

Fall 2016
Bren School of Environmental
Science and Management

Professor Jacobson
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PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
ESM 275

Course Description

Focus and Objectives

This course will focus on how land use planning and related activities address a variety of environmental concerns. Course objectives include:

- Gaining substantive knowledge across a variety of topics: planning processes and tools, environmental impact assessment, planning for sustainable communities, land use and transportation planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, etc.
- Developing professional skills, including written and oral communication
- Identifying and exploring ongoing policy questions related to environmental planning (e.g., what is acceptable “mitigation”)
- Becoming exposed to various careers in environmental planning
- Having an opportunity to place students’ environmental and professional interests in the context of planning processes

Format

The class will be comprised of lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, reading assignments, short written assignments, a term project, and student presentations. Students are expected to be prepared for class and to participate actively in it.

Grading

Grades will be based on class participation (15 percent), two short written assignments (20 percent), a term project (50 percent), and an in-class presentation (15 percent).

Course materials

Required text: McHarg, *Design with Nature* (1969)
Various online resources

Office Hours (Bren Hall 4404)

Tuesdays 100-215 pm
Thursdays 100-215 pm
And by appointment

Course Outline

Assignments below are to be completed prior to the class session for which each is listed

Week One

September 27

Topic: Introduction to the course; framing environmental planning issues

Assignment: None

September 29

Topic: Open space protection and an overview of land use planning and regulation

Assignment:

- Jacobson, "Land Use Planning and Regulation for Land Conservation," from Loux, *The Open Space and Land Conservation Handbook* (Solano Press Books, 2011) (on GauchoSpace)

Supplemental reading:

- Online "planning news" digest: www.planetizen.com/newslist
- *Curtin's California Land Use and Planning Law*, Barclay (Solano Press Books, new editions biennially)
- Jacobson, "Mixed Up About Mixed Use: Clarifying What We Hope to Gain Makes It More Likely We'll Get It" in *Proceedings of the Institute on Planning, Zoning, and Eminent Domain*, Institute for Local Government Studies (2006) (on GauchoSpace)

Week Two

October 4

Topic: Open space protection and an overview of land use planning and regulation (continued)

Assignment:

- Jacobson, "Land Use Planning and Regulation for Land Conservation," in Loux, *The Open Space and Land Conservation Handbook* (Solano Press Books, 2011) (on GauchoSpace)

October 6

Topic: City and county planning for environmental issues

Assignment: Marin Countywide Plan (2007)

(www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/cd/main/fm/cwpdocs/CWP_CD2.pdf)

- Skim entire plan

- Read “Introduction to the Countywide Plan”, “Introduction,” “Key Trends and Issues,” and “Framework” for the Natural Systems and Agriculture, Built Environment, and Socioeconomic Elements
- Read five “subelements” of your choosing – e.g., Water Resources, Energy and Greenbuilding, Environmental Justice.

Supplemental reading:

- “Reinventing the General Plan,” California Planning Roundtable (“The goal of the Reinventing the General Plan Project is to revitalize the General Plan as an essential tool to help California communities tackle the tough issues of the twenty-first century. The Project's website includes an online ‘incubator,’ which identifies great General Plan models. This incubator is a catalyst, designed to help planning professionals, stakeholders, and community members find inspiration and models for their communities. You can participate in this reinvention by commenting on the site's blog.”)

Week Three

October 11

Topic: Ian McHarg and *Design with Nature*

Assignment:

- *Design with Nature* -- Introduction, City and Countryside, Sea and Survival, The Plight, A Step Forward, The Cast and the Capsule

October 13

Topic: Ian McHarg and *Design with Nature* (continued)

Assignment:

- Nature in the Metropolis

Design with Nature writing assignment due

Supplemental reading:

- Jacobson, “Growth Management” from *The Basics of California Planning* (draft) (on GauchoSpace)

Week Four

October 18

Topic: The California Environmental Quality Act: Basics

Assignment:

- Kahn, “California Environmental Quality Act” (on GauchoSpace)
- Other to be announced by our guest speaker

Guest speaker: Terri McCracken, PlaceWorks

Supplemental reading:

- Jacobson, “Basics of the California Environmental Quality Act” (on GauchoSpace)
- “A Citizen’s Guide to the NEPA: Having Your Voice Heard,” Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President (December, 2007) (ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf)

October 20

Topic: CEQA and greenhouse gas emissions

Assignment:

- “Adopted Text of CEQA Guidelines Amendments,” California Natural Resources Agency (<http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/>)
- “Evaluating Greenhouse Gas Emissions as Part of California’s Environmental Review Process: A Local Official’s Guide” (September 2011) (<http://www.ca-ilg.org/document/evaluating-greenhouse-emissions-part-californias-environmental-review-ceqa-process-local>)

Term Project Part 1 due

Week Five

October 25

Topic: Healthy community planning

Assignment:

- Draft Healthy Community Element, City of Vallejo General Plan Update (http://propelvallejo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/PropelVallejo_GeneralPlan_PublicReviewDraft.pdf)

Supplemental reading:

- Healthy by Design: A Public Health and Land Use Planning Workbook (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/HealthyByDesign.pdf>)
- Urban Land Institute, “Building Healthy Places Toolkit” (<http://uli.org/wp-content/uploads/ULI-Documents/Building-Healthy-Places-Toolkit.pdf>)
- Jacobson, “Rules for Regulations: A Healthy Communities Perspective” (on GauchoSpace)
- City of Richmond Community Health and Wellness Element, General Plan Element 11 (<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/857>)

October 27

No class session – University of California/California Economic Summit conference: “Land Use and Water: Breaking Down the Silos”

Week Six

November 1

Topic: City and county Climate Action Plans

Assignment:

- City of Sunnyvale Climate Action Plan (<http://www.pmcworld.com/client/sunnyvale/documents/final-ClimateActionPlan.pdf>)

November 3

Topic: Senate Bill 375 and Sustainable Communities Strategies

Assignment:

- “Understanding SB 375: Regional Planning for Transportation, Housing and the Environment,” Institute for Local Government (2011) (<http://www.ca-ilg.org/document/guide-regional-planning-transportation-housing-and-environment>)
- *Plan Bay Area*, Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (2013) (http://files.mtc.ca.gov.s3.amazonaws.com/pdf/Plan_Bay_Area_FINAL/pbafinal/index.html)

Supplemental reading:

- “Research on Impacts of Transportation and Land Use-Related Policies” (<http://arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/policies/policies.htm>). The California Air Resources Board has compiled a series of reports on the impacts on vehicle use and greenhouse gas emissions of key transportation and land use policies (e.g., residential density, mixed use, jobs-housing balance), based on scientific literature. “The goal of this continuing research is to help strengthen the technical underpinnings of SB 375 and to identify important data gaps and research needs.”

Week Seven

November 8

Topic: General plan implementation and the environment: a case study

Assignment: None

Guest speaker: Jeff Lambert, Community Development Director, City of Ventura

November 10

Topic: Resiliency planning

Assignment: To be announced

Week Eight

November 15

Topic: Land use and water

Assignment: To be announced (see October 27)

November 17

Topic: Land use and water
Assignment: To be announced (see October 27)

Week Nine

November 22

Student presentations
Term Project Part 2 due

November 24

Thanksgiving – no class session

Week Ten

November 29

Student presentations

December 1

Student presentations