



# URBAN PLANNING

AI SYLLABUS

# Urban Planning

## Theory and Practice

### Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of urban planning. Students will learn about the history of urban planning, key concepts and theories, and the process of developing and implementing plans. Topics covered will include land use planning, transportation planning, housing policy, and environmental planning.

### Course Goals:

Develop a comprehensive understanding of the theory and practice of urban planning  
Gain knowledge of different planning approaches and techniques  
Develop critical thinking and analytical skills to evaluate planning proposals and policies  
Explore the social, economic, and environmental impacts of urban planning decisions  
Apply urban planning concepts to real-world case studies

### Course Outline:

#### Week 1: Introduction to Urban Planning

1. What is urban planning?
2. Historical perspectives on urban planning
3. Planning as a profession

#### Week 2: Planning Theory and Concepts

1. Key planning concepts and theories
2. Planning models and frameworks

#### Week 3: Land Use Planning

1. Zoning and land use regulations
2. Growth management and urban sprawl

## Week 4: Transportation Planning

1. Planning for sustainable transportation
2. Transit-oriented development

## Week 5: Housing Policy

1. Affordable housing and homelessness
2. Gentrification and displacement

## Week 6: Environmental Planning

1. Sustainable development and climate change
2. Urban ecology and green infrastructure

## Week 7: Planning and Equity

1. Social justice and planning
2. Participatory planning and community engagement

## Assessment:

Class participation and discussion: 20%

Written assignments: 30%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final project: 25%

## Classroom Policies:

- Attendance is required, and more than two absences will result in a deduction in the participation grade
- Arriving to class late is disruptive and therefore, should be avoided
- Cell phones should be silenced during class
- Students are expected to participate in class discussions and to be respectful of other students' opinions and perspectives

## Coursework:

- Assignments will include a combination of written papers and in-class exercises
- The midterm exam will test students' knowledge of the course materials covered up to that point

- The final project will involve students working in groups to develop a planning proposal for a real-world urban issue
- Late assignments will result in a penalty

## Resources:

- Required course materials will be provided by the instructor and should be obtained before the first class
- Additional resources such as academic journals and industry publications will be recommended throughout the course
- Office hours will be held weekly to provide additional help and support to students outside of class time
- The university's library and online resources will be available to students to assist with their coursework and research.

## Required Readings:

1. [Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions: Towards More Equitable Development by Karen Chapple](#)
2. [The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs](#)
3. [Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier by Edward Glaeser](#)
4. [Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time by Jeff Speck](#)
5. [The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class—and What We Can Do About It by Richard Florida](#)
6. [Urban Planning for Dummies by Jordan Yin](#)
7. [Planning in the USA: Policies, Issues, and Processes by J. Barry Cullingworth and Roger Caves](#)
8. [The End of the Suburbs: Where the American Dream Is Moving by Leigh Gallagher](#)