

Florida Atlantic University
School of Urban and Regional Planning
URP 4979 RI: Planning Capstone
Spring 2020

Class Meetings: Mondays, 1:00 – 3:50 pm

Room: Social Sciences Building, Room 276, Boca Raton Campus
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. John L. Renne, AICP

Office Location: Building 44, Room 284

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, 1 – 3 pm (all appointments must be made online, ahead of time at: <https://johnrenne.youcanbook.me>)

Best Method of Contact: 504-717-1744 (text or call)

Contact Phone Number: 561-297-4281 (office)

Email: jrenne@fau.edu;

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Completion of an individual project involving student research and analysis of a problem or issue in planning and design, synthetic work resulting in (a) research paper or (b) planning document, film or three-dimensional model. Refinement of writing and graphics skills or oral presentation.

Time Commitment As a project-based studio course, students can expect to spend time outside the scheduled meeting times reading and working on projects and written assignments for this course. Time management is a critical skill to build in order to not get behind in your coursework.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Summarize the research process and understand data collection methodologies
2. Understand the importance of framing research questions
3. Design the appropriate study to answer the research question(s)

Research Intensive Course Designation (RI) and Requirements

This course contains an assignment or multiple assignments designed to help students conduct research and inquiry at an intensive level. If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide assessment program, students will be asked to complete a consent form and submit electronically some of their research assignments for review. Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI) for additional opportunities and information at <http://www.fau.edu/ouri>.

Student Learning Outcomes

Research projects are expected to achieve all six of the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

SLO 1: Knowledge. Students are expected to demonstrate content knowledge, and knowledge of core principles and skills.

SLO 2: Formulate Questions. Students are required to formulate research questions, scholarly or creative problems in a manner appropriate to the planning discipline.

SLO 3: Plan of Action. Students are expected to develop and implement a plan of action to address research and inquiry questions or scholarly problems.

SLO 4: Critical Thinking. Students are expected to apply critical thinking skills to evaluate information, their own work, and the work of others.

SLO 5: Ethical Conduct. Students are expected to identify significant ethical issues in research and inquiry and/or address them in practice.

SLO 6: Communication. Students will convey all aspects of their research and inquiry (processes and/or products) in appropriate formats, venues, and delivery modes.

Required Book

1. American Planning Association, Steiner, Frederick and Kent Butler (Eds.) 2007. Planning and Urban Design Standards: Student Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Hoboken, NJ. (ISBN-13: 978-0471760900).

Course Assessments, Assignments, Grading Policy, and Course Policies

Assessment of student learning outcomes in URP 4979, Planning Projects will cover three key areas with formal feedback from the instructor:

- Critical and analytical skills
- Written communication
- Graphics skills and oral communication and presentation

All written assignments must be submitted as a hard copy at the beginning of the class in which they are due. The following grading system will be used to determine the final grade:

Item	Percentage
Class Attendance and Participation	20
Reading Application Essays	30
Urban Footprint Assignments	20
Final Project	30
Total	100

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

Grade Scale:

Total Points	100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	<60
Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Attendance:

One hundred percent presence, participation, persistence, and production are essential to your success in this course. Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to be on time and anticipate desk crits to discuss progress on projects. Faculty will drop grades for missed classes, unless cleared in advance or due to extenuating circumstances. Students should anticipate to work beyond studio hours, as demonstration of progress is expected at each new class. If meeting a requirement is not possible it is imperative that the student notifies her/his professor as soon as possible to discuss the issue.

Reading Application Essays:

You must apply the course readings to a real life project. Essays must be at least 4 double-spaced pages and highlight how the readings for that week are reflected in the real world by choosing a news article about a project in South Florida. Each essay should be approximately 75% focused on summarizing the readings and about 25% focused on highlighting how the project exemplifies the discussion in the readings. You must submit three essays during the semester but you have six opportunities to submit essays per the course schedule.

Urban Footprint Assignments: See Canvas for instructions

Final Project: See Canvas for instructions

Late Work Policy:

Assignments submitted late will result in a lower grade (1/2 letter grade per day – no exceptions outside the extenuating circumstances). Late work will only be accepted if you have made arrangements with the faculty in advance, otherwise the assignment will receive a failing grade. Plagiarism will also result in a failing grade and will be reported to the appropriate University authorities.

Incomplete Grade Policy

The University policy states that a student who is passing a course, but has not completed all work due to exceptional circumstances, may, with consent of the instructor, temporarily receive a grade of incomplete (“I”). The assignment of the “I” grade is at the discretion of the instructor, but is allowed only if the student is passing the course.

Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Plagiarism is unacceptable in the University community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording, or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass off such work as one's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. This includes all Canvas Forum posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. If in doubt, cite your source!

Classroom Etiquette/Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement

Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as “... *activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom.*” Students who behave in the face-to-face and/or virtual classroom such that the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor's course objectives are disrupted are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students' ability to learn or an instructor's ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to: non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other violations of an instructor's expectations for classroom conduct.

For more information, please see the FAU Office of Student Conduct <http://www.fau.edu/studentconduct/>

Communication Policy

Expectations for Students

- Announcements
 - You are responsible for reading all announcements posted by the instructor. Check the course announcements each time you log in.
- Email
 - You are responsible for reading all of your course email and responding in a timely manner.

Support Services and Online Resources

Office of Information Technology Online Help Desk:	https://helpdesk.fau.edu/TDClient/Home/
FAU Libraries:	http://www.fau.edu/library/
Center for Learning and Student Success:	http://www.fau.edu/class/
University Center for Excellence in Writing:	http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/
Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry:	http://www.fau.edu/ouri/
Student Accessibility Services:	http://www.fau.edu/sas/
Office of International Programs and Study Abroad:	http://www.fau.edu/goabroad/

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative:

- To establish and implement academic standards.
- To establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.
- To refer disciplinary action to those students whose behavior may be judged to be disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct.

Instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus as necessary.

Selected University and College Policies

Accessibility Policy Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations to properly execute coursework due to a disability, must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) located in the Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter campuses and follow all SAS procedures. For additional information, please see: <http://www.fau.edu/sas/>.

Questions relating to academic accommodations for students with disabilities are to be directed to Students Accessibility Services, Boca Raton campus, Room 133, (561) 297-3880, TDD (561) 297-0358.

Grade Appeal Process

A student may request a review of the final course grade when s/he believes that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- Non-academic criteria were applied in the grading process.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.
- Procedures for a grade appeal may be found in Chapter 4 of the University Regulations.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with

regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. For further information, please see [Academic Policies and Regulations](#).

University Approved Absence Policy Statement

In accordance with rules of the Florida Atlantic University, students have the right to reasonable accommodations to participate in University approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor at least one week prior to missing any course assignment.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Drops/Withdrawals

Students are responsible for completing the process of dropping or withdrawing from a course. Please click on the following link for more information on dropping and/or withdrawing from a course. [Link to FAU Registrar Office](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date (subject to change)	Required readings	Homework due
1	13-Jan	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 1: Plans and Plan Making	
2	20-Jan	No Class – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	
3	27-Jan	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 1: Plans and Plan Making	Essay 1 due & Final capstone project topic corridor location due
4	3-Feb	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 2: Environmental Planning and Management	
5	10-Feb	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 2: Environmental Planning and Management	Essay 2 due & Draft corridor analysis due
6	17-Feb	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 3: Structures	Urban Footprint assignment 1 due
7	24-Feb	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 3: Structures	Essay 3 due
8	2-Mar	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 4: Places and Placemaking	Final corridor analysis due
9	9-Mar	No Class – Spring Break	
10	16-Mar	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 4: Places and Placemaking	Essay 4 due & Draft planning context due
11	23-Mar	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 5: Analysis Techniques	Draft methodology and data analysis summary due
12	30-Mar	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 5: Analysis Techniques	Essay 5 due
13	6-Apr	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 6: Implementation Techniques	Urban Footprint assignment 2 & Draft Planning Recommendations
14	13-Apr	<i>Planning and Urban Design Standards</i> Part 6: Implementation Techniques	Essay 6 due
15	20-Apr	Final Presentations	Final Powerpoint Due & Final Draft Report Due
16	27-Apr	Final Presentations	
17	4-May	No Clas	Final Report due

INTEGRATION OF SLO AND ASSIGNMENTS

SLOs	Assignment Requirements and Assessments
SLO 1: Knowledge	Common base of knowledge required for effective professional practice in the field of planning including policy and organizational contexts. Students will demonstrate knowledge of key theories of planning, and multidisciplinary interpretative views of human settlements. Students will also show knowledge of tools and practical skills needed to analyze planning problems related to environmental issues, transportation, economic development, historic preservation, and urban design, and understand urban and regional trends. Knowledge of written, oral communication, and advanced visualization techniques are also required to incorporate research findings in planning documents and presentations.
SLO 2: Formulate Questions	Students are required to develop a problem statement in which they specifically formulate questions related to a planning problem in a local community. The students are expected to present a clear concise statement of the research problem. When appropriate, the students should be able to break down principal problems into smaller solvable sub-problems.
SLO 3: Plan of Action	Students will create a plan of action that will encompass the following elements: (i) scope of the study and problem statement; (ii) literature review; (iii) planning context; (iv) methodology and data analysis summary, (v) planning scenarios; (vi) planning recommendations.
SLO 4: Critical Thinking	Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by taking into consideration multiple perspectives, examining implications and consequences of an action or planning alternative; ability to use evidence and reasoning to distinguish between categories or rank them, ability to apply standards and make judgments according to established personal, professional, or social rules or criteria, ability to build predictive models and transform knowledge.
SLO 5: Ethical Conduct	All students are required to familiarize themselves with the Code of Ethics of the American Planning Association.
SLO 6: Communication	Students will be required to professionally write and present a planning project, a professional report and be prepared to present all stages of their planning project as outlined in SLO3. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of technical report writing, visualization, and presentation.