

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: MPP Seminar /288 and 289 Instructor: James Jennings

Semester: Fall 08 and Spring 09

a) Knowledge Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	Review of classic works representing debates about free market
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	Literature and instructor presentations about the stages of social policy
i) Levels of government	Review of institutional actors, including courts
ii) Governance structures	
iii) Citizens and residents	Immigration issues
iv) NGOs	
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	Role of race, class, and gender
6. History, theory and process of planning	
7. Implementation of policy and planning	

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	Understanding state budgets
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	Literature focusing on specific issues

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	Course literature; historical origins of problems and proposed strategies
i) Defining problem	
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	Course literature
iii) Documenting the political and social context	Instructor presentations, role of race, class, and gender
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	Class presentation

2. Research skills	Course literature and class presentation
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	Writing assignments and class presentations
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	Writing assignments and class presentations
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	Writing assignments and class presentations
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
3. Data Analysis skills	Writing assignments and class presentations
i) Interpreting and synthesizing data	
ii) Drawing inferences from specific observations to make	
iii) More generalizable findings	
iv) Comparative analysis	Select literature
v) Longitudinal analysis	
vi) Recognizing and accounting for limitations to findings	
4. Qualitative Analysis skills	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	

5. Quantitative Analysis skills i) Descriptive statistics	Class presentations
ii) Inferential statistics	
iii) Basic forecasting	
iv) Use of spreadsheets and statistical software	
6. Spatial Analysis skills i) Understand how to identify spatial problems and frame spatial questions for analysis and research	Workshops
ii) Use Geographic Information System for basic spatial analysis and mapping	Workshops
7. Communication skills i) Writing skills	Writing assignments
ii) Speaking skills	Class presentations
iii) Graphic presentation skills	
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	

c) Policy and Planning in Practice Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Collaboration skills i) Negotiation	
ii) Group project management	
iii) Group problem solving	
iv) Perspective-taking	
v) Adaptability, flexibility	
vi) Networking	
2. Organizational management skills i) Decision making	
ii) Strategic problem solving and adapting to change	
iii) Human resource development	
iv) Financial management and resource development	
3. Political and economic power mapping skills i) Understanding political and economic power structures and dynamics	Class literature, presentations
ii) Modes of influencing their use	
4. Ethical and professional behavior skills i) Understanding and upholding the role of ethics and accountability in professional policy and planning processes, practices, and behavior	

