

**Politics/UEP 265**

**Community Planning and Politics Practicum**

**Fall 2019**

**T/Th 3-4:25 PM – Fowler 301**

Professor Regina Freer

Office Hours

Johnson Hall 305

W 1-4

X2924

and by appointment

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**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the history, theory, issues, concepts, tools, techniques, and controversies of urban planning. In addition to examining a wide body of literature pertinent to the theory and practice of urban planning, students will also study and discuss current planning issues and politics in Los Angeles with a particular focus on community-based planning initiatives. What are the politics of planning in LA? To extend Harold Laswell's description of the study of politics: *Who Gets What, When, How* in the sphere of urban planning and land use in Los Angeles? This introduction will serve as a foundation for case studies and community based research projects conducted in partnership with local non-profit community based organizations engaged in the planning process. Students will develop community-based research, writing, and presentation skills.

Through this course, students will gain an understanding of the impact that planning decisions have on the lives of city residents and how these community members can actively and effectively engage in the politics of planning.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course students should be able to:

\*Articulate an understanding of important concepts and debates in the field of Urban Planning

\*Articulate an understanding of the historical forces that have shaped Los Angeles' planning and politics and how they are and/or are not impacting current day politics

\*Participate in high-level discussions and debates about current urban planning dilemmas, especially those facing Los Angeles

\*Craft well written papers organized around a sophisticated, contestable claim/thesis statement supported by analysis of evidence marshaled from primary and scholarly secondary sources

\*Conduct research on urban planning and politics in Los Angeles

\*Work effectively, ethically, and reciprocally with community partners

### **Course Texts**

Readings for the course are available on Moodle or accessible on-line with provided links. Readings associated with each topic should be completed before the class meeting and unless otherwise noted, all are required.

We will begin most class sessions with a discussion of “What’s in the News” related to planning. These discussions will be tightly focused on planning, describing the story and either why it is significant or what questions it raises. Contributions should not stray to extraneous topics. Active and insightful engagement in these discussions will be evaluated as a part of your participation grade. To prepare for these discussions, students should develop a daily habit of reading the Los Angeles Times and relevant websites and blogs. Some important ones are listed below:

Planetizen - <http://www.planetizen.com/tag/los-angeles>

The Planning Report - <http://www.planningreport.com/>

CityLab - <http://www.citylab.com/>

Streetsblog LA - <http://la.streetsblog.org/>

Curbed LA - <http://la.curbed.com/>

LA Observed - <http://www.laobserved.com/>

Urbanize LA - <https://urbanize.la/>

### **Course Requirements**

(The professor reserves the right to amend these requirements during the semester.) As with all 4-unit courses at Oxy, you are expected to spend at least 9 hours per week outside of class studying for this course.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Worth</b>
<i>Paper #1 (Due Th 9/26)</i>	15%
<i>Paper #2(Due Date of Final Exam)</i>	20%
<i>Walk Reflection Essay (Due T 9/17)</i>	5%
<i>Public Meeting Reflection Essay (Due Th 11/14)</i>	5%
<i>Zoning Assignment (Due T 10/8)</i>	5%
<i>Planning News Journal Assignment (Due T 12/3)</i>	10%
<i>Class Attendance &amp; Participation</i>	20%
<i>CBLR Projects</i>	20%

The class will be run much like a graduate seminar, requiring you to come to class having read all of the assigned material and being prepared to discuss its content and the questions raised by it. Lectures will be infrequent.

In addition to writing two standard essays, you will also complete two, 2-page reflection essays based upon observations from fieldwork. You also have a zoning assignment that requires you to apply tools of planning and a news journal assignment that requires you to track and reflect upon current events in planning. More detailed assignments describing expectations for all of these will be provided in class. Because this is a community based learning and research course you will also have assignments connected to work with our community partner. In past iterations of the course such assignments have included the design of an education, outreach, and engagement strategy for the partners, a review of popular education planning tools used by them, on-line parcel research, survey design and implementation, petition development and signature gathering, and planning and attendance for events . These partner-connected assignments will become more concrete as the semester proceeds and you will have a hand in shaping them. Clear criteria for evaluating your participation in these efforts will be communicated as soon as the expected outcomes are concretized.

Because the community-connected work involves on going and evolving work, we will all have to be flexible and prepared to change plans. This is a part of the learning process.

For travel to and from community sites, please use public transit whenever possible. Free TAP cards to ride the Metro are available in the Student Activities Center, JSC.

### **Plagiarism**

Part of our responsibility as members of a scholarly community is to acknowledge the hard work behind the development of ideas. In this spirit it is important that you

avoid plagiarizing the work of others. Please review Occidental College's policy on plagiarism located within the statement on Academic Ethics:

<http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics> or

<http://www.oxy.edu/center-academic-excellence/writing-center/citing-sources>.

**NOTE:** I encourage you to consult the Writing Center located on the ground floor of the Library, to assist you with all aspects of the essay writing process (from brainstorming to final revision). The Writing Center offers evening drop-in sessions with trained Peer Writing Advisors, appointments with Faculty Writing Specialists, and Student Success Seminars (which deal with notetaking, reading efficiency, test-taking, time management). <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/academic-support/writing-center>

Should you need resources related to sexual assault, the Survivor Advocate, can advise you confidentially as can counselors at Emmons Wellness Center and Rev. Susan Young, Director of the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life. You can also contact counselors at the 24/7 Hotline [323-341-4141](tel:323-341-4141). The Survivor Advocate can also help you access other resources on campus and in the local community. You can reach the Survivor Advocate at [323-259-1359](tel:323-259-1359) or [survivoradvocate@oxy.edu](mailto:survivoradvocate@oxy.edu) and their office is in Stewart-Cleland Hall Lower Lounge.

The sexual misconduct policy can be found at <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. There you will find the policies, definitions, procedures and resources.

Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website: <https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/resources-support/orsl/academic-accommodations>.

## Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Complete all assigned reading by the first day we discuss the topic and bring hard copies of assigned reading to class.

T 8/27 - Introduction

Th 8/29 and T 9/3 What is Planning?

\*Fulton, "Introduction: How Planning in California Really Works" in Guide to California Planning 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Pp 3-28

\*Los Angeles City Planning Department Website - <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/>

\* Zoning 101

<https://recode.la/updates/news/what-zoning>

\*Planning4LA - City of LA Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChl2PmRhAzUf158o0vZjnHw/videos>

\*\*optional 100 Years of Planning History

<https://www.planning.org/timeline/>

Th 9/5- Community Partner Introductions: LACAN and SAJE

- <http://cangress.org/>
- <http://www.dtla2040.org/>
- <http://www.saje.net/>
- TBD

\*Sharp, "A Sneak Peek at the Downtown Community Plan" *Urbanize Los Angeles* <https://urbanize.la/post/sneak-peek-downtown-community-plan>

\*South LA Climate Commons Collaborative <https://scopela.org/our-work/photos-2/the-south-los-angeles-climate-commons/>

T 9/10 and Th 9/12 – Planning Historiography

- \*LeGates and Stout, “Modernism and Early Urban Planning”
- \*Hall, “The Turbulent Eighth Decade: Challenges to American City Planning
- \*Responses to Hall’s “The Turbulent Eighth Decade”
- \*Sandercock, “Framing Insurgent Historiographies for Planning”

T 9/17 and Th 9/19– Planning and The Planner – Ideology, Process, and Outcomes  
 (\*\*Walk Reflection Due T 9/17\*\*)

\*Fainstein and Fainstein, “City Planning and Political Values: An Updated View”

\*Stein, “The Poverty of Planning”

<https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2017/03/27/THE-POVERTY-OF-PLANNING>

One of the following according to your last name:

- \*Davidoff, “Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning” (names A-F)
- \*Forester, “Planning in the Face of Power” (names H-K)
- \*Harvey, “On Planning the Ideology of Planning” (names M-S)
- \*Friedman, “The Mediations of Radical Planning” (names U-Z)

T 9/24 – Privilege, Critical Race Theory, and Planning

\*Vasquez, “Principals of Culturally Competent Planning and Placemaking” <http://rutgerspdi.blogspot.com/2009/11/principles-of-culturally-competent.html>

\*Chavez et al, “The Dance of Race and Privilege in Community Based Participatory Research”

\*Purtill, “A Call for Critical Race Studies in Urban Planning”

\*Mathuria, “Place & Privilege: Telling Stories About Places That Aren’t Yours

[https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2019/03/28/PLACE-PRIVILEGE-TELLING-STORIES-ABOUT-PLACES-THAT-AREN-T-YOURS?utm\\_campaign=3ddcd599-9cb5-478b-bfb1-21e7cab51b37&utm\\_source=so](https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2019/03/28/PLACE-PRIVILEGE-TELLING-STORIES-ABOUT-PLACES-THAT-AREN-T-YOURS?utm_campaign=3ddcd599-9cb5-478b-bfb1-21e7cab51b37&utm_source=so)

\*\*Optional: Rouse, " Race, Space, and the Poetics of Planning" pp.15-29 [https://issuu.com/chandrachristmas-rouse/docs/race\\_space\\_and\\_the\\_poetics\\_of\\_plann?fbclid=IwAR1N32jGvru7ltKOz4pIggUERLm0Njz0iN6\\_31mchbG7e4cLXB96QdeE\\_rQ](https://issuu.com/chandrachristmas-rouse/docs/race_space_and_the_poetics_of_plann?fbclid=IwAR1N32jGvru7ltKOz4pIggUERLm0Njz0iN6_31mchbG7e4cLXB96QdeE_rQ)

Th 9/26 and T 10/1 – LA History and Space

(\*\*\*Essay 1 Due 9/26\*\*\*)

\*Davis, "Fortress LA"

\*Whittemore, "One Hundred Years of Land-Use Regulation"

\*Soja, "Seeking Spatial Justice in Los Angeles"

\*Wachs, "Autos, Transit, Sprawl, Los Angeles"

\*Gibbons, "Introduction" *City of Segregation*

\* "A history of planning and zoning in Los Angeles"

<https://recode.la/updates/news/brief-history-planning-zoning-los-angeles>

Th 10/3 -"Citizen Jane" Documentary Film in class

T 10/8 and Th 10/10 – Land Use: Regulation, Structures, and Tools

(\*\*\*Zoning Assignment Due T 10/8\*\*\*)

\*Fulton and Shigley, Guide to California Planning 4<sup>th</sup> ed. pp.47-168

\*LA Department of City Planning Generalized Summary of Zoning Regulations, City of Los Angeles

<http://www.planning.lacity.org/HousingInitiatives/HousingElement/Final/HEAppendixE.pdf>

\*Los Angeles Department of City Planning Website

<http://cityplanning.lacity.org/>

\*Deciphering Our Current Zoning System

<https://recode.la/updates/news/deciphering-our-current-zoning-system>

\*Putting the Vision into Action: How Zoning Implements the General Plan

<https://recode.la/updates/news/putting-vision-action-how-zoning-implements-general-plan>

T 10/15 \*\*\*FALL BREAK – NO CLASS\*\*\*

Th 10/17 – Community Planning – Grounding the Theory

Film, “Holding Ground : The Rebirth of Dudley Street” or “Gaining Ground?”

\*Kennedy, “Transformative Planning Through Community Development: Parts 1 and 2

[https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2018/11/05/TRANSFORMATIVE-PLANNING-FOR-COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT-Part-One-Moving-From-Advocacy-Planning-to-Transformative-Planning?utm\\_source=so](https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2018/11/05/TRANSFORMATIVE-PLANNING-FOR-COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT-Part-One-Moving-From-Advocacy-Planning-to-Transformative-Planning?utm_source=so)

[https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2018/11/12/TRANSFORMATIVE-PLANNING-FOR-COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT-Part-Two-Professional-Education-and-Transformative-Community-Development?utm\\_source=so](https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2018/11/12/TRANSFORMATIVE-PLANNING-FOR-COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT-Part-Two-Professional-Education-and-Transformative-Community-Development?utm_source=so)

\*Koh, “Decolonial Planning in North America”

[https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2019/03/04/DECOLONIAL-PLANNING-IN-NORTH-AMERICA?utm\\_source=so](https://www.progressivecity.net/single-post/2019/03/04/DECOLONIAL-PLANNING-IN-NORTH-AMERICA?utm_source=so)

\*Chan, “What Counts As ‘Real’ City Planning?”

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/03/what-counts-as-real-city-planning/556082/>

T 10/22 - Politics, Power, and Planning

\*Sonenshein, Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government

[http://www.lwvlosangeles.org/files/Structure\\_of\\_a\\_City.pdf](http://www.lwvlosangeles.org/files/Structure_of_a_City.pdf)

\*Opinion Editorial, “ The Huge ‘Revolving Door’ Fine” Los Angeles Times, Aug 22, 2019



\*TBA

#### Th 10/24 – The Planners’ Perspective

Guest Speaker: Dylan Sittig (Oxy ’13), External Affairs Department of City Planning, Los Angeles

\*American Institute of Certified Planners Code of Ethics and Principles

<https://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode/>

<https://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples/>

\* “Planners, Here Are Your Keys To Successfully Facilitating Meetings”

<https://www.planning.org/blog/9180992/planners-here-are-your-keys-to-successfully-facilitating-meetings/>

\*Stein, “As They Rally Around Rezonings, Planners Often ‘Plansplain’”

<https://citylimits.org/2017/05/17/cityview-as-they-rally-around-rezonings-planners-often-plansplain/>

#### T 10/29 – People’s Planning

\*ELACC Plan del Pueblo

[http://issuu.com/eastlacommunitycorporation/docs/plandelpueblo\\_english\\_digitalversio](http://issuu.com/eastlacommunitycorporation/docs/plandelpueblo_english_digitalversio)

\*Forester, “Challenges of Deliberation and Participation”

\*Arnstein, “The Ladder of Participation”

\*Lauren Ahkiam, “Learning from Los Angeles: People’s Planning in the City of Angeles.” Progressive Planning summer 2012

[http://www.plannersnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/PPMag\\_SUM12.pdf](http://www.plannersnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/PPMag_SUM12.pdf)

• UNIDAD’s “People’s Plan”

<http://www.unidad-la.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/peoples-plan-report-FINAL.pdf>

\*Our Skid Row

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/future-of-skid-row-housing>

W 10/30 – “North Pole” evening screening , time and location TBD

Th 10/31 - Community Plans

\*\*Guest speaker: Rémy De La Peza

\*<http://www.dtla2040.org/>

\*Sustainable Little Tokyo

<http://sustainablelittletokyo.org/projects/slt2013>

<http://sustainablelittletokyo.org/projects/slt2020>

\*South East LA Community Plan

<https://planning.lacity.org/complan/pdf/selcptxt.pdf>

\*South LA Community Plan

<https://planning.lacity.org/complan/pdf/sclcptxt.pdf>

T 11/5 and 11/7 – Popular Education and Planning

\*\*Guest speakers: Omar Ureta and Rosten Woo(invited)

\*Dr. Pop What is Popular Education?

<http://drpop.org/what-is-popular-education/>

\*Blocks and Lots

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/461934/manualandkit%20for%20website.pdf>

\*What is Affordable Housing?

<http://rostenwoo.biz/index.php/whatisaffordablehousing>

\*What is Zoning, Center for Urban Pedagogy?

[http://welcometocup.org/Store?product\\_id=64](http://welcometocup.org/Store?product_id=64)

\*Freudenberg, Pastor, and Israel, "Strengthening Community Capacity to Participate in Making Decisions to Reduce disproportionate Environmental Exposures" American Journal of Public Health

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3222508/>

\*Organizers' Warning and Notification for Tenants - OWN IT!

<https://www.ownit.la/>

\*The Works LA

<http://www.theworks.la/>

T 11/12 – Planning, Gentrification/Displacement/South LA and Downtown

"City Rising" KCET documentary on gentrification (watch online)

- <https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising>

\* "The Gentrification of Skid Row"

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/mar/05/gentrification-skid-row-los-angeles-homeless>

- Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD)

<https://www.lapovertydept.org/>

Th 11/14 – Staples Center, Farmer's Field, CBAs

(\*\*\*Public Meeting Reflection Due 11/14\*\*\*)

\*Jaqueline Leavitt, "Linking Housing to Community Economic Development with Community Benefit Agreements: The Case of the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice" in Ong and Loukaitou-Sideris eds *Jobs and Economic Development in Minority Communities* 2006 (e-copy in library)

\*Dorsey, "Making Community Benefits Agreements Count"

<https://shelterforce.org/2016/10/21/making-community-benefits-agreements-count/>

T 11/19 –Planning and the Ballot Box – Measures JJJ and S

\*Conduct your own research on these two measures

\*Fulton and Shigley “Ballot Box Planning” pp244-245

\*Ballot Box Planning – Read three articles of your choice

<https://www.planetizen.com/tag/ballot-box-planning>

Th 11/21 - Understanding the Development Process

Guest Speaker: Robin Hughes

\*TBA

T 11/26 – Planning Commission

\*Allor, “Toward a Longer View and Higher Duty for Local Planning Commissions”

\* “Do Real Planning”

<http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Reorganization/DoRealPlanning.pdf>

Th 11/28 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**

T 12/3 Wrap Up / Evaluations