

San José State University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
URBP 233– Social Issues in Planning
AFAM/ AAS/URBP 133 –Introduction to Social Issues in Planning
Spring 2022

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm, Thursdays 12:30-2:00pm on Zoom (please email in advance)
Class days/time: Wednesday 7:30– 10:00 PM
Classroom: WSQ 208 or Zoom

how should planners understand and address social issues like homelessness, housing affordability, unequal mobility, unsafe streets, environmental injustice, and social exclusion?

The purpose of this course is to put a focus squarely on the social issues inherent to planning and development. Through readings, discussion, and an empirical research project, students will gain a foundation in urban social theories and key concepts. Students will learn how to identify, think through, and address competing planning priorities. Subjects of discussion and analysis include planning for ability, age, gender, and race and issues such as neighborhood identity and environmental justice.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Incorporate knowledge of different social theories and concepts in critically interpreting the urban planning process and be able to identify how planning and development does or does not account for differences in identity and the distinctive needs of different segments of the public.
2. Identify and describe variables such as...

Course Workload

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of fortyfive hours over the length of the course (normally 3 perunit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectat as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a feunit class, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week in addition to time spent in class and on scheduled tutorials or activities. Special projects or assignments may require additiwork for the course. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. For this class, you will have to undertake additional activities outside the class hours such as completing

Write a short memo on the topic of Social Infrastructure (drawing on Klinenberg) and how it relates to (a) connections, belonging, and resilient community on the one hand, and (b) displacement, dispossession and 'root shock' on the other (drawing on other relevant readings). With this in mind, to what extent is Social Infrastructure an operational concept for Urban Planning? Make sure to reference course readings. Also, you should refer to specific examples of social infrastructure wherever helpful to your discussion, but at the end you must also list three concrete examples of social infrastructure in San José, explaining briefly why they qualify as social infrastructure. Be sure to write clearly throughout and proofread your work before submitting the assignment. Undergraduate memos will be 2 pages, graduate memos will be 2 pages.

San José Social Infrastructure Group Project (Engagement Unit Assignment) 5/ 11 20% 1, 2, 3

In groups, students will conduct fieldwork and draw upon their own local knowledge and connections to identify and analyze social infrastructure in one part of San José. This includes community based organizations, arts and cultural activities, and both formal and informal instances/sites of local solidarity, identity, social life, cultural production, and resilience. Students will catalog and categorize each case, and provide a description and geolocation coordinates for each. Each group will present its findings on the last day of regular class. Presentations must include discussion of the research and findings, a comprehensive map, and some discussion of the implications of the findings (including how local infrastructure might be strengthened, as well as what threats it may face).

Community Communication (Engagement Unit Assignment)

One of the biggest challenges in seeking more authentic and successful community engagement in urban planning is that planners and community members often talk past each other. Community members may not possess the specialized knowledge and vocabulary that allow them to interpret planning and design documents or communicate their own priorities and concerns effectively. Planners must do better at meeting communities where they are and communicating difficult issues in language that is understandable, relevant, and sensitive to local concerns. For this assignment, students must select a key social issue discussed in this class and create a 3 page briefing that communicates about this issue to a general audience. If relevant and helpful, choose a particular site / community where this

table (so, put yourself in both of those audience's shoes and write what you'd want to see!). Especially be sure to: define key terms, provide useful examples, context and framing (where has this gone wrong in the past? where has it been effectively addressed?), include illustrations as necessary, and suggest next steps. Key references from course readings (and beyond) should be cited in footnotes. Papers should (for graduate students: must) contain some original thoughts about the processes at work and addressing local concerns. Undergraduate briefs will be 2 pages, graduate student briefs will be 4 pages.

Detailed instructions for each assignment will be discussed and distributed in class, and posted as necessary on the course Canvas website. Different expectations for undergraduate students as opposed to graduate students will be explained in detail.

Final Examination or Evaluation

This course is evaluated through multiple assignments worth a total of 50% of the final grade. (a) 0.5 (m)

Plagiarism and Citing Sources Properly

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense both in the university and in your professional work. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas and by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In severe cases, students may also fail the course or even be expelled from the university.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in draft or final work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some common examples of plagiarism th cr9TE 6

5

No.	Date	Topic, Reading and Assignments
9	3/23	<p>Overview of Final Projects Guest Speaker</p> <p>Teams, Expectations, Research Preparation</p> <p><u>ASSIGNMENT DUE</u> Social Infrastructure Memo</p>
3/ 30		<p><i>SJSU Spring Break</i>No Class</p> <p>This week, in addition to keeping up on the readings for next week (next week), get a jump on your two final projects. This means: (a) meet with your team and begin work on your Social Infrastructure Audit; (b) take a break from readings on community participation and engagement from next week and begin thinking about your Community Communication project as well.</p> <p><u>Other useful sites</u></p> <p>Social Explorer website: https://www.socialexplorer.com (look at some data for a neighborhood that interests you)</p> <p>Anti-Eviction Mapping Project website: https://www.antievictionmap.com/</p>
10	4/ 6	<p>Disaster and Planning Guest Speaker</p> <p>Robert B. Olshansky (2018) "Recovery After Disasters: How Adaptation to Climate</p>

No.	Date	Topic, Reading and Assignments
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13	4/27	Advocacy, Participation, and Protest II
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Gordon Douglas (2018) "Ch. 7 Conclusions" (pp.187) in *The Help Yourself City: Legitimacy and Inequality in Davis* eBook via library https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01CAL5_ALMA71484436070002901&context=L&vid=01CAL5_SJO&search_scope=EVERYTHING&tab=everything&lang=en_US

Matthias Gafni (2020). "Volunteers Create Unapproved Tiny Home Development on Oakland Median," *The San Francisco Chronicle*

<http://www.sfgate.com/real-estate/article/Volunteers-build-tiny-home-on-oakland-13672540.html>