

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: UEP/CE-207

Instructor: Rusty Russell

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	
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	Consideration of the relationship between law and the use of market-enlisting mechanisms (e.g., pollution taxes and emissions credit trading) in the environmental area
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	Consideration of the way in which environmental law and regulation affect environmental policy and thought
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	Understanding of the ways in which lawyers, judges, legislators and regulators develop environmental policy
i) Levels of government	Study of the legal bases of federalism
ii) Governance structures	Study of the interplay between the judiciary and the executive and legislature
iii) Citizens and residents	Study of citizen activism using law
iv) NGOs	Study of citizen lawsuits
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	Study of the way in which law/regulation affects policymaking; study of a number of specific regulatory (policymaking) mechanisms
6. History, theory and process of planning	
7. Implementation of policy and planning	Study of law and regulation (which is how policy often is implemented)

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	This is the central subject of the course
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	Consideration of the manner in which political ideology affects legal (particularly Supreme Court) decisions

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	Study of law is highly analytic, thus helping students to develop critical thinking. Class examines all or large segments of a number of important judicial decisions, a process that requires (and further develops) critical thinking
i) Defining problem	
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	
iii) Documenting the political and social context	
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	Law In Action exercise encourages students to consider the context of a specific (self-selected) legal conflict
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	Law In Action exercise encourages students to consider solutions to a specific (self-selected) legal conflict
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	Law In Action exercise encourages students to evaluate the results of specific policies

2. Research skills	
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	Students are encouraged to use Lexis database and other legal materials as part of the course
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	A longish paper will help to develop writing skills
ii) Speaking skills	Students participate in panel presentations to the class
iii) Graphic presentation skills	
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	Student panels work together to develop presentation approaches

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	

