Instructor: Jennifer Evans-Cowley, Ph.D, AICP  
Course Time: 3:30 – 6:18 pm Wednesday  
Office Phone: 247-7479  
Office Location: Room 289A  
Office Hours: Monday 9-11 a.m.; Wed 1-3 p.m.; or anytime by appointment  
E-mail: cowley.11@osu.edu

Course Overview:  
Planning theory as a subject area within planning curricula does not presume a unified course of action. Rather, it establishes the historical and disciplinary roots of professional practice and its academic underpinnings. Some theory or another underlies each action a planner takes. The answer to the question: “Why did you propose such and such?” requires theoretical content. A professional may “feel it in their bones” or in their “gut,” but city managers, politicians and informed citizens expect recommendations based on professional judgment informed by evidence or experience.

This course will examine the theoretical basis of planning. It starts by looking at how the average person perceives planning. Students then explore how different theorists have envisioned the perfect urban form. This is followed by an examination of theories about how planners practice their trade.

Turning theory into action often requires a leap of faith, especially for the planning student. This course moves from understanding the administrative structure of planning, including intergovernmental relations, budgeting, ethics, and the political environment into the theory behind our actions.

This course requires extensive exposure to writings in planning. Further it requires the application of theoretical considerations to urban problems.

Course Objectives:  
You should upon completion of this course:  
• Understand the theoretical basis for city and regional planning in the United States;  
• Understand the utopian concepts of city form;  
• Identify and distinguish the major theoretical models in planning;  
• Understand the ethical context of working in planning;  
• Be able to critically think about and analyze urban problems;  
• Improve your research, writing, and oral communications skills.

Assigned Reading  
Planning Theory for Practitioners by Brooks

A reader for this class is available for purchase at Cop-EZ (Tuttle Garage). This contains additional weekly reading assignments. Supplemental readings are also posted to the class website.
Students will be responsible for reading each week’s assigned readings prior to the class meeting. The instructor will also distribute handouts periodically on topics timely to classroom discussion.

**Class Website**
This course is using WebCT. To log onto the class website go to [http://class.osu.edu](http://class.osu.edu). To log in you need your OSU user ID which is your name.number. Information on the password is available on the class.osu.edu website. The course website includes discussion boards for you and your classmates to discuss assignments, readings and news stories. It includes individual webpages for SimCity. It also includes class assignments and the course syllabus. All lecture notes will be posted on-line one day prior to class. Additionally, where noted on the syllabus an audio/powerpoint lecture is available.

**Grading Policy**
- Participation/Discussion: 15%
- Comprehensive Plan Analysis: 15%
- SimCity Utopia Project: 35%
- Final Exam: 35%

Transformation of numerical grade to letter grade will be according to the schedule summarized below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-66.9</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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**Grading Policies**
All grading will be done as fairly and as consistently as is reasonably possible. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments that are turned in late for any reason will have 20 points taken off the first day late, 30 points the second day and 50 points after that point. The instructor will take into consideration assignments that are late due to unforeseeable circumstances. Students wishing to appeal the grading of an assignment/exam must make the appeal in writing within 5 calendar days after an assignment/exam is returned.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the classroom. Plagiarism is passing off as one’s own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. You are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own even if you should have the permission of that person. Any instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (University Rule 3335-5-487).

**ADA Policy Statement**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services at (614) 292-3307. Additionally, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter, so your disability can be properly accommodated.
Assigned Projects

**SimCity Paper**
Each student will develop a utopian city using SimCity 3000 Unlimited. Each student will first write a paper outlining the development plan for the selected theorized community using research from academic and web sources. Students will then use SimCity 3000 Unlimited to make this city a reality. Students will write about the experience in building the city, highlighting some of their successes and failures. This report will be due on Wednesday April 20th. This paper is not to exceed 15 pages and should be double spaced in 12 point font. Students will also turn in their SimCity on disk or by e-mail. Additionally, students will create a webpage highlighting their SimCity and the theorized community they have selected. This page will be posted on the class website. Specific instructions for this assignment can be found on the class website.

SimCity 3000 Unlimited or SimCity 4 is available for purchase at most computer software stores. Additionally, copies are located on the Knowlton Hall CRP computer and computer labs. If you do not have access to the computer lab, talk to Todd Clementz on the fourth floor of Knowlton. To obtain a CD to use on the school computers please see your instructor.

**Comprehensive Plan Analysis**
Each student will prepare a comprehensive plan analysis based on an actual plan. Plans may be obtained from the Engineering Library or from the Internet. If you choose to use a web-based plan, please include the website in your paper. The plan review should be between five and eight pages in length. Using the comprehensive plan evaluation criteria found in your readings, critique this plan. The purpose is to identify elements of a good comprehensive plan. What form of planning theory appears to have been used in creating this plan? If you were responsible for creating this plan how would you have done things differently? This paper is due on June 1st.

**Final Examination**
The Final Examination will be in-class and will cover the theory, techniques, and application of concepts covered in the course. The exam will be open book and open notes and will be in essay form. The exam will be conducted on June 8th.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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| 1    | Wed Mar 30 | Introduction and Course Overview. What is Planning?  
Brooks CH 2 “Planning Practice and Planning Theory”  
Brooks CH 4 “Rationales for Public Planning” |
| 2    | Wed Apr 6  | Urban Utopias and Concepts of Urban Form  
McKensie, Evan. 1994. “From Garden City to Privatopia”  
Privatopia: Homeowner Associations and the rise of residential private government  
Myerson, Martin. Utopian Traditions in the Planning of Cities.  
LAB DAY: ½ of Class day will be spent in the computer lab using SimCity  
Public Perception paper due |
| 3    | Wed Apr 13 | The Fall of the Suburban Utopian Ideal  
Attend lecture by James Kunstler at 5:30 pm in Knowlton Auditorium  
Jacobs, Jane “The Death and Life of Great American Cities”  
Kunstler, James Excerpt from Home from Nowhere |
| 4    | Wed Apr 20 | Ethics and the Public Interest in Planning  
Brooks CH 5 “The Critical Role of Values and Ethics”  
AICP and APA Code of Ethics  
SimCity Project Due |
| 5    | Wed Apr 27 | The Rational Model and Responses to the Rational Model  
Brooks CH 6 “Centralized Rationality: The Planner as Applied Scientist” |
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 Wed</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td><strong>Social and Political Planning Theory</strong></td>
<td>Brooks CH 8 “Decentralized Rationality: The Planner as Political Activist”</td>
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<td>In-class video</td>
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| 9 | Wed | May 25 | Communicative Planning and Course Review  
CH 9 Brooks “Decentralized Non-Rationality: The Planner as Communicator”  
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Wed | June 1 | The Comprehensive Plan  
Comprehensive Plan Assignment Due |
| 11 | Wed | June 8 | Final Exam 4:30 pm |