umich.edu)

Urban and Regional Planning Program / Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

Description:

This is an introductory graduate-level course on the fundamental issues, concepts, and analytical methods that shape contemporary environmental planning in practice. The term “environmental planning” encompasses a wide array of planning techniques and institutional settings. Rather than focusing on one particular type of planning, the course addresses recurrent value-based and analytical conflicts that cut across various environmental policymaking and planning activities. We will also survey and apply analytical methods related to: place-based land suitability analysis; project-based environmental impact analysis; and the use of ‘scorecards’ and other related environmental information conveyance techniques.

The focus of this course will be on environmental planning and policymaking at the regional and local levels in the United States. The class is not framed exclusively within the concepts of sustainable development or resiliency, but it will address those concepts from varied perspectives. This course also provides a good complement to a variety of other planning and natural resource management courses that focus on particular topics or analytical techniques, such as land use planning and design, landscape planning, watershed planning, community dispute resolution, and so on. This course will collaborate with several other courses from allied disciplines through the Michigan Engaging Community through the Classroom (MECC) teaching initiative, engaging a project in the Traverse City, MI, region.

Learning Goals:

By the end of the term, students should be able to:

- Explain the value debates that typify environmental planning practice in a democratic, pluralistic society;
- Explain and work analytically with basic knowledge of environmental systems at risk from contemporary land development patterns, along with the analytical, design, and regulatory remedies commonly employed to address those threats;
- Apply environmental planning knowledge and methods to a real-world project; and
- Collaborate meaningfully with colleagues from allied disciplines on complex multi-disciplinary planning and policy-making efforts.

Course Requirements:

Course assignments will consist of short written projects (e.g., reading response papers) and a final group project. Active participation will be expected and accounted for in the final grade.