

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: UEP 286
Environmental Ethics

Instructor: Sheldon Krinsky

Semester: Sp 2009

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)	<i>Conflicts between economics and environmental conservation; use of pesticides vs. protection against malaria.</i>
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	<i>Explores the ethical presuppositions behind policy and social choice</i>
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	
i) Levels of government	
ii) Governance structures	
iii) Citizens and residents	
iv) NGOs	<i>Discusses the value presuppositions of NGOs in areas such as conservation; global warming; animal protection; factory farms; pesticide use</i>
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	<i>Early history of ethics in environmental policy: Aldo Leopold, John McPhee; Albert Schweitzer; Bair Callicott; Paul Ehrlich</i>
6. History, theory and process of planning	<i>Role of theory in environmental ethics: utilitarianism; deontological ethics; virtue ethics; Specieism; Rawlesian ethics</i>
7. Implementation of policy and planning	

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	
i) Defining problem	<i>Emphasizes critical thinking in ethics</i>
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	<i>The causes of environmental pollution</i>
iii) Documenting the political and social context	
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	<i>Examines space in the context of leading causes of environmental despoliation; population; consumption; technology.</i>
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	<i>Explores alternative value perspectives in grounding environmental policy; specifically looks at non-anthropocentric theories of environmental ethics</i>
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	<i>Value criteria for solutions to global warming responsibility of nations</i>
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	

2. Research skills	<i>Skills in writing an ethics-oriented research paper</i>
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
3. Data Analysis skills	
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	
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	

5. Quantitative Analysis skills i) Descriptive statistics	
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	
ii) Use Geographic Information System for basic spatial analysis and mapping	
7. Communication skills i) Writing skills	<i>Semester research paper; commentary on a colleague's paper</i>
ii) Speaking skills	<i>Debate skills: student assigned to one debate Students present core issues in articles</i>
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	
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	

