Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs  
Urban and Regional Planning Program  
Spring 2015

PA 5242, Section 1  
Environmental Planning, Policy, and Decision Making

Instructor: Carissa Schively Slotterback, PhD, AICP  
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Office Hours: By appointment (please email me, I’d be happy to meet with you)  
Office Telephone: (612) 625-0640  
Email: schiv005@umn.edu  
Class Time/Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:30 pm, HHH 20

Course Description and Objectives
The course integrates insights from theory and practice related to environmental planning, policy, and decision making. Readings, projects, and discussions will highlight ethical, legal, and institutional frameworks from the local to the global scales relative to a range of environmental issues, including natural resource conservation, water, air, endangered species, waste, and climate change. In addition, the course will examine innovative approaches to environmental decision making informed by collaborative planning, conflict resolution, adaptation, sustainability, and resilience thinking.

The course will draw on theoretical perspectives, case material, and real-world examples from planning and environmental decision-making contexts at multiple scales. Special emphasis will be placed on integrating cross-disciplinary perspectives and examining equity issues relative to environmental issues, decision-making approaches, and implementation techniques. The course will take a primarily domestic focus, with international cases and examples integrated for comparative purposes. The course is appropriate for graduate level students in urban planning, public policy, social and natural sciences, development practice, natural resource management, public health, design, engineering, and other related fields.

Key objectives include:
- Understand the ethical, legal, and institutional contexts within which environmental planning occurs,
- Examine and respond to the complexity of stakeholder perspectives and decision making on environmental and natural resource planning issues,
- Examine the implications of future growth and resource scarcity on the natural and human environments,
- Explore and apply sustainability and resilience frameworks to environmental planning and policy,
- Understand the distribution of environmental benefits and harms across people and geographic scales, with particular attention to environmental equity concerns, and
- Gain experience in written, oral, and graphic communication around environmental topics and issues in community and organizational contexts.
**Course Format and Requirements**
The course is organized thematically. Theoretical and conceptual material will be presented alongside case studies and discussions designed to illustrate the application of theories to planning practice and policy. Current planning and policy case studies will be integrated into the class to explore application and implementation issues in practice.

Readings are to be completed in advance of each class. It is imperative that students complete the readings prior to class in order to foster more effective discussions, promote critical analysis, and facilitate student interaction.

A participation grade will be assigned which reflects your knowledge of the material as expressed during class discussions. Your attentiveness to, and respect for, the comments of other students also will contribute to your participation grade. Class participation provides the opportunity to practice speaking and persuasive skills, as well as the ability to listen. Comments that are vague, repetitive, unrelated to the current topic, disrespectful of others, or without sufficient foundation are not very helpful. What matters is the quality of one's contributions to the class discussion, not the number of times one speaks. Excessive absences (greater than three) also will result in a substantially lower participation grade. Excessive tardiness will have the same result.

The instructor will maintain a Moodle site for the course. Course materials (e.g. syllabus, assignments) and links to relevant information will be maintained on the site. In order to access the site, follow the instructions below:

1. Launch a web browser
2. Go to [http://www.myu.umn.edu](http://www.myu.umn.edu)
3. Sign in using your x500
4. Click on My Courses tab
5. Scroll down to view your classes
6. Click on PA 5242

The following texts are required for the class:


Additional required readings will be made available on the Moodle site.

**Evaluation and Grading**
Grades will be based on the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community-based Environmental Planning and Policy Project Best Practices</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(due Feb 24)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Case Study</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(due March 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community-based Environmental Planning and Policy Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(due April 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(due May 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Late assignments will be penalized by one full letter grade per calendar day. For example, an A grade assignment turned in one day late would receive a B grade.

Students are discouraged from using laptop computers in class. Laptops or other electronic devices are not permitted when guest speakers are in class.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule
The course is divided into three general topic areas as outlined below. A reading list is provided below. Potential case/practice discussion topics are highlighted to indicate when more substantial time will be spent on a topic. The identified case/practice discussion topics represent only a sample of the real world examples and practical application content that will be integrated into lectures and discussions. Guest speakers will be incorporated as well, to provide “real world” perspectives on topics discussed in the class. Video, audio, and other media resources will be used liberally to illustrate application and diverse perspectives.

Note #1: The instructor reserves the right to adjust the course schedule to accommodate guest speakers and to respond to student interest in specific environmental planning and policy topics.

Note #2: The pages for the Farber book will be added later. They will be updated when the instructor gets the new copy.

I. Environmental Planning Perspectives and Ethics
This section of the course will focus on foundational readings and debates relevant to environmental planning, resource management, and ethics. Classic readings on the environment and the intersection of human and natural systems will be highlighted. Additional contemporary writings are included as well to illustrate the evolution of perspectives over time.

I.A. Growth vs. Scarcity: Exploring Environmental and Land Use Ethics and Values

January 20:
Course Overview

January 22:
   The Nature of Exponential Growth (pgs. 25-44)
   Introduction (pgs. 1-45)
http://www.economist.com/node/718860?Story_ID=718860
http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/feb/06/totnes-transition-towns-ethical-living

**January 27:**
  *The Nature of Ethical Discourse about Land Use (pgs. 18-30)*
  *Distributive Obligations in Land Use (pgs. 87-101)*
  *Ethical Duties to the Environment (pgs. 102-133)*
  *Land-Use Obligations to Future Generations (pgs. 134-152)*

*Case/Practice Discussion: evaluating environmental value orientation with the New Environmental Paradigm Scale*

**January 29:**
  *Putting the Earth First (pgs. 25-35)*
Bookchin, M. (2007). What is social ecology?
http://psichenatura.it/fileadmin/img/M_Bookchin_What_is_Social_Ecology.pdf

**I.B. Environmental Justice and Diverse Perspectives**

**February 3:**
  *Introduction (pgs. 1-6)*
  *The Seventh Generation (pgs. 197-200)*

**February 5 and 10:**
  *Environmentalism and Social Justice (pgs. 1-20)*
  *Race, Class, and the Politics of Place (pgs. 21-37)*
II. Environmental Policy and Institutions

This section will focus on key legal, policy, and institutional foundations in environmental and natural resource planning. Following a brief overview of key legal concepts, readings will highlight key state and national environmental laws and policies. Connections to local and regional-scale environmental planning, policy, and decision-making will be examined as well.

II.A. Foundations for Environmental Policy

**February 12 and 17:**
  - Culpability and Prevention of Land Use Harms (pgs. 54-64)
  - Land Use Rights (pgs. 65-86)
  - Duties beyond Borders: Inter-jurisdictional Land-use Ethics (pgs. 227-240)

  - The Judicial Role in Environmental Law
  - Scope of Federal Power

II.B. Environmental and Health Impact Assessment Practice and Policy at the Federal, State, and Local Levels

**February 19 and 24:**
  - Historical Background and Overview of NEPA (pgs. 11-34)
  - Overview of the NEPA Process (pgs. 35-60)

  - The National Environmental Policy Act


**February 26 and March 3:**

*Case/Practice Discussion: EIA and the Polymet Mine in northern MN (tentative guest speaker: Steve Colvin, Director of Ecological and Water Resources Division, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)*
March 5:

*Case/Practice Discussion: Exploring the integration of HIA in MN EIA processes (tentative guest speaker: Kelly Muellman, AICP, Climate and Health Program Planner, Minnesota Department of Health)*

March 10:

*Case/Practice Discussion: National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska Oil Development Plan Environmental Impact Statement and Health Impact Assessment*

II.C. *Regulating Air, Water, and Climate Change Impacts*

March 12:

Regulation under the Clean Air Act

Emerging Trends in Planning, Development, and Climate Change (pgs. 17-36)
Policy and Program Recommendations (pgs. 129-156)

March 17 and 19:
No class (Spring Break)

March 24:

Regulation under the Clean Water Act
Economic Incentives for Environmental Protection

March 26:
Readings TBA

*Case/Practice Discussion: Regulating frack sand mining in southern Minnesota (tentative guest speaker: Carlos Espinosa, Assistant City Planner, City of Winona)*
II.D. Regulating Impacts on Land and Resources

March 31:
  The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
  The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
  Mandatory Reporting of Chemicals

April 2:
  Preservation as a Goal
  Restrictions on Development of Private Land
  Protecting Public Lands
  Preserving Endangered Species
  Encouragement through “Carrots” and “Sticks”: Habitat Conservation Planning and the Endangered Species Act (pgs. 65-80)

Case/Practice Discussion: *Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan*

III. Environmental Planning and Decision Making
This section will examine key considerations that inform strategic and long-range planning related to environmental issues. In particular, this section of the course will highlight emerging analytical, evaluation, and engagement tools intended to enhance environmental decision making.

III.A. Conflict and Collaboration in Environmental Planning and Management

April 7 and 9:
  Framing of Environmental Disputes, B. Gray (pgs. 11-34)
  Intractability: Definitions, Dimensions, and Distinctions, L.L. Putnam and J. Wondolleck (pgs. 35-59)
  Why Collaboration? (pgs. 23-46)
  The Challenge of Collaboration (pgs. 47-68)
Case/Practice Discussion: South central Minnesota biofuel and ecosystem service development collaborative (tentative guest speaker: Nick Jordan, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, UMN)

III.B. Adaptive Approaches and Resilient Futures: Sustainability, Climate Change, Uncertainty, and Risk

April 14:
   From One Earth to One World (pgs. 1-23)
   Towards Sustainable Development (pgs. 43-66)
   Portney, K.E. – Sustainability in American cities: A comprehensive look at what cities are doing and why.

Case/Practice Discussion: LEED-ND Evaluation System

Case/Practice Discussion: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning’s GO TO 2040 Plan

April 16 and 21:
   Climate Action Planning (excerpt - pgs. 6-13)
   Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (pgs. 87-113)

Case/Practice Discussion: City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan (Guest Speaker: Brendon Slotterback, AICP, LEED-AP, Sustainability Program Coordinator, City of Minneapolis)

April 23:
Community-based Environmental Planning and Policy Project Presentations

April 28:
   Living in a Complex World: An Introduction to Resilience Thinking (pgs. 1-14)
   The System Rules: Creating a Mind Space for Resilience Thinking (pgs. 28-38)

Kaufman, S. – Complex systems, anticipation, and collaborative planning for resilience (pgs. 61-98)

**April 30:**

Urban Resilience: Cities of Fear and Hope (pgs. 1-14)
Four Scenarios for the Future of Cities: Collapse, Ruralized, Divided, or Resilient City (pgs. 35-54)


Berke, P.R. – Rising to the challenge: Planning for adaptation in the age of climate change (pp. 171-192)

**Case/Practice Discussion: City of San Buenaventura Post Peak Oil Plan**

**May 5:**

**Case/Practice Discussion: Resilient Community Planning Charrette**

**May 7:**

Course Wrap-Up

**Policy Statements**

The following required University of Minnesota policies are included in the syllabus as a reference for students:


Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code* -
http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf


