COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT
WINTER 2025

URP 542 / EAS 592 – ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., 2115 A&AB
Instructor: Professor Richard Norton (rknorton@umich.edu)
Urban and Regional Planning Program / Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

Please contact the Taubman College Registrar, Stacey Shimones (mesvcs@umich.edu),
if you have difficulty enrolling.

Description:

This is an introductory graduate-level workshop course on the fundamental issues, concepts, and analytical methods that shape contemporary environmental planning in practice. The course will first address recurrent value-based and analytical conflicts that cut across various environmental policymaking and planning activities and then survey analytical methods related to several focused topics, such as place-based land suitability analysis and project-based environmental impact analysis. Most of the course will be taught as a studio workshop.

Learning Goals:

By the end of the term, students should be able to:
- Explain the value debates that typify environmental planning practice in a democratic, pluralistic society.
- Explain and work analytically with basic knowledge of environmental systems at risk from contemporary land development patterns, along with the analytical, design, and regulatory remedies commonly employed to address those threats.
- Apply environmental planning knowledge and methods to a real-world project (project to be determined).
- Collaborate meaningfully with colleagues from allied disciplines on complex multi-disciplinary planning and policymaking efforts.

Course Requirements:

Course assignments will consist of student-led presentations on selected environmental planning topics and student contributions to several group products related to work produced for Canton Township, including a formal scope of work (SOW) negotiated with the Township, interim work products specified by that SOW, final written work products, and a final presentation.