

School of City & Regional Planning  
College of Design  
Georgia Institute of Technology

CP 4020 Intro to Urban and Regional Planning  
Fall 2017  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:10am-11:00am  
College of Business, 223

**Instructor**

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**Office Hours**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30pm, or by appointment  
Architecture East, Room 009, (basement)

**Course Description**

This course will help you understand how planning affects your profession and life. We will explore how cities are designed. We will address the reasons why some cities are sustained and others decline. The class will also present who plans, sets policy and manages our cities. This class will describe how planning influences the design and development of human settlements. We will explore planning theory, research and practice and try to understand how planners, working with and for government, developers, and citizens, control and influence development.

You will likely interact with planners in your career and personal lives. The mere act of inhabiting a city means that you will benefit from work done by planners. If you buy a home, operate a business or build anything, you will interact with planners. Roads, bridges, transit, airports, buildings, water, energy, and health in our built environment are regulated by planners. Land use, zoning codes, permitting, environmental regulations, and land policies are determined by planners. Professions including architecture, engineering, law, public policy, economic development, business, environmental management, and building construction work with planners on a daily basis. We will begin to understand how planning theory and practice guide and influence these aspects of daily life for citizens and professionals. It is immensely important that that we devise better ways to improve the standard of living and sustainability of places.

This course is a part of Georgia Tech's Serve-Learn-Sustain (SLS) initiative, which provides students with opportunities to combine their academic and career interests with their desire to make worthwhile contributions to the world and build sustainable communities where people and nature thrive, in Georgia, the United States, and around the globe. More information about SLS can be found at [www.serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu](http://www.serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu). Visit the website to sign up for the SLS email list, view the full list of affiliated courses and projects, and find links to SLS social media.



## Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe historical antecedents to city planning;
2. Analyze different methods and tools used to engage the public;
3. Explain connections between land use, transportation, environment, economic and social systems;
4. Identify and explain perspectives on planning policies; and
5. Defend planning policies based on your own understanding of their ethical implications, methods of public participation, sustainability implications, and substantive benefits to the community.

## Couse Requirements

To succeed in this class you will be expected to attend a majority of the lectures, contribute to in-class discussion, present new material to your peers, and provide thoughtful written commentary on assigned readings and class discussions. You must demonstrate significant effort across all of the categories shown below to pass this class. (For example, you should not assume that you can skip class and still pass this class, despite participation only accounting for 15% of your grade). If you have questions about what it means to demonstrate significant effort across all categories, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

The grading breakdown is shown below:

Category	Weight
Participation	15%
Attendance	
Quizzes	
Participation	
Reading Responses	15%
Atlanta Dream House	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Group Projects	30%
Local Streets	
NPU	
MARTA to Mall	

*Class participation and attendance: 15%*

Class participation score is made up of three components:

- (1) Attendance: A pre-requisite to participating is showing up. Attendance is taken. You may miss up to 5 classes without penalty. Institute excused absences should be communicated at least 48 hours ahead of time, via email, to the instructor.
- (2) Quizzes: quizzes will be used to understand what concepts require additional clarification and will allow you to demonstrate progression through the material. By taking a quiz you have

demonstrated that you are present in class and the extent to which you have understood the reading assigned for that day as well as prior discussions. Quizzes will be announced and shown on the course schedule.

- (3) Class Participation: commentary and questions that contribute to the in-class discussion and demonstrate thoughtful consideration of assigned readings will make up the remaining portion of your participation grade. This commentary can be provided verbally or through written in class exercises, as assigned.

A midterm grade for your participation will be recorded on T-square. Please note that you could attend every class in the semester and still not receive an A for participation. I do my best to capture your participation fairly and accurately.

*Reading Responses: 15%*

In order to facilitate participation, you will be required to respond to readings. Your perceptions and ability to discuss the readings are important to the success of class discussion. You are expected to complete the readings, as shown in the updated schedule, prior to the beginning of class. Your reading responses should be submitted by Friday of that week at midnight. They will be submitted to an open assignment on T-square and file name should read "Week #X\_LastName." Reading Responses will be graded out of 2 points.

- 0 points: not turned in
- 1 point: turned in, but missing substantial information, incomplete
- 2 points: turned in, complete, and well-done

To receive partial credit, late reading notes must be uploaded prior to class the following Monday (by 10am).

*Atlanta Dream House: 10%*

Find your Atlanta Dream House on 3 Budgets: 1) Unlimited, 2) \$30,000 per year (housing costs no more than 33% of Budget), and 3) Section 8 Voucher.

For each house/apartment/condo/townhome, report its walk score, zoning classification, and provide a photo of house/unit. Also, compare this house to where you grew up, in terms of zoning and Walkscore, and the neighborhood. Prepare a summary of your findings with images. Use tables, charts, and figures. Text should not exceed 500 words. Pick a friend in the class and, prior to the deadline, review each other's choices. Provide feedback to one another. As part of your assignment submission, share the feedback you provided your partner and include a reflection on the differences between the housing options each of you picked. This should be uploaded to the assignment on T-square by the deadline, as shown in the course schedule.

*Midterm Exam: 15%*

The midterm will be an in-class test regarding the topics discussed in class. It will be a combination of short answer questions and multiple choice. We will have one in-class review session prior to the exam.

*Final Exam: 15%*

The final is a take home test that will include short answer questions.

### *Group Projects 30%*

You have been divided into teams—as a team you will be required to complete three group assignments. These assignments and activities are detailed below and will be due according to the deadlines as shown in your updated course schedule. These should be uploaded to the relevant assignment on T-square.

#### Team Assignment 1, Local Streets

Your team will be assigned a street in greater Atlanta. Your group will prepare a report no longer than 3,000 words on that street’s history from 1900 through present-day. You may include a visual appendix of up to 2 pages, and citations do not count against the word count. Take inspiration from this project: <http://www.greenestreet.nyc/>. Also prepare a PowerPoint slide deck, summarizing your findings.

To complete this assignment well, your group should walk and photograph area, research history, significant events, planning history, demographics, economic activity, and planning regulations and changes of the area.

The following streets may be researched:

Church Street, Marietta	Sycamore Street, Decatur
Carroll Street, Cabbage Town	Hemphill Ave, Atlanta
Centennial Olympic Park, Drive, Atlanta	Alabama Street, Atlanta
MLK Drive, SE, Atlanta	Auburn Ave, SE, Atlanta
Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, SE, Atlanta	15th Street NE, Atlanta
Fair Street SW, Atlanta	Freedom Parkway, Atlanta
Boulevard Ave, Atlanta	Ponce De Leon, Atlanta

#### Team Assignment 2, NPU Visits

Attend a Neighborhood Planning Unit meeting. Each group will be required to prepare a PowerPoint slide deck on your experience. Upload your PowerPoint (or similar visual aids) from and a 2 page executive summary of the meeting, agenda points, and reflections from the experience to the assignment on T-square, per the deadline shown in the course schedule.

#### Team Assignment 3, MARTA to the Mall

Using MARTA (start point: Georgia Tech) exclusively, travel to one of the 6 malls listed below. Document your journey with photographs (selfies count!), and prepare a PowerPoint slide deck presentation to the class on your experience. Your presentation should include photo or video documentation, a map of the route you took, and answer the following questions:

Is the trip faster with car or MARTA?

What were the wait times?

Did you have to transfer between busses or rail?

Was it comfortable? Efficient? Easy to navigate?  
How did ridership change throughout your journey?  
What neighborhoods did you travel through and how do they compare? (Use socioeconomic and demographic information to answer this question)  
How would you improve the experience as a transportation planner?

Pick from the following malls:

Plaza Fiesta	Southlake Mall	Westgate Mall	Stonecrest Mall
Cumberland Mall	Lenox Square	Perimeter Mall	

### Team Presentations

Your team will be expected to present one of the group projects you completed to the class. The instructor will assign which group project you are to present and what day you will be expected to present. Each presentation should last 15 minutes with 5 minutes for your peers to ask questions. Your peers will also be expected to evaluate your presentation skills, content, and style. These presentations will count towards your team's grade on the assignment.

### **Missed or late assignments**

Assignments\* turned in after specified due date will incur a grade penalty according to the following schedule:

- *Within 24 hours of original due date: 10% deduction off final grade*
- *Between 24-48 hours of original due date: 20% deduction off final grade*
- *After 48 hours of original due date: 30% deduction off final grade*

For assignments that require you to present to your peers—you will be expected to present on the day assigned to your group and these presentations will not be accepted for partial credit after the date assigned. Please plan accordingly and speak to me as soon as possible if your assigned day will not work for you (you must give me at least 7 day notice).

\*As noted in the section on Reading Responses, these can be turned in late per the policy described in that section.

### **Technology**

Cell phone use is prohibited at all times during class, except if you are using cell phones to answer quizzes/ surveys. Laptops, tablets, e-readers, and other digital devices may be used to take notes or refer to relevant information, take quizzes, and complete in-class assignments. If you are using a digital device for non-course purposes at any time during the semester, you will be asked to refrain from using it for the remainder of the course. No exceptions.

There will be times in class when the instructor reserves the right to enact the "No Device Rule." During these times, all digital devices will be required to be stored off desks so that students may concentrate on tasks or presentations. Expect that this rule will be used when your peers are presenting and during guest lectures.

## **Books**

The following books are required and available at the Barnes & Noble Campus Bookstore. You can easily buy them online, new or used. The Urban and Regional Planning Reader is on reserve at the Architecture Library (1<sup>st</sup> floor of Architecture West Building) and available at the library services desk. Call Number: HT166.U7125 2009

Birch, Eugenie L. (Ed) 2009. The Urban and Regional Planning Reader (Routledge Urban Reader Series)

Etienne, H.F. (Ed) and Faga, B. (Ed). 2014. Planning Atlanta. Chicago, IL: APA Planner's Press.

Other readings will be available online and/or through T-square.

## **Student-Faculty Expectations**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22.php> for an articulation of some basic expectations—that you can have of me, and that I have of you. Respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

## **Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For more information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php> and <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/genregulations/honorcode.php>.

## **Citation & Plagiarism Verification**

Writing with authority and honesty requires explaining the sources of the information you reference. All material should be cited using APA format, which is explained here: <http://libguides.gatech.edu/citationtools/apacite>.

This syllabus has been adapted from Dr. Thomas Douthat, Camille Barchers, AICP, and Dr. Barbara Faga.

## **ADA Accommodations**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (ADAPTS), <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs. If any occurrence of disability changes within the semester, please inform me as soon as possible.

## **Schedule Changes**

Throughout the semester, events may require the instructor to rearrange class topics due to speaker availability, severe weather, etc. Schedule changes will be announced in class and/or on T-square.