

## **CP 4020 – Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning**

Instructor Ning Ai  
Contact ain@gatech.edu; COA Annex, Center for Geographic Information Systems, Room 217  
Class Time May 16 – July 29, 2011, M/W/F, 10:40am - 11:50am  
Location D. M. Smith 11  
Credits 3 credit hours • Course attributes to social science requirement

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the history, theory, and practice of city and metropolitan planning. It is designed to provide an overview of various planning issues and explore the interactions among economic, social, environmental, and institutional systems that shape and transform cities. The geographical focus of the course will be the United States, and in particular, the Atlanta metropolitan region. Case studies will be included to discuss the synergies among fast-growing areas in the US as well as in other countries.

### **Course Objectives**

- Introduce students to the historical, social, economic, and environmental context in which city and metropolitan planning has emerged and evolved;
- Enhance students' understanding of critical challenges for cities' sustainable development;
- Familiarize students with planners' fundamental knowledge and skills that may be applicable to other disciplines and areas;
- Foster students' analytical, research, and presentation skills.

### **Course Procedure and Organization**

Class sessions will involve a mix of lectures, student presentations and discussions, videos, group projects, and attendance to local public meetings. General topics will include:

- Overview of the planning profession
- History, legal basis, and theoretical foundation of planning
- Data, methods, and tools employed in planning.
- Comprehensive and land use planning
- Urban sprawl and smart growth
- Environmental planning and sustainable development
- Climate change and energy planning
- Economic development and urban revitalization
- Inclusive and collaborative planning
- International perspectives of planning
- Contemporary planning issues and interdisciplinary approaches

\* The order of the topics is subject to change.

### **Required/Suggested Readings**

Required text: Birch, Eugenie (edited). 2008. The Urban and Regional Planning Reader. New York: Routledge.

Additional readings will be assigned and posted on T-square.

### **Course Requirements**

In-class participation: 10%  
Attendance: 5%  
Class assignments: 30%

Midterm exam: 20%  
Group project: 15%  
Final paper: 20%