PLA 1101F -- ISSUES IN PLANNING HISTORY, THOUGHT, AND PRACTICE

Convenor/Instructor: Katharine Rankin (5041 SSH; 978-1592; rankin@geog.utoronto.ca)
Instructor: Mary MacDonald (CH2M HILL Canada; 416-499-9000; mmacdon@ch2m.com)

Meeting Time: Wednesdays, 12-3 pm (2125 SSH)

Description: This course introduces students to a set of important issues, questions and controversies that have figured prominently in the history of planning and that confront planners in contemporary practice. The objective is to give students a critical understanding of how the discipline of planning has evolved over time, the forces that have strengthened and weakened planners’ roles, the dilemmas (political, ethical, moral, logistical and other) that planners must resolve in their day-to-day practice, and the key contradictions that animate their work. Prominent among these are: the role and legitimacy of planners as a professional class; the relationship between planning, the market and the state; social diversity (race, gender, class, and so on); planning for sustainability; forms of power utilized by planners as well as the constraints under which they operate; competing justifications for planning in capitalist societies; ethical pitfalls of planning practice; and environmental justice.

The course focuses on critical histories and theories of planning as they relate to contemporary professional practice. We will bring traditions in philosophy, social theory and policy analysis to bear on questions about planning institutions, contexts, and ethics. By debating major intellectual movements in relation to professional practice, we hope to bridge the imagined gap between theory and practice—to recognize how practice is informed by theory and how theory emerges from practice. From readings, guest speakers, class discussions and a workshop on participation, students will learn to view their own professional experience from different theoretical vantage points and to develop clear normative frameworks for planning action.

Evaluation of Students: The anticipated work schedule is as follows:

- Assignment 1  (Environmental Issues) distributed Sept. 29; due Oct. 15 [Fri] [20%]
- Assignment 2  (Planning ethics) distributed Oct. 27; due Nov. 12 [Fri] [20%]
- Major Paper Distributed Sept. 22; due Dec 10 [Fri] [45%]
- Class participation [15%]

There will be no final exam. The portion of your final grade dedicated to class participation reflects the considerable importance that the instructors place on the accompanying readings and student involvement in class discussions/workshop.
SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE

1. Introduction (Sept. 15) [Rankin and MacDonald]


Film: Holding Ground

2. The Making of a Field (Sept. 22) [The origins and breadth of modern city planning] [Rankin]


3. Planning for Sustainability: Central Concepts and Issues (Sept. 29) [MacDonald]


Guest speaker: John Schaffter, City of Toronto

4. Markets, Planning, and Democracy [Why do we need planning?] (Oct. 6) [Rankin]


Scarborough affordable housing case:
  Briefing Note on Former Scarborough Corridor Lands, Ward 44, 13 April 2004

5. Nature in the Metropolis (Oct. 13) [MacDonald]


  John Wiley & Sons pp. 3-22

  pp. 728-729.


  Guest speaker: Doug Pollard, Canadian Federation of Municipalities

  ASSIGNMENT 1 due Oct. 15 [Fri]

6. Planning as Advocacy and Social Transformation [Advocacy planning, equity planning and
  radical planning] (Oct. 20) [Rankin]

  Theory, pp. 277-296.


  the American Planning Association 48(2): 163-83.

  Development,” Planners Network 117.

  Guest speaker: Maureen Fair, St. Christopher House

7. Planning as Practical Communicative Action [Politics of information] (Oct. 27) [Rankin]

  Forester, J. (1989) "Planning in the face of power", in Planning in the Face of Power. Berkeley:
  University of California Press, pp. 27-47.


Guest speaker: Glen Murray, Principal, The Murray Group and former Mayor of Winnipeg

8. Ethical Issues in Planning (Nov 3) [Rankin]

Canadian Institute of Planners’ Statement of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, and Planners Network statement of professional responsibility


Guest speaker: Peter Walker, Principal, Walker, Nott, Dragicevic Associates, Ltd. & Chair of Ethics Committee, Canadian Institute of Planners

9. Planning Others [Difference and the politics of identity] (Nov. 10) [Rankin]


Guest speaker: Minelle Mahtani, University of Toronto, Geography

ASSIGNMENT 2 due Nov. 12 [Fri]

10. Workshop [facilitating participation] (Nov 17) [Rankin]


**Guest speaker:** Paul Bedford, urban mentor and former Director of Planning, City of Toronto  
*NB: This will be an evening talk and discussion at a time agreed upon by the class.

11. Opportunities and Constraints in Planning Institutions (Nov. 24) [MacDonald]


12. Environmental Justice (Dec. 1) [MacDonald]


**Guest speaker:** Beth Savan, University of Toronto, Innis College

13. Planning Re-evaluated (Dec. 8) [MacDonald and Rankin]


**MAJOR PAPER due Dec. 10 [Fri]**