URP 540: LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Winter 2019
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 –10:30/ 2210 Art and Architecture Building
Instructor: Professor James Macmillen (macmille@umich.edu)

In this class, we learn about different land use and environmental planning tools and techniques that involve regulations, incentives, taxation, and infrastructure provision. Examples include growth management techniques (urban growth boundaries, urban service boundaries, priority development areas, concurrency, etc), zoning ordinances (subdivision regulation, site review), agricultural land preservation (transfer of development rights, conservation easements), the increasing role of non-profits (land trusts, land banks), and how efforts to advance environmental sustainability must also consider social justice. The majority of this class will focus on planning in the United States, although a number of international examples will also feature.

Learning Goals:

By the end of the term, students will be able to:

• Critically discuss the merits of government interventions that regulate land use and development.
• Appreciate the multiple and competing ways that land is culturally understood, and the tensions between its public and private character.
• Understand how and why comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances emerged in US planning.
• Explain why development patterns and land use regulations differ across geographical contexts and historical periods.
• Critique contemporary land use governance as it relates to issues of social justice and environmental sustainability.
• Critically discuss the role of third-party/non-profit entities in US land governance (for example, land banks).
• Demonstrate effective public speaking and visual and written communications about land use issues.

Course Requirements:

Course assignments include a midterm exam, a presentation, and a final paper.