

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: Community Development, Planning, and Politics 261

Instructor: James Jennings Semester: Spring 09

a) Knowledge Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	Review of urban settlement patterns and politics of Black and Latino neighborhoods
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	Select literature; role of government and private sector
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	
i) Levels of government	Relationships between city government and neighborhoods
ii) Governance structures	
iii) Citizens and residents	Role and impact of civic participation
iv) NGOs	
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	Review of specific community development public policies
6. History, theory and process of planning	Role of planning in terms of maintaining race, class, and gender hierarchies
7. Implementation of policy and planning	How to incorporate voices of 'victims' or 'targets' of community development strategies

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	Assessment of neighborhood revitalization strategies
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	Role of race, class, gender, and the politics of space

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	Historical origins of problems and responses
i) Defining problem	
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	Data analysis
iii) Documenting the political and social context	Literature covering debates about political and social contexts; role of race, class, and gender
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	Focus on neighborhood-based responses
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	

2. Research skills	
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	Course requirement
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	Course requirement
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
3. Data Analysis skills	Review and discussion of select literature
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	
4. Qualitative Analysis skills	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	Based on select literature
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	Based on select literature

5. Quantitative Analysis skills i) Descriptive statistics	Literature and class presentation
ii) Inferential statistics	Limited literature
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	Select instructor presentations
ii) Use Geographic Information System for basic spatial analysis and mapping	Select instructor presentations
7. Communication skills i) Writing skills	Course requirements
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	Course literature, class discussions, and 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	

