

INI432H - Special Topics in Urban Studies: Urban Studio

COURSE SYLLABUS

Summer Term 2017

Last Updated: May 12, 2017

Instructor: Daniel Fusca
Course Time: Tuesday and Thursday 4-6, 6-8 (Studio)
Location: 018201 (OISE)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 6-7
Office Location: IN305W
E-mail: d.fusca@utoronto.ca

Course Website: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>

Course Description:

This course will provide a broad overview of the roles of both the citizen and the professional practitioner in advancing effective and meaningful public participation in the policy-making process, particularly as it relates to city planning. Through an examination of a mix of theoretical frameworks and case studies from Toronto and elsewhere, you will gain an understanding of the ways in which effective public participation can contribute to the maintenance of a healthy democratic society while also exploring some of the key challenges and opportunities faced by public participation practitioners today. The course has two key objectives: to give you a practical understanding of all of the elements of an effective public participation process, and to explore how public participation processes can be designed to be more inclusive and effective. In addition, students will be able to apply this knowledge towards the development of a project or report for a client.

Course Readings:

A reading list with both academic and non-academic texts will be provided on the first day of class and may be updated periodically depending on student interest and overall workload. Most readings will be available online, with links either directly listed or through the library system. It is expected that you have already gained competency in using the electronic resources of the UofT library - however, please don't hesitate to ask if you need assistance in finding course materials online.

Learning Objectives:

Through this course, you will achieve the following:

1. Develop an understanding of how various social dynamics impact and can be impacted by community engagement, including power, trust, and equity.
2. Be familiar with the basic elements of designing and implementing a community engagement process, including the identification of stakeholders, the development of an effective communications plan, the selection of engagement methods appropriate to the objectives of the overall process, and the evaluation of outcomes.
3. Be able to apply this new knowledge both critically and creatively towards the completion of a project or report for a client.

Assignments & Evaluation:

A significant component of this class will be a practical group project to be completed for a client. Each of the projects will allow students to apply their new knowledge and skills towards the completion of a specific task. Groups and projects will be assigned to their project by a ranked ballot on the first day of class.

Clients include:

City of Toronto, City Planning
City of Toronto, Social Development, Finance & Administration
The Office of Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Ward 27

Additionally, students will be asked to submit a short report detailing their group's approach to their assigned project at the end of term.

Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

Project Approach (15%) Due Tuesday, May 30
Final Report (45%) Due Thursday, June 22
2 x Studio Assignments (5% each) Due Thursday, May 25 & Tuesday, June 13
Client Evaluation (10%)
Participation (20%)

Full details for all assignments will be made available on the first day of class.

Assignments will be submitted in class in hard copy.

Course Structure:

[CLASS 1] TUESDAY MAY 16: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

What is public participation and why is it important? What are some of the main challenges and opportunities of public participation?

[CLASS 2] THURSDAY MAY 18: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ACTION: THE KING STREET PILOT PROJECT

No formal class or studio. Students are expected to attend the King Street Pilot Public Meeting, which will take place on this date in the Ballroom of the InterContinental Toronto Centre (225 Front Street W), from 6:30-9:00.

[CLASS 3] TUESDAY MAY 23: THE POWER OF THE CITIZEN

What is the role of the citizen in planning processes? Where does power lie? Who are we engaging, actually?

[CLASS 4] THURSDAY MAY 25: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVERSE CITY: AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH

What does an intersectional approach to public participation look like? How do we ensure that everyone's voices are reflected in planning outcomes? How can public participation bring us closer together as citizens, help to fight populism, and lead to better policy?

[CLASS 5] TUESDAY MAY 30: WHAT KIND OF PARTICIPATION? DESIGNING AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

What is the spectrum of public participation and how does it get applied? How do we decide what type of public participation to use and when? How do we design effective public participation processes?

[CLASS 6] THURSDAY JUNE 1: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICE: COMMUNICATING THROUGH THE NOISE

Guest Lecturer: Jay Pitter, Inspirit Foundation

In an age where people are bombarded with thousands of pieces of information a day, how do you communicate with the public in compelling ways that encourage participation? What role does storytelling play? What roles does data play?

[CLASS 7] TUESDAY JUNE 6: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICE: TOOLS (1)

What can online engagement tools contribute to a public participation process? What are the most effective tools for engaging people online? What role does social media play in effective communication with the public? How can it be utilised to build constituencies and mobilise participation?

[CLASS 8] THURSDAY JUNE 8: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICE: TOOLS (2)

Guest Lecturer: Alex Way, MASS LBP

What are the most effective tools for engaging people in-person? How can we design inclusive in-person engagement?

[CLASS 9] TUESDAY JUNE 13: EVALUATING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & CONNECTING IT TO OUTCOMES

Guest Lecturer: Nicole Swerhun, Swerhun Facilitation

How do we ensure that public participation actually informs policy in a meaningful way? How do we measure success?

[CLASS 10] THURSDAY JUNE 15: THE LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION

Is there such a thing as too much public engagement? What factors make public engagement ineffectual?

[Class 11] TUESDAY JUNE 20: STUDIO TIME – NO CLASS

This class time will be dedicated for groups to work on the final report.

[Class 12] THURSDAY JUNE 22: FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. Students who are registered with the University's Accessibility Services are entitled to confidentiality and may receive accommodations. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please speak to the course instructor as soon as possible and visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> for more information.

Email:

You are welcome to reach me at: d.fusca@utoronto.ca. I will attempt to respond to your emails in a timely manner and within a few days.

Academic Writing Support:

All undergraduate students who are enrolled in summer courses in the Faculty of Arts and Science are eligible to use any of the six writing centres that remain open in the summer: Innis College, New College, University College, St. Michael's College, Victoria College, and Woodsworth College Writing Centres. Students may book up to TWO appointments per week. For information about writing centre appointments in the summer session, please visit <http://writing.utoronto.ca/news/writing-centre-summer-openings/>.

Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator Leora Freedman at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca

Late Policy:

In accordance with the Urban Studies Program policy, students will have a grace period of 4 days after the fixed due date to submit late assignments (including weekends). Once the grace period ends, late assignments will not be accepted. If for any reason you wish to seek special exception to the late policy, you must provide a College Registrar's Letter to the instructor within one week of the assignment due date. Medical and other notes do not need to be submitted (and will not be accepted). To obtain a College Registrar's Letter, you will need to make an appointment with an advisor at your College Registrar.

Academic Integrity:

Students are reminded that academic dishonesty is a serious matter and will not be tolerated in any form, especially plagiarism. According to University policy, for any assignment where plagiarism is suspected, and which is worth 10% or greater of the final course mark, the suspected plagiarism must be reported to senior university officials. *The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the University.* For more information on the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, please refer to: <http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>