Introduction to Environmental Planning

PLA4579
Introduction to Environmental Planning
Fall 2012
Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Avery Hall
Peter J. Marcotullio.
Adjunct Associate Professor

Course Objectives
This course provides an introduction to the background of the practice of urban environmental planning. Students should have a basic background in environmental studies, although we will spend a portion of the class reviewing human impact on the environment before turning to various management and planning strategies. The class is run in seminar fashion, meaning that there is a heavy reading load and participation in discussion is vital to a successful semester. All students are required to do preparatory reading and participant in each class, as well as lead a single seminar session. Leading a seminar includes preparing a short summary of the reading, providing questions for the class prior to the seminar and leading participants through the reading and its important planning aspects and implications in a class discussion.

Course methods
Classes will be held on Thursdays, from 9:00 – 11:00 am in Avery Hall. During the semester we will focus on five new texts. For each class, reading requirements are provided in the syllabus. There will be full lectures for the first few classes. Thereafter, classes will lead by students and based on the readings. Presentation and participation are a major contribution to the success of the class.

Student evaluations
Evaluations are based upon:

1) Class attendance and participation. Participation in class discussion is vital. As mentioned, a portion of class time is devoted to discussion of readings and class lectures;

2) The completion of two assignments. Each student will be required to run a seminar. They will need to prepare a paper based upon, or related to that specific seminar by the end of the semester. The final paper should be approximately 4-6,000 words including bibliography.

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<tr>
<th>Class activity</th>
<th>Percent of final grade</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 – Leading a seminar</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>8 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2 – Paper related to seminar session</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>8 December</td>
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Reading materials

- Charles Redman, *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*, University of Arizona Press; Reprint edition (February 1, 2001)

Other readings may be posted on Columbia’s Courseworks as “pdf” files.

All books can be purchased at the school bookstore. The sustainable plan for New York City to 2030 is in electronic form on Courseworks, both as a complete document and as separate chapters. All other readings are included as pdf files.

Office hours and classroom policies
I am available for discussion most Thursdays from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. I do not, however, have an office, so we will meet in common spaces at Columbia. Note that while I respond to email as promptly as possible, if you send me an email late on Friday I may not respond until Monday.

During class time, please turn off your phones and do not bring/use earphones.

Academic integrity
Columbia University regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The University is committed to enforcing its Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Columbia University College regulations.
Semester schedule

5 September – Introductory lecture
14 November – Michael Bloomberg, *plaNYC 2030*, Chapters 1-4, pages 1-57
21 November – Michael Bloomberg, *plaNYC 2030*, Chapters 5-8, pages 58-117
5 December - Michael Bloomberg, *plaNYC 2030*, Chapters 9-12, 118-177