Instructor:
Ana Paula Pimentel Walker, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in Urban and Regional Planning

Class Meetings:
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30am-4:00pm
Location: 2108 Art & Architecture Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12-1 and Thursday, 4-5 p.m.
or by appointment via e-mail (appiment@umich.edu)
Office Location: Taubman College New Wing #2370.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory graduate-level course on the issues and concepts underlying environmental policy making and planning. Rather than concentrating on one particular type of planning method (e.g., cost-benefit analysis, impact assessment, site design), the course is designed to address recurrent value-based and analytical conflicts that cross the array of various environmental policy making and planning processes employed mainly in the United States, but also abroad. The principal goal of the course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to be thoughtful and creative professionals who are capable of recognizing the key disjunctions in communication and analysis that often hinder the achievement of effective and satisfying environmental policy and planning solutions. Through a combination of lectures, readings, student presentations, and discussions, we will think critically about land use regulations and their environmental impact. By approaching the various themes of environmental planning through different perspectives and levels of analysis, we seek a balance between becoming familiar with the nuts and bolts of environmental planning practice and brainstorming about the big visions and theories with which we tackle our environmental problems.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The course is designed to: (a) provide students with the ability to recognize and tease apart the competing values and analytical assumptions made by various stakeholders in environmental policy-making and planning debates; (b) consider how those debates are shaped by and play out within the political, legal, and administrative processes that characterize environmental policy making and planning in the United States; (c) familiarize students with the various forms of contemporary environmental policy-making and planning practice that they will likely encounter in their professional work; (d) introduce graduate students to a broad range of issues in environmental planning, including environmental justice, solid waste and recycling, and local climate change action plans, just to name a few.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation of Local Sustainability Plans  20%
Case Study Summary and Presentation  15%
Land Preservation Assignment  20%
Class Participation  10%
Research Paper and Presentation  35%  

100%

If, for a university-approved reason, a student cannot complete an assignment by the due date, the student must contact the instructor beforehand. The instructor can be contacted during office hours, before or after class, and by email. If your assignment is not received by the date and time specified, you will be penalized 10%, and 5% will continuously be subtracted from your grade for each additional day (each twenty-four hour period) that you are late.

Research Paper: You will write a term paper between four and six thousand words based on a review of the current professional literature. You may select a specific area of interest having to do with the environmental planning issues addressed in class. The paper is an opportunity to go into depth on a current topic of the student’s interests. Guidelines will be distributed in class and will be retrievable on Canvas. It is important to start thinking early about a specific paper topic. The “Case Study Summary and Presentation” assignment is an opportunity for you to test your topic of choice. Moreover, your case study findings can be included in the final research paper.

Class Participation: Students are responsible for carefully and thoughtfully engaging with course readings prior to each class session in order to contribute to class discussions. Participation in class discussions is an essential part of creating an engaged intellectual community. In class, students are expected to raise themes, ask questions, and probe topics covered in the readings and lectures.
Class meeting should be participatory and dialogic in order to foster participation and an exchange of ideas.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is required. Students missing class due to a religious holiday are strongly encouraged to notify the instructor a week before the absence. In the case of family or individual health emergency or required court appearance, please notify the instructor as soon as you can safely do so.

Services for Students with Disabilities: The University of Michigan is committed to equality and diversity by providing support services and academic accommodations for students with disabilities. You can consult the office and register at https://ssd.umich.edu/. Please, contact the instructor, if you have special requirements.

Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Taubman College affirms the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion as we organize resources and priorities that align with our values. We seek to have a diverse group of persons at all levels of the college - students, faculty, staff and administrators - including persons of different race and ethnicity, national origin, gender and gender expression, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religious commitment, age, and disability status. We strive to create a community of mutual respect and trust, a community in which all persons and their respective backgrounds, identities, and views are allowed to be made visible and communicated without the threat of bias, harassment, intimidation, or discrimination.

COURSE OUTLINE (subject to change/additional readings on Canvas)

September 6th: History of Land Use Patterns and the Environmental Planning Process for Sustainable Urban Development

A. History of Land Use and Environmental Planning

B. Urban Planning tools and their environmental impact

The Comprehensive Plan
Zoning Ordinances
Subdivision and Land Development Regulations
Capital Improvements Plan and Concurrency

Required:

Recommended:

**September 11th: Sprawl, Growth Management, and Smart Growth**


**September 13th: Sustainable Action Plans**


**September 18th: Key Concepts**

Key Concepts:

- The Tragedy of the Commons
- Ecological Footprint and Carrying Capacity
- Brown & Green Agendas
- Ecosystem Interdependence
- Ecological Principles of Land Use Management.
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**September 20th: Toxic Hazards and Michigan Clean Up Standards**


**September 25th: Solid Waste and Recycling**


More readings TBA and available on Canvas.

**September 27th: No class meeting and no readings**
October 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th}: Water Infrastructure and Toxics


More readings TBA and available on Canvas.

October 9 and 11\textsuperscript{th}: Tools for Land Conservation

Some Concepts:
Land Trusts
Easements
Legal Framework for implementing tools


More readings TBA and available on Canvas.

October 16\textsuperscript{th}: Fall Study Break: No classes and no readings

October 18\textsuperscript{th}: EPA, NEPA, Environmental Impact Assessments and Statements


Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO. NEPA Process http://environment.transportation.org/environmental_issues/nepa_process/

October 23 and 25\textsuperscript{th}: Climate Justice and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Planning:


**October 30th and November 1st: Environmental Justice: Issues and Methods**  
The environmental justice’s critique of risk assessment and environmental health.


**November 6th and 8th: Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning.**


Additional readings on Canvas

**November 13th and 15th: Participatory Approaches to Land Use Conflicts**

**November 20th Case Study Presentations.**

**November 22th: No class/No reading: Thanksgiving Recess**

**December 4th: Transportation and the Environment**


December 11th: Review and Last Day of Classes

December 17th: Final Paper Due