Overview of public health, public policy, and urban planning with an emphasis on how these fields intersect in a U.S. context.

SAS Core Curriculum Learning Goals

- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization (m)
- Employ tools of social scientific reasoning to study particular questions or situations, using appropriate assumptions, methods, evidence, and arguments. (n)

Public Health Learning Outcomes
Students Will:

1. Think critically in public health
2. Effectively communicate public health information
3. Utilize information literacy skills in public health

COURSE OVERVIEW

Introduction to Planning, Public Policy, and Public Health is designed to introduce you to Planning, Public Policy, and Public Health as it occurs at the local level. The selected readings for the course have been designed to prepare you to become engaged in local governmental programs. Lectures and class discussion will be important resources as you observe the local Boards overseeing Planning, Public Health and Policy in New Jersey municipalities. Your readings set forth not only the legal basis for decision-making but also the procedural and substantive work of the municipal staff, and contracted consultants. Urban planners can shape the development and redevelopment of a community through the Master Plan, and Community Development Regulations which include the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision
Ordinance, and Site Plan Development Standards. Public Health Practitioners focus on chronic disease prevention and seek to mitigate the exposure of people to environmental contamination. Elected officials develop policy which provides standards and funding to achieve community protective goals. These tools and standards will be the focus of our discussion as we examine land development proposals and local public health programs. Several of our case studies will have environmental components including impacts on natural resources, as well as contaminated site remediation requirements.

To witness first hand local Planning, Public Health, and Public Policy introduced in class lecture you will attend a local meeting. It may be a local Board of Health, a local Planning Board, or Governing Body, in a community of your choice and submit a report of their activities. Most municipal boards meet regularly and are required by the Local Public Meetings Act, to be announced and open to the public. Plan to arrive early enough to introduce yourself to the chairperson, and to inform him or her that you will be an observer that evening. You will write a brief narrative of the items that were discussed at the meeting. Speak with the Board chairperson during a break or at the end of the meeting to find out what is coming up or has recently been before the Board that might be interesting for your case study project. If you can, get an agenda. You should prepare your narrative of items discussed at the meeting as if you are a staff level department employee who is attending the session with the purpose of briefing the department on what is going on at the meeting on matters currently being considered by the Board. Remember, you are to keep the director aware of the facts, as well as the tone of the discussion taking place at the meeting. Who testified? What was acceptable and unacceptable to the Board? Was there public in attendance? What was public reaction to the matter? What will happen next and who will get it done? This report will be due before the midterm, so make every effort to attend your meeting by mid-October.

You will work throughout the semester in a project team. The expectation is that as an undergraduate, you are prepared to work collectively in an efficient and effective manner. There will be zero tolerance for dysfunctional teams. A midterm will be administered to verify your preparedness for the project.
Your project (Case Study) will involve the comprehensive evaluation of a local Planning, Public Health, or Public Policy issue. Your attendance at the Board meeting is an excellent opportunity to get a sense of what is going on in the local community of your choice. Use this time efficiently to search out and make the municipal contacts you will need to complete the case study.

As you prepare for future employment in the public or private sector your ability to communicate information is key to your success. I will therefore place importance on how well you present your case study. Remember, be concise and convincing. Good Luck!

### Class Outline by Week

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/11/17</td>
<td>Overview of the course</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18/17</td>
<td>The origins of Public Health</td>
<td>Investigate Public Meeting Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25/17</td>
<td>Public Health Practice Standards in New Jersey</td>
<td>Read Statutes Articles 1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2/17</td>
<td>Public Health Practice Standards “continued”</td>
<td>Read Statutes Articles 6-10</td>
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<td>10/9/17</td>
<td>NJ State Dept. of Health &amp; Senior Services Health Department Audit</td>
<td>Read LHD Audit Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16/17</td>
<td>The Origins of Urban Planning</td>
<td>Attend Public Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23/17</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning in New Jersey</td>
<td>Read NJ Municipal Land Use Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/30/17</td>
<td>Brownfields</td>
<td>Read Brownfield Article</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6/17</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13/17</td>
<td>Applied Planning &amp; Zoning at the Local Level</td>
<td>Submit Project Proposal Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/20/17</td>
<td>Applied Public Health Practice at the Local Level</td>
<td>Read Chapter 24 Retail Food Establishment</td>
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<td>11/27/17</td>
<td>Local Elected Officials and Policymaking</td>
<td>Read Handouts</td>
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<td>12/4/17</td>
<td>Project Presentations</td>
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Assessment

The following assignments will assess the course learning goals:

**SAS CORE CURRICULUM LEARNING GOALS**

- Societal and historical Analysis Goal h: Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- Social Analysis Goal m: Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.
- Social Analysis Goal n: Apply concepts about human behavior and social behavior to particular questions of situations.

(a) The core subject matters and dynamics of the fields of planning, public policy, and public health, and how they intersect; and

(b) Methods of analyzing planning, public policy, and health policy issues, including analysis and evaluation from the perspective of the six key factors that drive public policy formation:
   1. science
   2. elected officials and their staff
   3. other stakeholders (business, media, not-for-profits, the public)
   4. money (cost and benefits)
   5. ethics and morality
   6. practicality (time and flexibility)

In addition, you have satisfied the relevant Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum Requirements. Successful completion of the course satisfies three of the 28 SAS Core Curriculum Learning Goals. Under Goal “h”, which is a background “social and historical analysis goal,” you will be “able to understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.” Successfully achieving Goal “h” will aid in satisfying Goals “m” and “n”, both of which are “social analysis goals.” With the satisfaction of Goal “m” you will be “able to understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization;” with the satisfaction of Goal “n”, you will be “able to apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.”

Required Readings: There is no assigned text for this course. As such, your attendance in class is your only means of access to the subject material.

**COURSE POLICIES**
Rutgers University’s Academic Integrity Policy: Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, failure to cite sources, fabrication and falsification, stealing ideas, and deliberate slanting of research designs to achieve a pre-conceived result. The University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml#. For additional information, you will find the Bloustein School’s perspective on academic misconduct on the last page of this syllabus.

Attendance and Class Participation: Attendance and class participation is mandatory, especially when guest speakers are scheduled, since the class format is not solely lecture-oriented. Each student will be expected to contribute to the discussion with respect to the readings and in-class discussions.

Narrative Response Paper: Each student will be required to submit a 2-3 page essay during the course of the semester. The essay will be based on attending a public meeting of a health board, planning board, or town council meeting. This will be an opportunity for each student to learn how municipalities address public health and planning issues, and to learn how policy is implemented. It is also an opportunity for students to relate the class lectures to real-world activities. The essay should be organized in a clear way and demonstrate that the student not only attended the meeting, but connected the public health issues discussed at the public meeting with discussions in class. Essays are due by midnight on the Friday evening before the class meets. Late submissions will be penalized.

Class Project: This portion of the class will allow students to observe and learn how the urban planning and public health principles discussed in class are applied in their respective professions. The class will be divided into small groups with each group choosing to research a particular public health or urban planning issue. The group will explore how this issue is being addressed at the municipal level by picking a particular municipality. This research project will require each group to visit their municipality to obtain information and interview municipal officials regarding a particular public health or urban planning topic.

Public Health Learning Outcomes

1. Think critically in public health
2. Effectively communicate public health information
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Course Grading

A=90-100; B+=86-89; B=80-85; C+=76-79; C=70-75; D=60-69; F=59 and lower

15%..................Narrative Paper
40%..................Midterm Exam
45%..................Group Project /Presentation
Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is vital to the mission of Rutgers, to education at Rutgers and membership in the Rutgers community. It is a core value that supports trust among students, and between students and teachers. It is also a shared value; administration, faculty and students each play a vital part in promoting, securing and nurturing it.

Academic dishonesty is not an individual act that affects only the students involved. It violates communal trust, impacts other members of the community, and is an offense against scholarship. For this reason, any instance of cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with harshly.

Honesty matters. As a shared value, administration, faculty and students each play a vital part in promoting, securing, and nurturing it. See the Rutgers Academic Code and Academic Oath at:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/

Attendance and Cancellation of Classes: In accordance with Rutgers University regulations, attendance is expected at all regularly scheduled meetings of a course and individual courses may set policies for maximum absences. Please refer to the link below for more specific information:

http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/courses/registration-and-course-policies/attendance-and-cancellation-of-class

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