SITE PLANNING **URPL 601**
Spring 2019 3 credits

SYLLABUS

PROFESSOR

James LaGro, Jr., PhD, MLA
102 Music Hall, Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, and by appointment (arrange by email: jalagro@wisc.edu)

CLASS TIME & PLACE

Wednesday, 2:00-4:30 p.m., 208 Music Hall

COURSE OVERVIEW

The built environment is continuously reshaped by land development and redevelopment projects. These landscape changes can have lasting impacts on community sustainability, resilience, and livability. A basic function of local government is to protect public health, safety, and wellbeing. And this is one reason why cities engage in managing the pattern, scale, and quality of real estate development.

This course focuses at the site- or parcel-scale on three issues: 1) the site planning process; 2) the site plan and architectural design review process, and 3) site planning and urban design principles and best practices. Questions that will be addressed throughout the semester are:

1. How can site planners minimize negative environmental impacts, protect public health, safety, and well-being, while also meeting the development goals of clients from either the public or private sectors?
2. How can municipalities (and public-sector reviewers) improve project quality – and increase community benefits – through the site plan/design review process?

AUDIENCE

This course is designed for students in urban planning and allied professional programs, and for advanced undergraduate students interested in potentially pursuing graduate studies in planning, landscape architecture, architecture, real estate development, or related fields. A design background is not required.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Lectures, readings, and project assignments will familiarize students with site planning and land development concepts and terminology, and help students develop their design vocabulary. Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate the ability to:

1. understand the effects of local codes, ordinances, and site plan review practices on the structure and function of the built environment;
2. evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and potential improvements of land development projects (both as proposals and as built works);
3. communicate site analyses and planning recommendations effectively and professionally, through written reports, slide presentations, and graphics (e.g., annotated maps, sections, and photos).

WEBSITES

Lectures, assignments, and supplementary readings are posted on the URPL 601 website (accessible at https://learnuw.wisc.edu/). Please read the materials before the class for which the readings are assigned.

Two excellent sources of news and opinions on the built environment are:

Planetizen (Urban Planning, Design and Development Network) – www.planetizen.com

CityLab – https://www.citylab.com/

Other useful resources that define key concepts and terminology include:

Whole Systems Design Vocabulary - http://www.wholesystemsdesign.com/design-vocabulary

A Guide to Architect Terms and Phrases – https://www.curbed.com/2016/7/11/12149096/architecture-glossary-architect-terms

99 Descriptive Design Words You Should Know – https://99designs.com/blog/tips/15-descriptive-design-words-you-should-know/#design

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

ASSIGNMENT	% OF FINAL GRADE	WEEK ASSIGNED	WEEK DUE
Precedent Study: Municipal Policies & Practices for Site Plan/Design Review	30%	2 (1/30)	4 (2/13)
Case Study: Site Development Project – Analysis and Design Review (team project)	30%	5 (2/20)	8 (3/13)
Site Planning Project: Site Selection, Programming, & Conceptual Design (team project)	40%	10 (3/27)	15 (5/1)

Assigned projects will be evaluated on three main criteria: 1) **analysis** (e.g., precedents, site context); 2) **recommendations** (e.g., design review, design proposals); 3) **communication** (e.g., writing, graphics). In addition, an ungraded, brief reflective statement will be required for each project. Grading scale: A (94.0-100%), AB (88.0-93.9%), B (82.0-87.9%), BC (76.0-81.9%), C (70.0-75.9%), D (64.0-69.9%), F (63.9% or below)

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Reading/Viewing	Topics/Activities	Projects
1	1/23	LaGro – Shaping the built environment (3-27) View Leinberger videos on your own: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYm_ms9S4DE Johnson – Site Planning for Planners (31-56)	Introductions Course Overview / Project Types Skills & Interests Survey	
2	1/30	LaGro – Site selection and programming (31-70) Sanford and Farley – Review of Site and Development Plans (3-14) NYS Department of State – Site Plan Review manual (1-25) Wyckoff – Site Planning Principles (19-28); Checklist for Site Plan Review (60-68)	**Lecture: Site Planning Process / Site Selection / Project Programming** **Online Resources (e.g., DCI Map)**	**Project 1 assigned: Analysis of Site Planning Guidelines & Development Review Practices & Policies**
3	2/6	LaGro – Assessing the site's physiographic context (71-111); Assessing the site's biological context (112-134) Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Steep Slopes Guide/Model Regulations (1-25) Frieswick – Living Off the Edge of a Mountain	**Lecture: Site Assessment (biophysical + climatic factors / cultural + legal factors)**	

		(WSJ article) Schwab – Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning (iii-v, 131-137)		
4	2/13	LaGro – Assessing the site's land use, infrastructure, and regulatory context (135-166); Assessing the site's cultural and historic contexts (167-203) Sanford and Farley – Cultural Resources (179-187)	**Class Presentations**	**Project 1 due @ noon: Analysis of Site Planning Guidelines & Development Review Practices & Policies**
5	2/20	LaGro – Integration, synthesis, and analysis (204-244); Conceptual site design (247-277) Francis – A Case Study Methodology for Landscape Architecture (1-15) Cooper Marcus and Francis – Post-Occupancy Evaluation (345-356) Eastman – Going Hybrid (zoning) (25-31) Wyckoff – Techniques for Getting Better Site Design (32-39) City of Madison – Standards for Review of Development Proposals (1-11)	**Lecture: Site Analysis / Conceptual Design / Design Development** **Post-Occupancy Evaluation (case study methodology)**	**Project 2 assigned: Evaluation of a Site Plan Review & Development Proposal**
6	2/27	LaGro – Design development (278-322) Strom et al. – Grading Plan Graphics (77-80) Pollock – Red Penciler's Guide to Site Plan Review (22-25) Forsyth - Measuring Density (8 pp.) Sanford and Farley – Aesthetics (161-177) National Mainstreet Center – Keeping up Appearances / The Main Street Architectural Tradition (17 pp.)	**Lecture: Site-Responsive Architecture (e.g., building siting, design, density)**	
7	3/6	Sanford and Farley – Traffic (127-146); Municipal services (147-160) Campoli – Made for Walking (13-22) Palmdale Transit Village Specific Plan: Circulation Element (1-18) CNT – The New Real Estate Mantra: Location Near Public Transportation (1-34) Main & Hannah – The role of furniture in outdoor spaces (1-23) SEWRPC – Principles of Good Design (45-72)	**Lecture: Site Circulation; Utilities; Paving & Furnishings**	

8	3/13	Center for Neighborhood Technology & others – Upgrade Your Infrastructure (1-21) Urban Design Associates – Pattern book for the Gulf Coast (70 pp., skim)	**Class Presentations**	**Project 2 due: Evaluation of a Site Development Proposal**
9	3/20	**SPRING BREAK**		
10	3/27	EPA – Enhancing Sustainable Communities with Green Infrastructure (i-56) Center for Neighborhood Technology – The Value of Green Infrastructure (1-65) MAPC – Low-Impact Site Design (4 pp.) Wyckoff - Fencing, Screening, Buffering, Landscaping (53-59) Gibbons et al. – Reviewing Site Plans for Stormwater Management (4 pp.)	**Lecture: Green Infrastructure / Water Conservation**	**Project 3 assigned: Site Planning & Design Project**
11	4/3	ETH (Switzerland): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwWADvk7cWw McGregor Coxall (Australia): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egESzB01eeA Iovine – Building for Complex Experiences (WSJ article)	**Lecture: 21st Century Cities / Urban Livability**	
12	4/10	Dunham-Jones/Williamson - Instant Architecture, Instant Cities, and Incremental Metropolitanism (2-14)	**Tim Parks & Matt Tucker, guest speakers, invited** (City of Madison, Dept. of Planning & Community & Economic Development)	
13	4/17	ASLA – The Case for Sustainable Landscapes (1-25)	**Class Presentations** Apr 13-16 (APA Conference – San Francisco)	**Preliminary review (project 3)**
14	4/24		**Project Work / Desk Reviews**	
15	5/1		**Class Presentations**	**Project 3 due @ noon: Site Planning & Design Project**

UW-MADISON RESOURCES

Software Training for Students - https://sts.doit.wisc.edu/classlist.aspx
Online Training (Lynda.com) - http://www.doit.wisc.edu/services/online-training/
The Writing Center - http://www.writing.wisc.edu/