LAND USE PLANNING SEMINAR (Law aA504a)
SYLLABUS
https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1140241

M&Th 10:50-12:20 PM, Room 212

Course Readings and Materials:
All course readings, assignments, and supplementary materials will appear at the course canvas site: https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1140241.

Class Description:
Our course is listed as “Land Use Planning Seminar.” Courses such as ours have traditionally focused heavily on zoning law, the established structure for the regulation of land use in cities and in built-up areas. But contemporary land use planning involves much more, and so our studies will involve concern with a wide array of questions and policies relevant to how the law shapes urban and rural landscapes. Washington is an especially interesting state, with a well-established Growth Management process, regulation of shoreline development, and aggressive use in its cities of imaginative approaches to management of the urban landscape. We will begin with an introduction to fundamentals, including the foundations of municipal authority to shape land use, and a statement of how federal and state constitutions (and state legislation) define the ability of government to control land uses and development. From there, we will take up a number of topics that have particular contemporary relevance, including (i) tensions between local zoning authority and regional planning needs, (ii) water resources as a critical factor in land use decision making, (iii) the need to plan to natural resource protection goals, (iv) the challenges of overcoming economic exclusion from the city in a society where many “goods”, including job opportunities, and access to public resources, may depend on access to the city, (v) the specific legal challenges of promoting access to housing as an urban policy goal, and (v) the continuing tension between private property rights and public planning goals. All of those concerns are addressed through specific legal and governmental structures and rules that we will discuss.
We will have a number of excellent visiting speakers and guests who will come to the class. At present, the following visitors are scheduled: **Courtney Kaylor**, a leading Seattle land use planning attorney; **Chuck Wolfe**, a nationally respected urban theorist and Seattle-based attorney; **Dow Constantine**, the King County Executive; **Lyle Bicknell**, Principal Urban Designer, City of Seattle Office for Planning and Community Development; and, **TBD**, a yet-to-be-named official from King County’s office of regional planning.

**Course Grading and Examination:**
Grades for the course will be based on a final examination (70%), and on class participation (30%), including taking the lead as a discussion leader for one of our class sessions.

The final examination questions will be distributed during Week 5 of the course. To be clear: while you will write your exam answers during the time scheduled for a conventional final exam of approximately 3 hours, the exam questions will be distributed in advance. For that final exam, you will be asked to write three or four short essays, chosen from several possibilities. The questions will be equally weighted for grading purposes. For all topics, an essential task will be accurate and effective use of our readings to support your answers. While taking the exam you may have with you and may refer to the course readings, any outlines you may have written to prepare for answering the exam questions, and your class notes.

The exam schedule is available at [www.law.washington.edu > students > exams](http://www.law.washington.edu > students > exams).

**Class Attendance and Participation; Rate of Progress; Checking in:**
Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Students are responsible for all material assigned on the syllabus, or handed out in class, even if it is not covered in a class session. **You should be prepared to discuss the material in class every day.** Reading assignments may be adjusted from time-to-time depending on our progress.

**Please stop by my office any time during office hours, or by appointment, to discuss the course, or any other related issues.** You may also e-mail me (gahicks@uw.edu) with any questions that you have.

**Law School Attendance Policy:**
Under changes to ABA Accreditation Standard 304, adopted in August 2004, a law school shall require regular and punctual class attendance.

At any time after the fifth week of a course (halfway through a summer session course), a student who has been determined by the instructor to have attended fewer than 80 percent of the class sessions in any course will be required to drop the course from his or her registration upon the instructor’s so indicating to the Academic Services Office.
An instructor may also impose stricter attendance standards or other sanctions for nonattendance, including lowering of a grade, provided that students are informed at the start of the course of the instructor’s attendance rules and possible sanctions.

The instructor referred to in paragraph 1 should take attendance with such regularity as is needed to insure reasonable accuracy in determining a student’s attendance record.

**Technology in the Classroom:**
You may use computers in the classroom for class-related tasks, such as taking notes. Please refrain from checking social media sites and e-mail, or doing other course work as your active attendance and fully-engaged presence is essential for your success and for our shared work. Please turn cell phones off in class.

**Course Evaluation:**
I will be in touch to let you know the dates on which the course evaluation will be administered.

**Access and Accommodations:**
Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 011 Mary Gates Hall or 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability@uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.