

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

**SYLLABUS**

Urban and Regional Planning 136/225: Land Use and Urban Planning

Spring, 2008

Section: 01  
Day: Monday  
Time: 7:15 – 10 p.m.  
Room: Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH) Room 162

Instructor: John Davidson  
Telephone: 408/535-7895  
Email: john.davidson@sanjoseca.gov  
Office: WSQ 218  
Office Hours: Mondays 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Study the methods and tools by which local, state, and federal governments control the use of land
- Examine contemporary growth and land use management techniques.

COURSE METHODS

Through lecture, discussion, field activities, and assignments, the class will examine fundamental land use controls (i.e., General Plans and Zoning) as well as contemporary growth and land use management techniques (i.e., Specific Plans, development policies, guidelines, interjurisdictional agreements, etc.). The class will explore current planning issues regarding land use, capital facilities, and services, and the applicability of various planning tools and methods to address these issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students are required to attend all sessions.
- Students should come to class well-prepared to participate in discussions, answer questions regarding the assigned material, and ask questions to encourage critical thinking.
- Students shall adhere to San Jose State's Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct).
- Students must complete all assignments, including field work, on time.
- All written work should be well-organized, thorough, thoughtful, and free from grammatical and typographical errors.
- All presentations should be well-organized, demonstrating clear thinking and communication techniques.
- If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

William Fulton (2005). *Guide to California Planning, Third Edition*. Solano Press.

City of San Jose (2005). *Planning in San Jose: A Community Guide*.

Selected articles and other materials to be distributed in class.

### REFERENCE TEXTS

City of San Jose (2007). *San Jose 2020 General Plan*.

City of San Jose (2006). *Zoning Ordinance*.

Daniel J. Curtin, Jr. and Cecily T. Talbert (2007). *Curtin's California Land Use and Planning Law, 27<sup>th</sup> edition*. Solano Press.

Charles J. Hoch, Linda C. Dalton, and Frank S. So, editors (2000). *The Practice of Local Government Planning, third edition*. ICMA.

State of California, Office of Planning and Research. July 2007. *CEQA: The California Environmental Quality Act – Statutes and Guidelines*. Available on-line at:

<http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>

### KEY COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. All Students, Working Individually: Document and describe development patterns in San Jose over time by investigating a major thoroughfare (details to be provided in class).
2. All Students, Working Individually: Collect at least five related planning articles, columns, and/or editorials published in the print media, and complete required paper (undergraduate and graduate student requirements different; details to be provided in class).
3. All Students, Working Individually: Attend a local Planning Commission and/or City Council meeting regarding land use matters and complete required paper (undergraduate and graduate student requirements different; details to be provided in class).
4. All Students, Working Individually: Review a development proposal (plan set and associated materials) for conformance with a City's General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and adopted policies (undergraduate and graduate student requirements different; details to be provided in class).
5. Final Examination, working both in teams and individually: Working in teams, evaluate a development proposal. As individuals, write an analysis of the development proposal, and the proposal's conformance with relevant ordinances. The following week, as a team, present the group's analysis of the project.

**COURSE GRADE**

Individual Written Work: 60%  
 Final (presentation and write-up): 20%  
 Class Attendance and Participation: 20%  
 (including in-class assignments)

Assignments less than 72 hours late will be accepted with a three-grade penalty; assignments later than 72 hours late will not be accepted.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments and Required Reading</b>
January 28	Course Overview: - What is land use planning? - Why plan? - Issues and trends in California land use planning	None
February 4	Video: <i>The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces</i> Discussion: Urban Design in Downtown and at SJSU	<i>Planning in San Jose: A Community Guide</i>
February 11	Two Different Development Patterns – San Jose and Taiwan	Fulton, Chapters 1-3
February 18	Federal and California Planning Framework: - The General Plan	Fulton, Chapters 4-6 SJ GP 2020, Chapters 1-3 <i>First Paper Due</i>
February 25	Zoning: - Legal Authority and Purpose - Approaches/Content The Subdivision Map Act	Fulton, Chapters 7+8
March 3	Environmental Review: - California Environmental Quality Act - National Environmental Policy Act - Examples and Applications	Fulton, Chapter 9
March 10	Exactions and Takings: Growth Controls: - Urban Growth Boundaries - “Smart Growth” Planning	Fulton, Chapters 10+11 Fulton, Chapters 13+17 <i>Second Paper Due</i>
March 17	Other Planning Tools: - Specific Plans - Policies and Design Guidelines	Fulton, Chapters 12+18

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments and Required Reading</b>
March 24	Spring Recess – no class	
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day – campus closed	
April 7	Economic Development	Fulton, Chapter 14
April 14	Redevelopment and Neighborhood Revitalization Plans	Fulton, Chapter 15 Additional materials to be provided <i>Third Paper Due</i>
April 21	Transportation Planning	Fulton, Chapters 19+20
April 28	Walking Tour (start time: 6:15 p.m.)	
May 5	Putting It All Together: - The Permitting Process - Public Participation Models  Current Planning Issues and Challenges  Final Exam – practice session	Fulton, Chapter 25 <i>Fourth Paper Due</i>
May 12	Final Exam – written portion	
May 19	Final Exam – presentations (start time: 7:45 p.m.)	