This is an introductory level class in environmental planning. The class is intended for students in planning and related fields who expect to make decisions about environmental planning and policy. We introduce “the environment,” discuss the setting within which environmental land use planning is usually done, and approaches to dealing with common environmental land use problems. We will continue to experiment with new topics including coverage of how economists think about the environment, green buildings, energy conservation and land use, energy for sustainability, and planning for climate change.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the role of the planner in managing environmental issues
- Design participatory processes around environmental issues
- Understand the relationship between land use and environmental planning
- Understand the relationship between land use and storm runoff
- Be able to calculate runoff from land development using simple formulas
- The relationship between land use and air quality
- The basics of climate adaptation planning
- The basis of performing environmental inventories
- Approaches to land conservation

Required Text


Course Requirements

Final grades will be assigned based on the following:

- Class participation: 15 %
- Environmental issue discussions: 10 %
- Project: 15 %
- Presentation of Project: 10 %
Environmental Issue Discussions

In the first few weeks of class, each student will be asked to select an environmental issue of interest to them. However, the issue must be addressed in the academic literature and not covered in class. Please confirm your topic with me by the end of September. In November each student will be required to give a short presentation on their chosen issue. Pertinent academic literature may come from sources such as the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, Conservation Biology, Landscapes and Urban Planning, Journal of the American Planning Association, Journal of Planning Education and Research, Ecology and Society, etc. The presentation will provide a short overview and a critique of the paper. The critique is important.

Your turn to present will be decided based on the alphabetical location of your last name. Past presentations included evaluations of fish conservation methods in the Northwest, forest conservation in the tropics, and how low-lying nations may be affected by global warming.

The presentations will be semi-formal. You will be expected to provide background information, policy options, the advantages and disadvantages of the options, and what appears to be the evolving consensus on how to deal with the issue. Again, it can be on any environmental related issue, from local to international, but which will not be covered in class.

Project and Project Presentation

We will discuss details for the final project a little later on. However, the date for the final project deliverable is listed. For this project, you will be required to place yourselves in the role of an independent consultant preparing a project report. I place a heavy emphasis on professional presentation and your final grade will reflect the degree to which such presentation is achieved.

Academic dishonesty--plagiarism and cheating (edited statement from the DOSO’s web site)

Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise.
Examples include: (a) copying from another student’s test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam. o Fabrication: Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.

Plagiarism: To take and use another’s words or ideas as one’s own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

Unauthorized reuse of work product: submission for academic credit, without the prior permission of the instructor, of substantial work previously submitted for credit in another course. Example: submitting a paper in a current course that was written for, and submitted in, a previous course.

Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student’s access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

Student disabilities services (edited statement from the SDS web site)

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The SDS office is located in the Adamany Undergraduate Library. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours or at another agreed upon time to discuss your needs. • Students who are registered with Student Disability Services and who are eligible for alternate testing accommodations such as extended test time and/or a distraction- reduced environment should present the required test permit to the professor at least one week in advance of the exam. Federal law requires that a student registered with SDS is entitled to the reasonable accommodations specified in the student’s accommodation letter, which might include allowing the student to take the final exam on a day different than the rest of the class.

Delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

Religious holidays (from the online academic calendar)

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and
staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Chapter readings refer to chapters from Randolph. Readings are indicated with bullets. Many of the readings are hyperlinked, so please use an electronic version of the syllabus.

1. September 11

Setting the stage for environmental planning and management

- Chapter 1

The Environment in a Regional Context


2. September 18

Other approaches to managing the environment with the following subtopics:
   The environment as a political issue
   The Economics of the environment
   Environmental design
   Environmental science and engineering

- Chapter 2
- Deitz, Ostrom, and Stern (2003) The struggle to govern the commons, Science, 302 (5652), 1907
- NYT, A Hunting Ban Saps a Village’s Livelihood

3. September 25

Guest Lecture by Joel Howrani-Herees, Sustainability Director, City of Detroit

Sustainability

- Chapters 3


*Homework 1 handed out*

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4. **October 02**

Catch up from previous classes (I suspect that we will be behind)

Environmental Justice


Collaborative environmental planning

• Chapter 4

*Homework 1 due*

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5. **October 09**

Water and land use: Stream flow, flooding, and runoff pollution

• Chapter 7

*Homework 2 handed out*

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6. **October 16**

Stormwater management and watershed restoration

• Chapter 8

• [EPA: Introduction to Watershed Planning](https://www.epa.gov/watershedplanning) Skim


*Homework 2 due*

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7. **October 23**
Guest Lecture: Michelle Selzer, Lake Coordinator, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes

Landscapes, Urban Areas, and Wetlands
  • Readings: Chapter 10
  • http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/LocalDecisionMakersGuide_screen.pdf

8. October 30

Natural hazard mitigation
  • Chapter 13
  • FEMA, 2011, Local mitigation plan review guide, *Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*Homework 3 handed out*

9. November 06

Integration Methods
  • Chapter 14
  • Chapter 19

Student presentations 1

*Homework 3 due*

10. November 13

Energy, air quality, and climate change
  • Readings: Chapter 12

Student presentations 2

*Homework 4 handed out*

11. November 20

More on planning for climate change
  • How to develop a local climate action plan (NY State)
• **Ann Arbor’s draft climate action plan**
• **Chicago’s climate action plan**
• **Portland’s climate action plan**

Student presentations 3

*Homework 4 handed out*

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12. November 27

Land Management for Sustainability

- Chapter 15
- [http://www.renewthevalley.org/media/mediafile_attachments/06/46-guidelinesfinalprintableversion.pdf](http://www.renewthevalley.org/media/mediafile_attachments/06/46-guidelinesfinalprintableversion.pdf)

Brownfields!

*Homework 4 due*

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13. December 04

More on brownfields

Hula, R.C. and Bromley-Trujillo, R (2010) Cleaning up the mess: Redevelopment of urban brownfields

Final project presentation

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14. December 11

Final Exam

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¹ “Not covered in class” is tricky, because at some level we are likely to address issues that fall into the categories of “land, water, and air”. But think of a specific topic that we have not covered.