

NRES 488: Land Use Plan Implementation

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 pm, TNR 271

Course Instructors:

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Course Description:

This course is designed to develop your planning vocabulary by building your understanding of the types of tools that planners use to accomplish community objectives. Specifically, this course will emphasize the local policy considerations involved in the creation and enforcement of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to natural resource and land use planning. Through completion of course readings, participation in class discussions, analysis of local policy documents, and preparation of plan implementation tool materials, you will continue to develop your understanding of how planners can successfully implement a community's vision for the future. We will also focus on developing your technical and presentation skills as components of this course.

In addition to normal course activities, a number of guest lecturers have been asked to participate in this course. These individuals bring expertise on key aspects of the planning process into the classroom that will be extremely beneficial to enhancing your understanding of the planning profession -- please make sure that you are prepared for these discussions!

Learning Objectives:

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to planning tools and regulatory approaches to implementing a community land use plan through the following learning objectives:

- Explore the relationship between land use plans and local government programs for regulating land uses and achieving plan goals and objectives.
- Understand legal and political procedures associated with land use code development and enforcement.
- Develop skills in processing applications for land use changes, including zoning amendments, subdivisions, variances, and conditional uses.
- Critically consider alternative means for achieving a community's planning goals and objectives.

Grading:

The course is worth 700 points:

- Reading Quizzes – 100 points
- Two Exams – 150 points each for a total of 300 points
- Assignments – 300 points

Assignments

Assignment 1 – Home Town Report – due 1/29 (10 points)

Assignment 2 – Plan Commission Report – due 2/7 (20 points)

Assignment 3 – Factsheet Review – due 2/19 (20 points)

Assignment 4 – Staff Report – due 3/5 (50 points)

Assignment 5 – SolSmart Review (45 points) and Presentation (15 points) – due 3/12

Assignment 6 – Implementation Tool Report – due 3/28 (40 points)

Assignment 7 – Tool Presentations – presentations 4/25, 4/30, 5/2, 5/7, materials due 5/13 (100 points)

Assignments are due in class, unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will be deducted 10% of points for each day they are turned in late.

Readings

A list of class readings will be posted and made available on D2L. It is your responsibility to read and come to class prepared to discuss. A reading quiz will be held at the beginning of most class periods. Knowledge from class readings will also be incorporated into the midterm and final exam.

Student Success

If you need assistance with assignments or coursework, please come to us as soon as possible. We are here to help you succeed. Please let us know how we can make this a positive learning experience.

Course Calendar:

- 1/22 – Course Overview – Introduce Assignments
- 1/24 – No Class (field trip for NRES 484)
- 1/29 – Municipal Geography and the Role of Local Government (A1. Home Town Report due)
- 1/31 – Local Government Actors and Responsibilities
- 2/4 – Stevens Point Plan Commission Meeting <http://stevenspoint.com/451/Videos-of-Meetings>
- 2/5 – No Class (field trip for NRES 484)
- 2/7 – Community Planning and Plan Implementation (A2. Plan Commission Brief due)
- 2/12 – Private Ownership, Land Regulation, and Takings
- 2/14 – Introduction to Zoning
- 2/19 – Nexus Between Solar and Zoning (A3. Factsheet Review due)
- 2/21 – Zoning Administration
- 2/26 – Zoning Ordinance Assessment and Updates
- 2/28 – Student Work Day
- 3/5 – Land Management for Water Quality (A4. Staff Report due)
- 3/7 – Wetland and Floodplain Zoning
- 3/12 – Student Presentations – SolSmart (A5. SolSmart Review due)
- 3/14 – Mid-term Exam
- Spring Break
- 3/26 – Rural and Agricultural Land Conservation
- 3/28 – Student Work Day (A6. Implementation Tool Report due)
- 4/2 – Evolution of Zoning and Other Plan Implementation Tools
- 4/4 – Subdivision Regulations
- 4/9 – Development Standards, Exactions and Negotiations
- 4/11 – Student Work Day
- 4/16 – Community Development and Revitalization
- 4/18 – Field Trip, Downtown Stevens Point
- 4/23 – Local Government Finance
- 4/25 – Tool Presentations – Redevelopment Team
- 4/30 – Tool Presentations – Intergovernmental Team
- 5/2 – Tool Presentations – Community Design Team
- 5/7 – Tool Presentations – Development Review Team
- 5/9 – Final Exam
- 5/13 – (A7. Submit all final materials for Tool Presentations)