USP 311: Introduction to Urban Planning  
*Fall Term, 2016*

Ethan Seltzer: 503-725-5169, or seltzer@pdx.edu

Class Meets: Tuesday and Thursday, 2 pm – 3:50 pm, Cramer Hall 150

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2-4 pm, Room 370R Urban Center, 
...or *anytime* (really!) via e-mail

**Introduction**

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of urban planning in America. The course will be organized around an investigation and discussion of six main themes:

- What is a plan and what is planning?
- Why do we plan? When?
- Who plans?
- How do we make plans?
- What do we plan?
- What is the future for planning?

The emphasis will be on the practice of urban planning, and on the roles played by planners, elected officials, citizens, landowners, and others. There may be guest speakers. Even though this is a large class, we’ll make it as interactive as we can. As will be discussed in the class, planning is a basic human activity. Consequently, you have something to say, and I’ll find ways to enable you to say it. Please come to class prepared to participate.

Keeping up with the reading is essential. You won’t be able to succeed in this course by leaving all the reading to the end. Getting and staying organized to accomplish the tasks set out for you during the term will also be essential. *Incompletes will NOT be granted and late papers will NOT be accepted without significant and compelling reasons. Talk to me…*

**Course Schedule and Readings**

There is a D2L site for the course. You must have an ODIN account to access D2L. I will use the website to communicate, post class information and keep track of grades under the appropriate sections of the site. In addition, links to the syllabus, required readings and websites, and quizzes will be posted on the site.

There is one required book for this class:


This book will be available in the PSU Bookstore for sale and for rent. You can also get it through Amazon and other booksellers in a variety of formats. In any case, please MAKE SURE YOU GET THE 10th EDITION ONLY!
Please note that information will be presented in the lectures that might not be in the readings. I will not be posting lecture notes online. If you miss a class, you should get the lecture notes from someone in the class. We’ll address this issue on the first day. In addition, I’ll put several introductory planning texts on reserve in the library that can be consulted should you need additional information about the topics to be discussed in class.

**Course Schedule:**

**September 27**  
What is a Plan/What is Planning?  
Introduction to the course/defining planning  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 1  
Website:  

**September 29**  
Why Plan/When – Urbanization.  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 2  
D2L Article: Fishman, “Fifth Migration”  
Website:  
Hans Rosling World Population and health  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo

**October 4**  
Why Plan/When – History of Planning I.  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 3  
Optional:  
Pinky Show  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wzyRepJuvM

**October 6**  
Why Plan/When – History of Planning II  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 4  
D2L Article: Fishman “Past and Future Influences”

**October 11**  
Legal Basis for Planning  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 5

**October 13**  
Politics and Planning  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapters 6 and 7

**Quiz 1**

**October 18**  
Making Plans I: The Planning Process  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 8
October 20  Making Plans II: Implementing Plans  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 9  
D2L Article:  City of Portland, “Budget Hearing Presentation”  
Website: City of Portland Green Building Policy  
http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?a=54355&c=34835

October 25  Plan What I – Growth Management  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 14  
Seltzer, “Land Use Planning in Oregon”

October 27  Plan What II – Regional Planning  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 16

November 1  Plan What III - Transportation Planning  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 12

November 3  Plan What IV – Housing and Community Development  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapters 11 and 13

Zoning Assignment Due

November 8  Plan What V - Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 15  
D2L Article: Condon’s Seven Rules  
Websites:  
Your Ecological Footprint  
http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn_sub.php?content=calculator  
(calculate your ecological footprint prior to coming to class if you haven’t done so before) …then calculate your carbon impacts at:  
Your Walk Score  
http://www.walkscore.com/

November 10  Plan What VI - Urban Design and Historic Preservation  
Reading:  
Levy, Chapter 10  
D2L Article: Jan Gehl “Changing Streetlife

Quiz 2
November 15  National Planning in the US
Reading:
Levy, Chapter 17

November 17  Planning in Other Countries
Reading: Levy, Chapter 18

November 22  Planning for Resilience
Reading:
D2L Article: Schulz, “After the Big One”
D2L Article: Earth Day 2014
D2L Article: DLCD Cool Planning Handbook (Part I-all, Part II-scan)
YouTube Video, Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=738mEXu0Tb8

November 24  NO CLASS - Thanksgiving

November 29  Gentrification and Displacement
Reading:
D2L Article: Bates “Gentrification and Displacement Study” (Pages 1-25)
D2L Article: Butin “The Myth of Gentrification”
D2L Article: Cortright “Less in Common”
Website: False Idols in the Curated City

December 1  Planning Ethics and Theory
Reading:
Levy, Chapter 19
D2L Article: Ethics and the Planning Commission
Websites: American Planning Association
http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm
http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples.htm

Neighborhood Livability/Sustainability Proposal Due

December 5  Quiz 3 FINAL 10:15 am – 12:05 pm  NOTE: This is a Monday and a different time!!!

Course Requirements and Assignments:
Success in this class depends on the following:
1. Keeping up with the reading – you will not be able to keep up with the lectures and quizzes unless you keep up with the reading. Staying current with the schedule works. Trying to do all the reading the night before a quiz for the weeks leading up to it does not.
2. Coming to class – the lectures will range beyond the material presented in the reading, and the quizzes will reflect that.

3. Taking the quizzes on the days that they are scheduled – make-up dates will not be provided.

4. Turning in your assignments on time – late assignments will not be accepted.

5. Participating in class - you are here for a reason. No one can do your learning for you.

Grades will be based on the following:

- Quizzes – there will be three quizzes during the term, each taking about 25 minutes to complete. Each quiz will count for 10% of your grade, 30% total.
- Zoning Assignment – see description below. This assignment accounts for 35% of your grade.
- Neighborhood Livability/Sustainability Proposal—see description below. This assignment counts for 35% of your grade.
- For all written assignments, I’ll be evaluating your work as follows: (1) content (e.g., did you do the assignment as asked, covering all the required points) (20%), (2) analysis (e.g., breadth, depth, soundness, and originality of your thinking) (60%), and (3) quality of written composition (20%).
**ZONING ASSIGNMENT: Due November 3.** The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize you with land use regulations. You are to find specific zoning information for the house or building that you live in and compare it to what is actually there. The zoning information will be found in the City Code. What actually exists on the site will need to be observed and recorded. The intent is to understand how new and old work together and to see how use might change over time.

For Portland residents, find the information about the property where you live using [www.portlandmaps.com](http://www.portlandmaps.com). If you live outside of the city or if the zoning for your property is too complex for you to understand, you can select another residential address in Portland. The final product for this assignment should have three parts:

1) The Chart (see below) that compares the zoning requirements (listed below) and the existing conditions. Please use the format provided but feel free to expand it to provide you with whatever space you need. DO NOT cut and paste directly from the zoning code to this chart.
2) A diagram, map, and/or aerial photo of the parcel showing the placement of all structures. Photos are also helpful.
3) A 1-2-page analysis comparing the existing use of the parcel to what the zoning code allows. Please respond to the following questions:
   - Can the site be used more intensively?
   - Can adjacent land use change?
   - What do you think: will the use of this site change in the short or long-term? Why or why not?
   - If you like where you live, will it likely continue to be a good place to live given the current regulations?
   - If you don’t like where you live, could changes according to the regulations make it better?
**USP 311 – ZONING ASSIGNMENT – “THE CHART”**

Please fill out this chart completely and include it as part of your completed assignment. You can make the cells of the chart larger if you need more room.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Basic Information</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property ID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year dwelling was built</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning designation (abbreviated and full title)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Nearby zoning (within one or two blocks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of existing neighboring land uses (within one or two blocks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Uses</strong></th>
<th><strong>What Zoning Code Says</strong></th>
<th><strong>What Exists on Site</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permitted</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditional Use</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifically excluded</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Current use(s)** | n/a | Actual: |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bulk</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lot size</td>
<td>Min required:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Max allowed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setbacks (front, sides, rear, garage entrance)</td>
<td>Required:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Other Requirements, if applicable</strong></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Required/Limited:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Standards (If Any):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor areas, landscaping</td>
<td>Required:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY/SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSAL: Due Dec 1.
The purpose of this assignment is to develop a proposal for improving the livability and sustainability of your neighborhood while ensuring that your neighborhood becomes an important contributor to the livability and sustainability of the entire city. Your proposal can be for something that takes place in the near term or far future. It can be a change in policy, the physical characteristics of the neighborhood, or in the way that the services and systems serving the neighborhood residents are operated and deployed, your choice. Your proposal must, at a minimum, address the following questions:

--What is the “neighborhood” you’re focusing on?
--What are you proposing to change?
--Why is this change important to improving livability and sustainability for all residents?
--How will the change make your city more livable and sustainable? Why?
--What will be required to make this change? Over what period of time?
--Who pays and who benefits? Is the allocation of costs and benefits fair and equitable? Why?
--To make this change, who will need to do what? What will it take to get this proposal adopted and implemented?
--What is your favorite aspect of this proposal? Why?

The best response will draw on the themes for this course, the reading, and the presentations made in class. It will be derived from a careful application of the 7-step planning process. It will also be connected to actual conditions and populations in your neighborhood, and to the organizations and interests already present there. Finally, the best proposals will make important contributions to livability and sustainability, and those contributions will be able to be assessed and verified over time.

Please limit your written presentation to 5 pages. Make sure that you provide maps, tables, and other relevant illustrations needed to fully communicate what you intend to do. The best papers will tell a complete story, one introducing the reader to the context, relevance, importance, and likely impact of the proposal you’re making, and will present a careful strategy for making it happen. Put what you’ve learned in this class to work and have fun with this!

**Important Note:** Both of the projects for this class can be done in consultation with other students in the class. **HOWEVER….** All work turned into the instructor for these assignments must be your own. The work must be original and prepared for this class. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Copying the work of another and not citing it; lifting text from the Internet; or even presenting ideas that are not your own without proper attribution are all examples of plagiarism. Submitting work for this class that has been done for another class also counts as plagiarism, it is called “plagiarizing oneself.” Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and could result in higher university level sanctions. Don’t do it!

**Final Note: Please see the instructor if you have a documented disability and need accommodations to participate fully in this course.**