

GEOGRAPHY 485
Senior Project
Fall, 2011
(TBA, Gunter Hall 101)

Catalog Description:

GEOG 485. Senior Project. 1 cr.

Capstone project in Urban and Regional Planning. Completion of independent planning project with public presentation of findings. Graded P/F. Every semester. Prerequisite: Co-registration in GEOG 421 or GEOG 450.

Institutional Learning Goals in this Course:

1. Liberal Knowledge and Skills of Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Synthesis: In this course, students will utilize empirical data, develop a problem solution, and prepare a persuasive written proposal for action as appropriate.
2. Core Skills: While mastering the content oriented objectives below, students will also find improvement in their written, oral, and cartographic communication skills. Students will also examine statistical tables and be asked to draw conclusions from them. Problem solving skills will be addressed in role playing situations, through evaluation of government policies, and in examining theoretical work of selected planners. Students will make a formal oral presentation of their work.
3. Acquisition and Application of Specialized Knowledge: Students will integrate key concepts and foundation knowledge needed in contemporary planning practice.
4. Values and Social Responsibility: Students will be frequently confronted with the alternative value systems. Implications for decision making within culturally diverse regions will be developed.
5. Appreciation of Cultural Identities: This course serves to assist students in dealing with local cultural diversity through the approach of contemporary planning and community development.

Objectives: This course provides an opportunity to complete a major planning project from identification of the problem to presentation of recommendations for action in a professional format.

Instructor:

Dr. H. W. Bullamore
234 Gunter Hall, 687-4413
Office Hours: 9-10 MWF, 1-2 TT or by appointment
Email: hbullamore@frostburg.edu

Text: Natalie Macris. Planning in Plain English. Chicago: American Planning Association.

Students will utilize public and private sources as appropriate.

Evaluation: This course is graded Pass or Fail. To pass the course students must demonstrate a level of professional accomplishment similar to that expected in the workplace. The scoring rubric is attached. Three elements are described as fundamental, and must be completed to pass: Original research, Legal and ethical review, and presentation deadlines. An additional ten Advanced Elements are used to comprehensively evaluate the project and its presentation. To pass the course, at least nine of the Advanced Elements must be rated as satisfactory or excellent, with at least 3 of the elements rated as excellent. In the planning profession, most real world projects have some weakness, so some balancing is expected in the Advanced Elements.

Policies: Students are expected to attend each class. Academic honesty is expected in all matters relating to this course. Please consult the Pathfinder. Academic dishonesty will lead to course failure. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in class. Please consult the Pathfinder. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off or set to silent during class to avoid disrupting class.

Class schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading
Part I: Project Development		
Week 1	Discussion of Topics	
Week 2	Report Expectations	on-line sources
Week 3	Critique of Project Ideas Meet with Instructor (Sept 19-23)	
Week 4	Sources of Information	
Week 5	"Task Assignment"	Marcis, Chp 1
Part II: Project Analysis		
Week 6	Literature Review Meet with Instructor (Oct 10-14)	(project specific)
Week 7	Baseline documentation	
Week 8	Project Context and mapping	
Week 9	Alternatives and Recommendation	Marcis, Chp 2

Part II: Report Preparation

Week 10	Guidelines and expectations for report Meet with Instructor (Nov 14-18)	Marcis, Chp 3
Week 11	Editing and Revision (Includes Thanksgiving Break)	Marcis, Chp 4
Week 12	Self-critique	
Part IV: Report Submission and Presentation		
Week 13	Formal Public Presentation (Dec 5-9)	(invitations to public)
Week 14	Revision	
Final Exam Week	Submission of Final Report	

**Scoring Rubric
GEOG 485**

Student Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Date: _____

Fundamental Elements:

(All three Fundamental Elements must be rated "Expectations Met")

Element	Expectations not Meet	Expectations Met
Original Research		
Recommendation is legal And consistent with AICP Code of Ethics		
Presented in oral and written form on time		

Advanced Elements:

(Nine of the Advanced Elements must be rated Satisfactory or Excellent, and at least three Advanced Elements must be rated Excellent)

Element	Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Excellent
Problem clearly stated			
Similar cases identified in the literature			
Evidence of consideration of alternative approaches			
Recommendation is positive, and action oriented			
Implementation plan and schedule presented			
Project effectiveness can be evaluated			
Social equity issues considered			
Oral presentation is effective, including response to questions			
Graphic material illustrates case, and show technological fluency			
Written report is complete and professional			