The Course:

This is an urban planning skills building course that is counted toward the group process professional competency area in the MUP curriculum. It introduces students to literature, case studies, and applied exercises focusing on planning skills relevant to: negotiations, public participation, and community organizing. The course emphasizes how these skills can be incorporated into an equity planning framework to empower disenfranchised communities and promote social justice. Course content and activities include: readings, lectures, discussions, simulation exercises, and fieldwork.

During the semester we will discuss the assigned readings, participate in simulation exercises, and do other activities. Everyone should be prepared to attend class and participate on a weekly basis.

If you have any questions during the semester, bring them to my attention. I will be available during office hours and by appointment. Also, you may contact me using e-mail.

Course Objective:

The course objectives for URP577 are listed below. The course assignments will be used to assess student learning of the course objectives. Course assignments that assess specific course objectives are identified in the course requirements section of this syllabus.

Course Objective 1: Enhance negotiations skills used in urban planning practice, with an emphasis on strategies to apply those skills to reduce race, class, gender and other forms of inequality.

Course Objective 2: Expand the understanding of the role public participation plays in urban planning practice, with an emphasis on empowering race, class, gender and other disenfranchised groups.

Course Objective 3: Introduce core community organizing principles and their application to urban planning practice, with an emphasis on empowering race, class, gender and other disenfranchised groups.

Required Text and Required Reserve Readings:

The required texts are available at the University Medical Bookstore and are part of the e-books collection on the UB libraries website:


3) Required Reserve Readings are available on UBLearns.
Course Requirements:

*Positional Bargaining Paper:* On February 13 the paper will be discussed. The paper is due on February 27 [course objective 1].

*Microaggressions in Local Planning Discourse Assignment:* On March 6 the assignment will be discussed. There is a group and individual component to this assignment. Each group will attend meeting of local planning and civic organizations, create a PowerPoint, and present a summary of the findings from the fieldwork. After the presentations, each student will write a paper that identifies the forms of microaggressions found in local planning discourse and make recommendations to address this problem. The PowerPoint presentations will take place on May 1. The student papers are due on May 8. [course objectives 1, 2 & 3].

*Discussion Boards:* Students will contribute to discussion boards (DBs). DB#1 opens January 30 and is due February 13. DB#2 opens March 13 and is due March 27 [course objectives 1, 2 & 3].

*Simulations:* Students will participate in simulations on the following dates: February 6, February 13, March 13, and May 8 [course objectives 1, 2 & 3].

*The Art of War Roundtable:* On February 6 the roundtable will be discussed. February 20 the roundtable will take place. [course objective 1].

*Community Organizing Roundtable:* On February 27 the roundtable will be discussed. On April 3 the roundtable will take place. [course objective 2].

*Grading Policy:* Your grade will be based on the following (100 points possible for the semester):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positional Bargaining Paper</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microaggressions in Local Planning Discourse Assignment</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulations</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Art of War Roundtable</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Organizing Roundtable</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Grading Scales:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-95.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Academic Integrity:*

Students are expected to approach the course with seriousness and integrity. It is important to complete assignments on time, attend class regularly, and foster a collegial learning environment. Plagiarism and other instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on a respective assignment, exam, or paper. Students should refer to the *University at Buffalo Graduate Catalog* for clarification on the University’s policies and procedures.
Accommodations for Disabilities:

If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that impacts your course work please contact the Accessibility Resources Office (ARO), 60 Capen Hall, (716) 645-2608. ARO will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation (such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments). You must bring requests for accommodations for a disability to the professor’s attention within the first two weeks of class.

Writing Centers:

The University at Buffalo has a number of writing center where students can get assistance with essays, term papers, and thesis projects. Students should contact one of the following if they would like to access these campus resources:

- Graduate students can contact the Graduate Student Association (GSA) about their Editorial Assistance Program. For information about this program go to the GSA office in 310 Student Union, (716) 645-2960; gsaedit@buffalo.edu; https://ubgsaedit.wixsite.com/gsa-editorial.
- International students can contact the English Language Institute. The English Language Institute is located at 320 Baldy Hall; (716) 645-2077; elibuffalo@buffalo.edu; http://www.buffalo.edu/english-language-institute.html.

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

January 30: Introduction to the Course
Assigned Readings:
- Fisher et. al. Ch 1

Other Activities:
- Discussion board #1 Opens

February 6: People and Interests
Assigned Readings:
- Fisher et. al. Ch 2&3

Other Activities:
- Discuss The Art of War roundtable
- In-Class Simulation #1

February 13: Objective Criteria and Mutual Gain
Assigned Readings:
- Fisher et. al. Ch 4&5

Other Activities:
- In-Class Simulation #2
- Post to discussion board #1 by noon February 13
- Positional Bargaining Paper Discussed
February 20: *The Art of War Roundtable*

February 27: *Power Games*

**Assigned Readings:**
- Fisher et al. Ch 6, 7 & 8

**Other Activities:**
- Community Organizing Roundtable Discussed
- Positional Bargaining Paper due by noon on February 27

March 6: *Microaggressions and Urban Planning*

**Assigned Readings:**

**Other Activities:**
- Microaggressions in Local Planning Discourse Assignment Discussed

March 13: *Monopoly Simulation*

**Assigned Readings:**
- Fisher et al Conclusion and Ten Questions People Ask about Getting to YES.

**Other Activities:**
- In-Class Simulation #3
- Discussion board #2 Opens

March 20: *SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS*

March 27: *Advocacy and Public Participation in Planning*

**Assigned Readings:**
- Walls Ch 1

**Other Activities:**
• Post to discussion board #2 by noon on March 27

**April 3: Community Organizing Roundtable**

**Assigned Readings:**
• Walls Ch 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

**Other Activities:**
• Community Organizing Roundtable

**April 10: Community Benefits Agreements**

**Assigned Readings:**

**April 17 and 24: NO CLASS – APA Conference (4/13-4/16) and UAA Conference (4/24-4/27)**

**Other Activities:**
• Work on the microaggressions in local planning discourse assignment

**May 1: Microaggression in Local Planning Discourse Group Presentations**

**Assigned Readings (to cover for May 8 simulation):**

**Other Activities:**
• Microaggressions in local planning discourse group presentations

**May 8: NIMBY Simulation**

**Other Activities:**
• In-Class Simulation #4
• Microaggressions in Local Planning Discourse Paper Due by noon on May 8