

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: UEP 284 Developing Sustainable Communities Instructor: Agyeman Semester: Fall 2009

a) Knowledge Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	Covered in many parts of the course especially in relation to the concepts of a 'sustainable community' and 'spatial justice'
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	Covered in many parts of the course especially in relation to tools and techniques for sustainable development; and critiques of GDP
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	Covered under classes on The Happy Planet Index, wellbeing, sustainability indicators
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	
i) Levels of government	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
ii) Governance structures	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
iii) Citizens and residents	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
iv) NGOs	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	
6. History, theory and process of planning	
7. Implementation of policy and planning	Central to the class. All classes touch some aspects of implementing sustainability policies and plans

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	Covered to a certain extent in class on sustainability indicators and social marketing
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	Central to the class. Case studies, sustainability journal entries and the majority of the readings focus on the politics of sustainability policy and planning

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
i) Defining problem	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
iii) Documenting the political and social context	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
v) Identifying possible analytical strategies and their implications	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	Central to the class. A major theme throughout
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	Central to the class. A major theme throughout

2. Research skills	Covered in relation to research essay
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	Covered in relation to research essay
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	Covered in relation to research essay
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	Covered in relation to research essay
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
3. Data Analysis skills	Covered in relation to 'environmental space' data and data presented in a variety of readings
i) Interpreting and synthesizing data	
ii) Drawing inferences from specific observations to make more generalizable findings	
iii) Comparative analysis	
iv) Longitudinal analysis	
v) Recognizing and accounting for limitations to findings	
4. Qualitative Analysis skills	Not a focus unless direct observation is used for the essay, or case study
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	Not a focus unless primary data is collected for the essay
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	A focus of the class
5. Quantitative Analysis skills	Some readings use descriptive statistics
i) Descriptive statistics	

ii) Inferential statistics	Some readings use inferential statistics
iii) Basic forecasting	
iv) Use of spreadsheets and statistical software	
6. Spatial Analysis skills	Not central but discussed in relation to class on spatial justice
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	
7. Communication skills	Central to class
i) Writing skills	
ii) Speaking skills	Central to class
iii) Graphic presentation skills	Not central but discussed.
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	Not central but discussed.

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	Covered in relation to studies of why some cities are taking sustainability seriously and others aren't
ii) Modes of influencing their use	Covered in relation to studies of why some cities are taking sustainability seriously and others aren't

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