

Montgomery County Community College
GEO 238
Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the principles, methods and practices of contemporary urban and regional planning. This course will cover a range of topics including: principles and theories of urban morphology, urban structure and institutions, concepts of planning as a community process and a professional activity, planning as both a public and private responsibility, and the evolution of planning ideas in response to changing social, economic, and environmental conditions within the context of the United States political framework.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Describe the discipline of urban and regional planning.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Written Examinations Written Assignments
2. Outline the historical development of U.S. urbanization and planning and how the planning profession has evolved with the development of cities.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Written Examinations Written Assignments
3. Discuss the impact innovative planning and how it has improved the quality of American urban life.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Written Examinations Written Assignments

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Explain the relationship of how a city's form reflects the economic, social and political aspects of society and how planning can enhance these aspects.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Written Examinations Written Assignments
5. Discuss how planning analysis can inform the decision-making of community stakeholders, township and county officials, business leaders, and real estate professionals.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Field Work	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
6. Discuss how citizen involvement in planning can influence the character and functioning of neighborhoods.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Field Work	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
7. Describe how effective urban and regional planning can promote sustainability by saving energy, preserving historic resources and enhancing the environment.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Field Work	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
8. Collect, analyze, evaluate, and apply spatial data and information (through background research and direct observation) to a local planning issue and to apply this knowledge and information to a final project.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Field Work	Final Project

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Overview; What Is Planning?
2. Urbanization Trends
3. Planning History
4. Legal Basis of Planning
5. Planning and Politics
6. Social Issues and Housing
7. Comprehensive Planning
8. Land Use Planning
9. Urban Design
10. Urban Renewal, Historic Preservation, and Community Development
11. Infrastructure (Transportation, Water Resources, Sewage, Power, and Communications)
12. Economic Development Planning
13. Environmental and Energy Planning; Sustainability Issues
14. Planning Theory and Ethics

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Levy, John M. (2006). *Contemporary Urban Planning* (10th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Wayne Brew	Date: 11/6/2009
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 6/22/2010
Revised by: Wayne Brew	Date: 5/13/2013
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. Victoria Bastecki-Perez	Date: 12/16/2013

This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.