

**CRP 722: Introduction to Analysis & Use of Environmental Factors in C&RP**

Thursdays, 8:00am-10:20am

177 Knowlton Hall

Maria Manta Conroy (292-8044, Conroy.36@osu.edu, 225 Knowlton Hall)

Office Hours: As posted or by appointment

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course has been designed as an introduction to the incorporation of environmental considerations into land use planning and policy making. Upon completion of this course students should be able to analyze environmentally related planning problems not requiring in-depth environmental expertise and recognize when such expertise is necessary. There are four main objectives of the course:

- To familiarize students with the ethical and policy frameworks within which planners consider environmental factors;
- To provide a foundation upon which students can critically evaluate plans and environmental impact statements for their overall completeness;
- To develop an understanding of the requirements for incorporating environmental factors into the planning process as well as methods of environmental impact assessment; and
- To build upon students' analytical writing and presentation experience.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The course includes theoretical and practical components in an effort to provide students with the skills needed to critically evaluate environmental factors in the planning process. The class is generally organized into two sections: policies and practices. Policy related material covers roughly the first half of the course and the book, with practice oriented classes making up the remainder. The course is an introductory level offering. Therefore, we address a greater variety of concepts than we are able to discuss in depth. There will be some overlap and some repetition, but hopefully this will help to solidify key concepts in your mind. There will be some overlap and some repetition, but hopefully this will help to solidify key concepts in your mind.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Here is the stuff that you want to really pay attention to, so wake up. This course will be taught in a lecture-discussion format. The main textbook for the class is Randolph, *Environmental Land Use Planning and Management*. It is available from the bookstore or from most online book sellers (e.g., varsitybooks.com, amazon.com). Throughout the course, there will be supplemental readings available for specific topics; readings will be distributed in class, put on reserve at the Architecture Library, or made available in the readings folder on Carmen.

Student performance will be evaluated through four (4) homework assignments (20% total – 5% each), term paper (25%), term paper presentation (5%), class participation (15%), and an exam (30%). Additionally, I reserve 5 discretionary points to allot based on overall course

performance, group evaluations as appropriate, effort, and other such elements that are less tangible and not graded. Anyone able to solve the U.S. environmental crisis gets an automatic A and is not required to show up for the remainder of the term; documentation of the solution is required. Homework assignments will be distributed (made available via Carmen) at least one week prior to their due date; assignment due dates are noted in the course schedule. Participation includes class attendance, in-class discussion, and Carmen online participation. Alternative participation options will be available for students wanting that option; *students must see me by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class to make alternative participation arrangements.* For the term paper, each student will be asked to choose a specific topic related to environmental factors in planning; students may also work in teams of 2 or 3. The paper must present an analysis of that topic which discusses materials presented in the lectures and readings. More information regarding the paper and presentation will be provided in a separate handout.

There will also be other opportunities throughout the quarter to contribute to the class and these contributions will count towards participation grade. Participation may be in a variety of forms, including answering questions, blurting out in the spirit of debate or quietly submitted to the professor in memo form via email, i.e. “Sylvester’s remarks were insightful/off-target for the following reasons...” or students can submit comments on the class website discussion board. Bringing in bagels and/or donuts never hurts. Groups will also have the opportunity to evaluate their members; this evaluation will figure into the discretionary points as noted above.

Transformation of numerical grade to letter grade will be according to the schedule summarized below:

A	93-100	C+	77-79.9
A-	90-92.9	C	73-76.9
B+	87-89.9	C-	70-72.9
B	83-86.9	D+	67-69.9
B-	80-82.9	D	60-66.9
E	< 60		

All grading will be done as fairly and as consistently as is reasonably possible. Late assignments will be docked 1 point if received later on the same day; 10% if received the following day; 25% if received 2 days later; and 50% if received 3 or more days late. *Assignments are considered late if I have not yet started to grade them.* You roll the dice and take your chances. All assignments are noted in the syllabus well in advance of the due date. Email submissions are expected if you are unable to attend class in person. In some cases there are extenuating circumstances that lead to a late assignment. In such cases, I will consider requests on a case-by-case basis.

Students wishing to appeal the grading of an assignment **must make the appeal in writing within 5 calendar days** after an assignment/exam is returned. In the case of a final grade, student **must make an appeal within 10 calendar days** of the start of the subsequent term.

## COURSE POLICIES

All students are held responsible for knowing and abiding by the Department's policies on plagiarism and the University's policies on academic misconduct. These have been distributed to all C&RP students. If you have not received a copy, please obtain one from the graduate studies office in Room 100 Knowlton Hall. Students are encouraged to share ideas in intellectual discussions relating to the class. However, any paper ***MUST*** include proper citations within the text and proper references/bibliographies at the end. ***This is a critical component of any scholarly writing effort as well as any effort that uses other sources of information. Violations fall under academic misconduct regulations and can result in dismissal from the program and the University.*** If you do not know proper citation procedures, contact the OSU Center for Study and Teaching of Writing (<http://www.cstw.ohio-state.edu/writingcenter.html>) or see me during office hours. ***ALL*** group members are held accountable for group papers suspected of plagiarism; amends or notification to me of the problem ***before*** the paper is turned in.

## ADA POLICY STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services at (614) 292-3307.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

This course will use Carmen to enhance instructor-student communication, as well as student-student communication; smoke signals have been dropped as a means of communication due to their potential adverse environmental impact. Course lectures, discussions, course calendar, and emails will be available through Carmen. To log onto the class Carmen website go to <http://carmen.osu.edu> and use the same username (e.g., conroy.36) and password you use to check your OSU e-mail and online grades.

The course website includes discussion boards for you and your classmates to discuss assignments, readings, and news stories. It also includes class assignments and the course syllabus. All PowerPoint lectures will be made available prior to the class (with the exception of the first lecture). All homework and participation assignments/grades will use Carmen. Class announcements and similar information will be made using Carmen so it is critical that you check the system regularly. Grades will be posted throughout the term using Carmen so that you may follow your progress.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

You will be held responsible for the content of all required readings. During the quarter, I may provide optional readings to enhance understanding of key topics; you are not responsible for the material in these optional readings. Readings not in the text will be on reserve at the Architecture Library (ARC) and/or in the online readings folder (online) on Carmen. Please note that the course schedule is subject to modification.

***We will NOT cover all the reading material in class! I will try to ensure the lectures and directed discussions address key points. However, if an interesting discussion develops I usually will not cut it off in order to finish a lecture. You are still responsible for the material and for asking questions on the readings as needed.***

- Jan 5            **Course Overview and Introduction**  
Key topics:    Environmental management; environmental planning; land use and the environment; environmental ethics  
  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 1-3  
                      Beatley, Timothy. 1989. Environmental Ethics and Planning Theory. *Journal of Planning Literature* 4(1): 1-32. (ARC)
- Jan 12           **People, Conservation, and Sustainability**  
Key topics:    Participation and collaboration; dispute resolution; conservation methods; sustainable development; smart growth; new urbanism  
  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 4-6
- Jan 19           **Local, Regional, State, & Federal Policy Setting**  
Key topics:    Smart growth; legislative framework (e.g., Clean Acts, NEPA)  
  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 7-8  
  
Other:          *Homework 1 due*
- Jan 26           **Natural Hazards**  
Key topics:    Coastal hazards; flooding hazards; risk assessment; hazards legislation  
  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapter 9  
  
Other:          Video: Flood! (60 minutes)
- Feb 2            **Watershed Planning, GIS Analysis**  
Key topics:    Watershed definition; watershed management; spatial data; GIS fundamentals; GIS applications  
  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 10-11  
  
Other:          *Homework 2 due*

- Feb 9            **Soils & Land Use**  
Key topics:    Soil characteristics; soil surveys; slope analysis; soil erosion and assessment.  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapter 12
- Feb 16           **Surface Water and Water Flow**  
Key topics:    Stream flows; water quality; stream assessment; stormwater management; riparian corridor protection  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 13-14  
Other:          *Homework 3 due*
- Feb 23           **Groundwater and Wetlands**  
Key topics:    Groundwater hydrology; groundwater recharge; wetland benefits; urban forestry; coastal ecology  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 15-16
- Mar 2            **Biodiversity and Integrated Analysis**  
Key topics:    Habitat characterization; habitat evaluation; biodiversity; endangered species; environmental inventory; rapid assessment; land capability; land suitability; carrying capacity; environmental impact assessment; build out analysis  
Readings:     Randolph, Chapters 17-18  
Other:          *Homework 4 due*
- Mar 9            ***Paper presentations\*\* schedule change may be needed***  
Key topics:    Course wrap-up  
Other:          *Papers due*
- Mar 16           **7:30am Final Exam (\*\*online scheduling probable\*\*)**