

Fall 2000
UP 211 Law and the Quality of Urban Life

Instructor: Allan Heskin
Reader: TBA

TU/TH 11:00-12:15 PubPol 1270

This course is designed as an introduction to law and policy for planning students across the many concentrations in the school. Because of this, the course is of necessity broad in scope. Although the course can accommodate many interests, students with very specific focus on, for example, land use or environment, might better be served by taking the course in the law school that matches their specific interest. The material in this course is organized around four social problems. In each instance we examine how the legal system is employed to address the problem. The first problem is the potential personal and societal negative impacts of the maintenance of information systems. The specific example employed here is the potential impact of the maintenance of arrest records on employment and personal freedom. Second is the problem of how the law attempts to carry out public policy in the context of an inherently conflictual relationship, specifically housing policy and landlord-tenant relations. Third is the problem of how the law struggles with its role in the most personal human affairs, specifically abortion. Fourth is the problem of local versus regional responsibility, as seen in land use and federal programs. Many legal concepts are encountered in the course. The most common concepts discussed are due process, equal protection, and privacy.

The primary assignment in the course is a paper on a topic of law and policy of the students choosing (with instructors approval). This, in effect, allows the students to pick a fifth law and policy area that matches their specific interest. To prepare for this task legal research methods are also taught in the course.

TEXTS:

UP 211 Reader

Materials available on the web at: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>

Elias and Levinkind (1999), Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law, Nolo Press.

TEACHING FORMAT:

The class will be conducted in issue and case discussion format supplemented by lecture when appropriate. Students will be asked to report on case material in quasi-law school style. Each of the four sections of the course will begin with a discussion of the policy issues involved followed by an examination of legal materials. The first portion of classes early in the quarter will be devoted to understanding the legal system and legal research. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the professor's office hours

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ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Read course and supplementary material;
2. Participate in classroom discussion;
3. Complete three in class quizzes spaced throughout the quarter (the first on legal research and the other two on the material in the course regarding due process, equal protection, and the right to privacy);
4. A paper due at the end of the quarter (the first Tuesday after the end of instruction) on a planning issue and the related law.

GRADING:

Paper=50%

Participation=26%

Quizzes=24%

FIRST ASSIGNMENT:

Read introductory materials on reserve in URL:

A.B. Hollinghead and L.H. Rogler, "Attitude Towards Slums and Housing in Puerto Rico." The Urban Condition, Leonard Duhl (ed.,) pp. 229-246 (on reserve).

Christopher Alexander, "The Coordination of the Urban Rule System," (on reserve).

Sally Falk Moore, "Law and Social Change: The Semi-Autonomous Social Field as an Appropriate Subject of Study," Law and Society Review, Summer 1973 (also in Law Library).