

School of Community & Regional Planning
The University of British Columbia

PLAN 572, Section 001

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PROJECT PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT (3.0)

Term 2, 2012/13; Time and Place: Thursday 2:00-5:00; WMAX 150

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Keywords: globalization; development theories and discourses; the role of the state; social contexts; state-community dynamics; participatory planning; the informal sector; bureaucracies and corruption; non-governmental organizations; spatial aspects of social change.

Description. This course is intended to introduce students to issues theoretical and practical that have direct impacts upon project planning and program design in third world contexts. Recognizing that there is a broad array of forms of political and social organization throughout the developing countries of the world, students will be encouraged to challenge the assumptions which in so many instances have come to be accepted as generalized truths regarding international development. Topics to be covered in readings and discussion will draw upon a wide range of subjects and materials in order to provide a basis for analyzing the "actors and factors" which influence planning in developing countries. These include the following: theories of development and their implications at national, regional, urban and neighbourhood levels; the role of the state and the function of bureaucracies in project planning; how local political and social contexts affect planning practice and project design; the role of the planner in different social and political contexts; the influence of foreign agencies, foreign planning models and foreign consultants on policy and planning in the third world; innovative strategies in project planning: the role of non-governmental and community based organizations; and anticipating and evaluating social and environmental impacts of planning projects.

Learning Objectives. Through this course, students are expected to gain familiarity with theoretical concepts relevant to development planning, and be able to apply them in the analysis and design of planning interventions for social, economic, and environmental betterment.

Requirements. There are two major objectives to be accomplished over the course of the semester: read and discuss articles which are pertinent to understanding the various forces and interests which impinge upon project development; and undertake an in-depth case study of a particular development project, which will be presented in the form of two term papers.

Evaluation. Grading for the course will be based upon the following:

30% Class participation

30% First paper

40% Final paper