**Land Use and Conservation**

**Fall 2020 (CRN: 45402; LAND 31386-01)**

**Meeting Time : 6:30pm – 9:15 pm Tuesday**, Canvas **Conference**

**Instructor :**  Suzanne McCarthy

**Web Page**  **:** http:// /rowan.com/

**Email :** [mccarthy@rowan.edu](mailto:mccarthy@rowan.edu)

**Phone & texting:** 908-400-0982

**Office Hours :** Tuesday 5:00 to 6:00 online, and by appointment

**Required Text:** Platt, Rutherford H. (2014) *Land Use and Society: Geography, Law, and Public Policy*. Third Edition. (Washington, DC: Island Press). Ebook version is available at[**https://islandpress.org/books/land-use-**](https://islandpress.org/books/land-use-)**and-society-third-edition**

**Course Overview**

This class will cover the theory, policy and practice of land use, land planning, and land conservation in the United States and New Jersey. We begin with a survey of land tenure and use concepts, legal aspects of land use and land protection, urban and land use history, public sector planning principles and practices, land use management at regional, state, and federal levels, and federal environmental initiatives, using a text written by a geographer/lawyer (Platt). The course also explores various avenues for land conservation and open space preservation such as governmental and non-governmental mechanisms, market approaches (TDR), and easements and trusts. We will take a look at the issues of "sprawl," identify the driving forces and patterns of modern American land development, and explore the role of government regulation, markets, and personal behavior in land use outcomes.

Class Participation: This grade includes in-class assignments including presentations, discussions, group projects, and attendance.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of this course, a student will be able to

* Evaluate how land use trends and patterns have evolved and how they affect current land use in the U.S. and NJ
* Identify how current land use decisions are made in the U.S. and NJ and by whom
* Evaluate the benefits or costs arising from specific polices and practices/ways of using land and water
* Compare key legal decisions and legislation that affect control of land use in the U.S.
* Compare ways in which land and other resources can be protected and the benefits/costs of each method
* Work collaboratively to create a plan for the development of a municipal park, to gain experience with basic urban planning steps and resources. Present to instructor and other groups.
* Individually design two short presentations for other students in class: one on an aspect of land use history and one summarizing the final paper
* Formulate arguments and information on how we can better manage the use of land and other resources to promote the general welfare in a sustainable manner, through a final research paper.

**Canvas**

Canvas will be the Learning Management System used. All class presentations and handouts will also be available on Canvas within two days of a class or distribution:

**Class:** There will be a synchronous online conference each week during class time. Discussion will occur during class and also online with required postings. Students will be called on in class.

**Lectures:** Short online lectures will be available for mandatory viewing but at the student’s chosen time

**Assignments:** All will be posted on Canvas and submitted through Canvas.

**Group project:** The class will be divided into three groups of either 3 or 4 individuals to carry out a park planning project and present their final plans online

**Final Project Paper:** You will choose a topic for a term paper, and prepare a class presentation. This term project may be a traditional research paper or might be more akin to a planning report, a plan, or a consultant’s report. The latter allows those heading into planning as a profession to add to their portfolio. We’ll discuss these options in class.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all online conference classes and absence of more than 2 will impact your class participation grade. Please notify me by email or text if you will be absent.

**Grading:** Your educational goals should be to develop an understanding of the conceptual and practical aspects of land use, its analysis and planning, so that, with just a few more focused classes and your other course-work and experience, you could reasonably offer yourself on the job market as an entry-level land use planner, as a professional with land use analysis skills, or go on to more academic study of land resources.

Weighting of Grades by Category

* Quizzes & assignments 10%
* Two in-class exams 15% each = 30% total
* Planning project 15%
* Class presentations 10%
* Class participation 10%
* Your term project 25%

**Grading scale:** 93-100=A 87-89=B+ 77-79=C+ 67-69=D+ <60=fail

90-92=A- 83-86=B 73-76=C 63-66=D

80-82=B- 70-72=C- 60-62=D-

**Special Needs:** Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact on your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations.

**Rowan Success Network**

The Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish® is designed to make it easier for you to connect with the resources you need to be successful at Rowan. Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. Utilize the scheduling tools to make appointments at your convenience including tutoring. Additional information about RSN may be found at [www.rowan.edu/rsn](http://www.rowan.edu/rsn).

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. According to Rowan University policy, students committing any act of academic dishonesty may fail the course, be suspended from the university, or both. In order to avoid plagiarism, students should provide appropriate documentation whenever quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or otherwise using the language or ideas of others.

Rowan’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at <http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/documents/2011_AcadInteg_policy.pdf>

**LAND USE AND CONSERVATION**

**Fall 2020 Curriculum**

**Online Instruction**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** |  | **Topic/Reading Assignment** |
| 1 A | 9/1 | Course Intro: Syllabus |
| B |  | Planning assignment; Video – *What is Land?* |
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| 2 A | 9/8 | Intro & Land Use and Society (Chapt. 1) |
| B |  | Shaping the Human Landscape: Interaction of Geography and Law (Chapt 2) |
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| 3 A | 9/15 | Historical Roots (Chapt. 3) – Student presentations |
| B |  | Building a Metropolitan Nation: 1900-1940 (Chapt. 4) – Student presentations |
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| 4 A | 9/22 | Land Use Patterns in NJ - Speaker |
| B |  | The Polarized metropolis: 1945 – 2010 (Chapt. 5) |
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| 5A | 9/29 | Planning your project and writing a paper |
| B |  | Exam Study Guide Review |
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| 6 A | 10/6 | EXAM 1 (Covers Chapters 1-5) |
| B |  | Property Rights: The Owner as Planner (Chapt. 6, part) |
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| 7 A | 10/13 | Chapt 6 – Surveys; |
| B |  | Chapt 7: The Patchwork of Local Governments [Municipalities]; |
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| 8 A | 10/20 | Regional Plans; New Jersey State Plan |
| B |  | Zoning, Regionalism, and Smart Growth (Chapt.8) |
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| 9 A | 10/27 | Presentation of group planning projects |
| B |  | Presentation of group planning projects |
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| 10A | 11/3 | Benefits of Open Space - Speaker |
| B |  | Land Use and the Courts (Chapt. 9) |
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| 11A | 11/10 | Congress and the Metropolitan Environment (Chapt. 10) |
| B |  | Exam Study Guide review |
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| 12 A | 11/17 | EXAM 2 (covers Chapters 6 – 10) |
| B |  | Review project paper rubric |
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| 13 A | 11/24 | Conservation methods including Conservation Design |
| B |  | Conservation Design activity;  Submit draft papers for review (optional) |
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| 14 A | 12/1 | Student Presentations; final paper due |
| B |  | Student Presentations |
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| 15 A | 12/8 | Student Presentations |
| B |  | Student Presentations |
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