

## UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

**Course Name/Number: Land Use Planning, UEP 201**  
**Spring**

**Instructor: Jon Witten**

**Semester:**

<b>a) Knowledge Competencies</b>	<b>Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course</b>
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	Moderate focus on the use of regulatory tools to guide and shape growth and development from a historic perspective. Analysis of “early” zoning regulations (New York, Boston and San Francisco) as an introduction to modern planning and regulatory statutes and approaches in the practice.
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. ‘market’ and ‘polis’ relationships)	
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	Heavy emphasis on the roles of various “players” at the local and state level with regard to land use policy, land use regulation and the reform of both. Comparisons between the policies adopted and implemented in “plan” and “non plan” states, competing equities and likely efforts for reformation.
i) Levels of government	Heavy emphasis on the relationship between state and local (and county) governments, particularly with regard to the differing approaches taken by “plan” and “non plan” states.
ii) Governance structures	Heavy emphasis on the distinctions between “home rule” and “Dillon’s Rule” states and the implications of broad versus limited grants of power to local and regional governments.
iii) Citizens and residents	Heavy emphases on the roles citizens play in the planning process and abutters/residents play in the land use litigation process, including in depth discussion of issues including standing and causes of action.
iv) NGOs	Heavy emphasis on the role non-and not for profit organizations play in the land use planning and litigation process, particularly with respect to issues of standing.
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	
6. History, theory and process of planning	Heavy emphasis on the history of land use planning and land use law in the United States, analysis of the legislative and common law origin of traditional land use controls and techniques and analysis of trends in the court system given recent “regulatory takings” and “due process” claims.
7. Implementation of policy and planning	Heavy emphasis on how plans and regulatory controls are adopted, challenged, revised and improved, consistent with mandatory plans in “plan states” and “rational basis review” in “non plan states.

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	Heavy emphasis on the statutory framework for planning within the states, the lack of federal “land use” planning guidance and the importance of linking local and regional planning efforts to enabling authority at the state law or at least the need to “find” that authority within some provision in state law.
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	Heavy emphasis on the detailed workings of regulatory controls, the powers granted to government to exert those controls and the response of legislatures, the courts and property owners to government’s attempt to expand regulatory authority.
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	Major focus. Detailed analysis of government’s power to regulate and control the development of land and private property. Heavy emphasis on past, present and likely future directions of land use law within the nation, relying on appellate decisions from the 50 states and federal courts.
11. Politics of policy and planning	Moderate focus on how certain land use “events” shape laws and policies affecting what planners do and how they respond to each “event”. Focus on the need for planners to look at land use issues holistically given the relationship among and between each element of a comprehensive plan.

<b>b) Skills Competencies</b>	<b>Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course</b>
<b>1. Critical thinking</b>	
i) Defining problem	Major focus: three technical Memoranda to differing “clients” are designed to force students to view land use issues and problems from varying perspectives and argue matters from a alternative points of view.
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	Major focus: students are required to analyze complex land use disputes and summarize their findings in short but explicit technical Memoranda.
iii) Documenting the political and social context	
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	Major focus: students are required to research complex land use regulations, plans and case law to suggest solutions to proposed (both “real” and “simulated”) problems.
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	Major focus: students are required to propose recommendations to complex land use problems using a combination of policy, law and common sense political responses to client needs and concerns.

viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	
<b>2. Research skills</b>	
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	Major focus, with literature being defined in this course by appellate state and federal case law and numerous treatises on land use planning and land use law developed and revised over time by advocates for “strong” versus “weak” local and regional controls over private property.
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	Please see above.
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
<b>3. Data Analysis skills</b>	
i) Interpreting and synthesizing data	
ii) Drawing inferences from specific observations to make	
iii) More generalizable findings	
iv) Comparative analysis	
v) Longitudinal analysis	
vi) Recognizing and accounting for limitations to findings	
<b>4. Qualitative Analysis skills</b>	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	

iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	
<b>5. Quantitative Analysis skills</b>	
i) Descriptive statistics	
ii) Inferential statistics	
iii) Basic forecasting	Limited focus: moderate discussion regarding the use of impact fees and other methods of quantify development impacts consistent with regulatory controls and links to comprehensive planning efforts and enabling legislation.
iv) Use of spreadsheets and statistical software	
<b>6. Spatial Analysis skills</b>	
i) Understand how to identify spatial problems and frame spatial questions for analysis and research	
ii) Use Geographic Information System for basic spatial analysis and mapping	
<b>7. Communication skills</b>	
i) Writing skills	Major focus. Students draft three memoranda to differing “clients”, including public, private and non-profit “clients” on technical regulatory and land use law and planning matters.
ii) Speaking skills	Major focus. Students are expected to participate in detailed case analysis and relate the same to specific land use regulations and land use control issues.
iii) Graphic presentation skills	
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	Moderate focus with discussion as to how local and regional planners can be persuasive before administrative and judicial tribunals reviewing a challenge to land use regulations and/or how to persuasively challenge regulations that violate normative planning and legal principles.

<b>c) Policy and Planning in Practice Competencies</b>	<b>Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course</b>
<b>1. Collaboration skills</b> i) Negotiation	
ii) Group project management	Major focus: although students must submit individual responses to the three assignments, students are encouraged to work in groups to research and solve the problems presented by each assignment.
iii) Group problem solving	
iv) Perspective-taking	
v) Adaptability, flexibility	
vi) Networking	
<b>2. Organizational management skills</b> i) Decision making	Major focus: students are trained to think as government and private/non profit planners do with respect to land use problems, complaints from the public and clients, political pressures given competing interests and use of rational planning and legal approaches to land use management and land use controls.
ii) Strategic problem solving and adapting to change	
iii) Human resource development	
iv) Financial management and resource development	
<b>3. Political and economic power mapping skills</b> i) Understanding political and economic power structures and dynamics	
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

Moderate focus: as soon to be planners and regulators, we review and discuss appellate decisions where the courts have concluded that government has “gone too far” with regard to civil rights violations (“1983” claims), regulatory takings and basic principles of due process and equal protection rights and guarantees, all of which arise in the practice of planning and land use control.