

Fall 2015

MURP 4005

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University of New Orleans

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COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts and practice of modern neighborhood planning. The primary focus will be on urban neighborhoods with a special focus on New Orleans, LA. Through required readings and discussion, this course will: Increase student's knowledge and understanding of neighborhoods; Expose students to current neighborhood planning activities; Provide students with an opportunity to learn more about their own neighborhoods; Describe the neighborhood planning process, principles and goals; Discuss the challenges, constraints and opportunities in neighborhood planning through discussion board reflection, synchronous class discussions and through analysis provided in a final project report.

The course will cover such topics as:

- the definition and importance of neighborhoods;
- the relationship between neighborhood and community;
- the difference between urban planning and neighborhood planning;
- the neighborhood planning process;
- community asset mapping;
- using technology to evaluate neighborhood conditions;
- community capacity building for implementing a neighborhood plan;
- neighborhood planning activities in New Orleans today.

REQUIRED READINGS

"Neighborhood Planning: A Guide for Citizens and Planners" by Bernie Jones, Planners Press, 1990. ISBN: 0-918286-67-0

"Super Neighborhood Plan Workbook" by City of Abilene (TX) 2004. *Moodle handout.*
<http://www.abilenetx.com/ONS/doc/PlanWorkbook.pdf>

There will be additional articles assigned, and provided, by the instructor that are noted in the syllabus below. **Readings must be completed during the week assigned.**

COURSE FORMAT, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The course will consist of a combination of readings in the required text, provided by the instructor, class online discussion on *Moodle*, real time/synchronous chat sessions and a field assignment in a neighborhood including a photographic essay. Assignments must be received before **6pmCST** the day due or they will be considered late. **A penalty of ten (10) points per day will be charged to all papers submitted after the due date/time for any reason.**

Grade Point Distribution (100%):

Class participation & Assignments:	30%
Mid-term:	30%
Final report/exam:	40%

Grading System:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

CLASS PARTICIPATION, ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

- **Assignment 0:**
 - update your online *Moodle* **student profile** with your photograph where only your head can be seen clearly;
 - introduce yourself to the class using the appropriate *Moodle* **discussion board**.

(due Thursday, 20 Aug by 6pmCST)
- **Assignment 1:**

In the *Moodle* **discussion board**,

Part A: make a comment and suggest any other **study tips** for completing online courses successfully. Review the following articles:

 - 10 Commandments of Successful Online Learning
<http://www.aceonlineschools.com/10-commandments-of-successful-online-learning/>
 - How to Balance Online Classes with Working Full Time
<http://www.aceonlineschools.com/how-to-balance-online-classes-with-working-full-time/>

Part B: write a statement that you have read, understand and will comply with the **student honesty policy** in the appropriate *Moodle* **discussion board**.

(due Friday, 21 Aug by 6pmCST)
- **Assignment 2:**
 - identify City, neighborhood name, district and city planning URL/website link
 - in a memorandum format, post this information in the *Moodle* **assignments**
 - *Approval of neighborhood required by Professor before initiating Assignment 3

(due Friday, 28 Aug by 6pmCST)

MURP 4005 Introduction to Neighborhood Planning

Fall 2015 (online)

MOODLE DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Using the readings from Jones and Abilene, how and why should neighborhood planning be a democratic process? Write your answer in the *Moodle discussion board*.

(due Tuesday/1 September by 6pmCST)

ONLINE MOODLE CHAT:

Agenda: Syllabus review, course questions, reading reflection, Assignments 0, 1, 2 & 3 discussion

Click on the chat bubble link to enter the chat session on Weds/2 September from 7-8pmCST.

- **Assignment 3:**
 - preliminary Neighborhood Profile outline using assignment instructions & *Technical Memorandum format*
 - submit in Moodle *assignments*

(due Wednesday, 9 September)

ONLINE MOODLE CHAT:

Agenda: Course questions, Reading reflection, Assignment 3 discussion

Click on the chat bubble link to enter the chat session on Weds/23 September from 7-8pmCST.

- **Midterm essay:**
 - Neighborhood profile with expanded research & response to Professor feedback from Assignment 3

(due Wednesday, 7 October)

- **Assignment 4:**
 - Review and reflection on the neighborhood asset *survey & report* **which includes a "selfie" photographic essay documenting neighborhood conditions and assets.**

(due Wednesday, 21 October)

- **Assignment 5:**
 - Review and reflection on the Municipal neighborhood *meeting experience* using evaluation criteria

(due Wednesday, 18 November)

MOODLE DISCUSSION TOPIC:

In no more than a paragraph, and using highlights from Assignment 5, briefly describe your *neighborhood meeting experience*. Write your answer in the *Moodle discussion board*.

(due Tuesday/17 November by 6pmCST)

ONLINE MOODLE CHAT:

Agenda: Course questions, Reading reflection, Midterm feedback, Assignments 4 & 5 discussion, Final report

Click on the chat bubble link to enter the chat session on Weds/18 November from 7-8pmCST.

- **Final report exam:**
-profile of your neighborhood using combined assignment reports, feedback, readings and additional research materials.
(due **Monday – 7 December by 6pmCST**)

Note: Students *must* complete the online course evaluation at the end of the semester.

Class Schedule:

Week of 19 August

Course Welcome, Review Syllabus & put Assignment due dates in your calendar

The course welcome will include a notice of Moodle access, date of syllabus posting which outlines the requirements, expectations and grading policy.

Review and post any questions in Week 1 discussion board.

Week of 26 August

What is Neighborhood Planning?

Reading

"Principles of Neighborhood Planning for Community Development" by Center for Neighborhood Development: Susan H. Burkholder, Mark Chupp, Philip Star (Moodle handout)

Week of 2 September

Principles of Neighborhood Planning; A Word of Inspiration; How to use this Guide, Chapter 1 An Introduction to Neighborhood Planning

Jones: pp. 1-10; Abilene: 4-14

Week of 9 September

Democratic Neighborhood Planning; Steps in Neighborhood Planning; Organizing a Neighborhood Planning Team, Developing an Outreach Strategy, Newsletter

Jones: pp. 11-38; Abilene: 17-24

Week of 16 September

Substance of the Plan; Collecting Information; Understanding Background Data, Conducting a Survey

Jones: pp. 39-70; Abilene: 27-31

Week of 23 September

Making Sense of the Information; Pinpointing Issues; Setting Goals; Putting Your Plan Together; Figuring Out How to Implement Your Plan; Parts of a Neighborhood Plan

Jones: 71-100; Abilene: 31-35

***Students receive Midterm assignment instructions; use Jones 101 as a minimum table of contents.**

Week of 30 September

After the Planning; Watching over Plan Implementation

Jones: 101-106

Begin scheduling of *Neighborhood Site Visit* (on your own)

Week of 7 October

MidTerm Due on 7 October (instructions provided during the week of 23 September)

Week of 14 October

Holding a Workshop; Organizing; Community asset mapping

Abilene: 36-38 Note: cite "Evaluation" in community meeting experience assignment.

"*Building Communities from the Inside Out*" by John P. Kretzman (Moodle handout)

<http://rally-foundation.org/projects/neighborhood-info-initiatives/resources/Community%20indicator%20Measurements/BuildingCommunitiesInsideOut.pdf>

Week of 21 October

Public Participation Geographic Information Systems in Neighborhood Planning; Balloting the Neighborhood, Neighborhood Plan Review and Adoption

Michelle M. Thompson and Brian Baldwin, "*GIS Gives Residents the Tools to Map Their Own Parcels: The Beacon of Hope Resource Center Maps the "New" New Orleans*," <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/spring10articles/the-beacon-of-hope.html>

Abilene: 39 - 41

Week of 28 October

Implementation Strategy; Community Organizing and Collaboratives, Partnerships, Organizational Networks: Theory of Change

Abilene: 42-43

"*Building Hope: Theory of Change*" by Genesis Hope Community Development Corporation

<http://www.genesishope.org/wp-content/uploads/GenesisHOPE%20-%20Building%20Community%20Theory%20of%20Change.pdf>

Week of 4 November

Community Capacity- Definitional Framework and Leadership Development

"*Defining Community Capacity: A Framework and Implications from a Comprehensive Community Initiative*" by Robert J. Chaskin (Moodle handout)

http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/old_reports/41.pdf

Week of 11 November

Neighborhood Participation

City of NOLA (Moodle handout)

<http://www.nola.gov/RESIDENTS/City-Planning/Neighborhood-Participation-Program/>

Week of 18 November

Doing Planning for Grassroots Neighborhood Development using technology

"*The City of New Orleans Blight Fight: Using GIS Technology to Integrate Local Knowledge*" by Michelle M. Thompson;

http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1111&context=michelle_m_thompson

Week of 25 November

Expanded Project Research using midterm feedback, readings, and secondary source research.

Week of 2 December

Project Research analysis, draft and editing

*Online course evaluation

Final Report Exam: Monday – 7 December by 6pmCST

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University Of New Orleans Code Of Academic Integrity. Although students should work together labs, in particular asking specific

MURP 4005 Introduction to Neighborhood Planning

Fall 2015 (online)

technical questions, any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Please cite all work that you rely on to write your papers. Direct quotations of other work should be enclosed with quotation marks, with a citation afterward that contains the page number of the work where available. When you rely substantially on another person's work without quoting from it directly, please use in-text citations at the end of an appropriate section. Failure to provide complete and proper citations may constitute plagiarism, which violates the University Of New Orleans Code Of Academic Integrity. If detected, plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the course. *All students must acknowledge receipt and understanding of the course student honesty policy.*

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION

In accordance with the University of New Orleans policy and equal access laws, please discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.

COURSE INCOMPLETE

It is the policy of this Professor to not approve any course incompletes. The Professor will work closely with the students to identify ways to complete work with advance notice of incomplete or no work assignments submitted. However, due to illness or demonstrated emergency and with sound reason and documented evidence, the final or any assignments due on the last week of the term can be extended up to 30 days past the course. Students unable for similar reasons to complete these assignments (including the final project), or whose extenuating circumstances do not allow them to finish the assignments within a 30-day extension period, may request to be given an "I" (Incomplete) for that grading period. Students must submit the request for the incomplete, with appropriate documentation, through the procedure determined by the Department. Before it is submitted to the Department, the instructor must review and sign the request for the incomplete indicating whether the Incomplete was approved or denied. For a student to receive an incomplete, he or she must be passing the course and must have completed a significant portion of the course as determined by the instructor. If the student does not complete the required work in the time specified, the outstanding work will receive an 'F' and will be calculated in with the earned-to-date grade.

EMAIL & CLASS COMMUNICATIONS

The UNO email account is required to receive communications for this class. There will be additional 'Class Notes' via email, responses to general course questions on the Discussion Board. If you wish to ask me a personal question, feel free to email me: mmthomp1@uno.edu. All course and content-related questions *must* be posted on the discussion board. Other students may benefit from your questions and my responses.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

Purpose: To reaffirm the University's policy against sexual harassment in any and all areas of the University environment. Harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Additionally, sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University. It is necessary, therefore, to prohibit such behavior to protect both the individuals involved and the University.

General Policy: Sexual harassment is unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment is a violation of state and federal law. Sexual harassment has a negative impact on the functioning of the University. Consequently, all member of the University community must be sensitive to the possibility of sexual harassment whether intended or inadvertent. Individuals must recognize this potential and act to prevent it. When sexual harassment has occurred, the University shall take effective and expeditious action.

Individuals in supervisory positions must be aware of their role as agents of the University and shall make every effort to censure such behavior when it occurs. Any member of the University community who is informed of a possible incident of sexual harassment shall make the informer aware of the existence of the University's policy and procedures.

All members of the University community must learn to recognize sexual harassment when it occurs and should be aware of the policy and procedures which govern the handling of allegations of sexual harassment fairly and expeditiously. Since those who may be subjected to sexual harassment may experience disruption in their work or academic environment and may fear retaliation and public notoriety, investigative procedures must protect their privacy as much as possible.

The University's Sexual Harassment Policy is available online via the UNO webpage (www.uno.edu).

DISCRIMINATION

The University of New Orleans is a multicultural community composed of diverse students, faculty, and staff. A fundamental principle of the University of New Orleans is that there be an environment of mutual tolerance and respect, which is free of hostility toward, discrimination against, or harassment of any person based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, or any other status protected by law. Every member of the university community is held strictly accountable for his or her behavior with regard to this standard. The Policy is available online via the UNO webpage (www.uno.edu).