

# DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

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## Faculty

Dr. Firas, El-Douri, Associate Professor  
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 Dr. Edmund Merem, Professor  
 Dr. Joan Wesley, Associate Professor  
 Dr. Talya D. Thomas, Associate Professor

## Mission of Program

The Urban and Regional Planning (URP) programs seek to develop leaders in the field of city planning. The programs provide students with learning opportunities that enable them to develop the intellectual qualities necessary for meeting the broad and varied range of problems and challenges associated with urban growth and development. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) offers a Master of Arts degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree. The Master of Arts (M.A.) program is accredited through the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) and is the only accredited Planning program in the State of Mississippi. The M.A. program consists of an inter-disciplinary curriculum of 49 semester hours, including practical community-based learning experiences and planning studios, while the Doctor of Philosophy consists of 48 semester hours, beyond the master's degree. Both programs have a special focus on increasing the number of under-represented groups and women in the profession. The rigorous programs are designed for both full-time and part-time students. The programs target recognition at the regional, state, and national levels.

## Program Objectives

Urban and Regional Planning concentrates upon the challenging issues and problems confronting planning professionals and scholars in the rebuilding of cities across the nation. Courses and studios offer challenging scholarly and practical work that focuses attention on real world solutions while respecting the ethical, skill, and plan development practices of the profession.

## Masters

- Urban and Regional Planning (M.A.) (<https://jsums-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/college-science-engineering-technology/departement-urban-regional-planning/urban-regional-planning-ma/>)

## Doctoral

- Urban and Regional Planning (Ph.D.) (<https://jsums-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/college-science-engineering-technology/departement-urban-regional-planning/urban-regional-planning-phd/>)

## Course Descriptions

### URP 500 HISTORY OF PLANNING (3 Hours)

Introduction to the historical roots, periods, and personalities that have shaped the profession. A study in the development of the profession within the context of urban American history.

### URP 502 PLANNING THEORY & PRACTICE (3 Hours)

Overview of theories that have contributed to the development of contemporary urban planning; theories introduced include rationality, advocacy, and critical. Also studied are issues related to professional ethics, race and class, and urban development.

### URP 504 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS & COMPUTE (4 Hours)

Introduction to the use of quantitative reasoning and statistical techniques to solve planning and policy problems. This course focuses on application of descriptive and inferential statistics, sampling, regression analysis and modeling.

### URP 506 LEGAL ASPECTS OF PLANNING (3 Hours)

Introduction to the basis in constitutional, common, and statutory law for the authority of plan effectuation. This course delineates the legal and legislative bases for planning at the local, state, and federal levels.

### URP 508 INTRODUCTION TO URBAN DESIGN (3 Hours)

This course provides an understanding of the dynamics that created contemporary urban and regional spatial patterns, elements of physical planning in relation to social, economic, and political forces as well as the role of the urban designer in the planning process.

### URP 520 HOUSING POLICY (3 Hours)

Thorough review of the problems and issues related to housing planning and policy dealing primarily with inter-relationships and interdependencies among socio-cultural, economic and physical aspects of housing. This course focuses on the social, political, and economic aspects of housing policy in the United States.

### URP 521 AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY (3 Hours)

Investigates processes of community development for their application in community building in African American communities. Explores the development of a model for development and discusses various roles of participants in the community development process.

### URP 522 INTRO. TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (3 Hours)

Overview of the elements of the community development process including housing, economic development, education, public safety, social services, transportation, infrastructure, the environment, citizen participation and leadership. This course places an emphasis on the application of planning methods and theory to the resolution of community problems.

### URP 524 NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION (3 Hours)

Exploration of planning and political activities that contribute to the restoration of older neighborhoods. Impacts of economic, social, and political processes that govern decision making and funding for revitalization efforts.

### URP 525 LAND DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS (3 Hours)

Emphasizes private decision making and development, public/private relationships, and regulatory activities. This course explores patterns of land utilization from the perspectives of the neighborhood, city, and metropolis.

**URP 526 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (3 Hours)**

Introduction to the issues, policies, and techniques related to the role of citizens in the public decision making process. Consideration will be given to legislative requirements for public involvement as well as the role of survey research in the citizen participation process. Techniques for developing local capacity through citizen mobilization and a focus on community building are explored.

**URP 527 PUBLIC FINANCE PLANNING (3 Hours)**

Overview of the principle of public budgeting, capital budget planning and public finance strategies. This course considers issues surrounding local development and fiscal decision making as they relate to project planning, revenue sources and project evaluation.

**URP 528 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (3 Hours)**

Strategies and tools for developing employment, business ownership, and investment in local, state, and regional economies. This course focuses on contemporary economic development patterns and practices in central cities and urban areas in the South.

**URP 529 PLANNING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (3 Hours)**

Examination of the role of local government in the city planning process. Special consideration is given to the functional areas of planning such as transportation, housing, neighborhoods, environmental constraints, and land use.

**URP 530 INTRO TO ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING (3 Hours)**

Comprehensive overview of the field and the efforts being made to organize, control, and coordinate environmental, aesthetic, and uses of nature and of man-made substances. This course focuses on the problems, potential solutions, and methodologies of public policy, law, and economics as they affect environmental issues in planning.

**URP 531 GROWTH MANAGEMENT (3 Hours)**

Techniques employed to manage growth-related change and to implement plans. This course focuses on matters of capital investment, development impact analysis, impact mitigation, ethical implications, and alternative growth potentials.

**URP 532 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ETHICS (3 Hours)**

Investigation of the issues and affects of decision making related to environmental justice. This course focuses on the history of the development, cases, and advocacies for ethical decision making related to the environment.

**URP 533 RURAL LAND USE PLANNING (3 Hours)**

Small-town planning, rural populations, and development dynamics are explored. This course focuses on the social, economic, political, and environmental factors that are employed by planners to assist citizens plan for quality futures.

**URP 535 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING STUDIO (3 Hours)**

Introduction to the theory and practice of urban and regional planning. Planning as a method of decision making and strategic choice, goal setting, alternative development, and implementation solutions.

**URP 536 DEVELOPING NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PL (3 Hours)**

Examines urban development issues and impacts in Third World nations. This course explores issues of environmental quality, policy responses, housing production, biological diversity, agriculture, conservation, wildlife management, and socio-economic pressures

**URP 537 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (3 Hours)**

Interactive community and governmental dynamics in plan implementation are explored. This course focuses on the use of land-use regulatory tools and community facilities in implementing the plan.

**URP 538 ZONING AND LAND USE REGULATION (3 Hours)**

The theory, practice, and consequences of zoning as a land use tool in the implementation plans. This course includes the legal and administrative elements employed in zoning law, ordinance preparation, and other regulatory devices.

**URP 540 HISTORIC PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION (3 Hours)**

Issues of revitalizing and preserving historic resources are explored. This course focuses on the history, context, methods, and public policies related to historic preservation movements and programs.

**URP 541 TECH SKILLS OF COMPUTATION AND COMMUNICATION (3 Hours)**

Studio introducing graphic communication (in two and three dimensions) as visual organization and sequencing of the complex and varied information considered in the decision-making process of planning. Exercise of cognitive and aesthetic judgment by selective use and drawing of lines, planes, perspective, solids, shade, shadow and color; including introduction to the examination of aesthetic, symbolic and cultural elements of design.

**URP 542 INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES (3 Hours)**

Examines planning and policy issues surrounding public services and facilities. Topics include the distribution of the benefits and costs of various public services and fiscal, traffic, and environmental impacts of land development.

**URP 543 COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN I (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: URP 541)  
Studio introducing the concepts, issues and methods of computer-aided design as a tool in the planning and urban design process. A previous knowledge of computers is not required. (

**URP 544 DESIGN STUDIO (3 Hours)**

Investigates the development of physical form of cities through models, geographic landscape, and intentional human use. This course focuses on the manner in which people exploit land and human experiences that determine design principles.

**URP 546 SITE DEVELOPMENT (3 Hours)**

Introduction to site analysis, using environmental and engineering principles and modeling exercises to analyze and understand the use of land for development purposes. This course focuses on elements of grading, drainage, and landscape architecture.

**URP 547 BEHAVIOR & CULTURAL FACTORS (3 Hours)****URP 550 SPECIAL TOPICS (3 Hours)**

Students electing to not pursue the thesis option may enroll in this course to conduct a special project topic. A maximum of three credits are allowed for this course.

**URP 551 REGIONAL PLANNING (3 Hours)**

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of regional planning - its historical roots, current practices, regionalism. Regional planning, metropolitan planning, and similar terms are constantly being used by planners. What do these terms mean? How can they influence practice and scholarship in this field?

**URP 555 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-6 Hours)**

Students wishing to explore an in-depth study of a topic not directly offered in the curriculum may enroll in this course. A maximum of six credit hours of independent study may be accrued. Permission of the faculty is required.

**URP 560 THESIS RESEARCH (3 Hours)**

Students pursuing the thesis option must enroll in this course. This course focuses on the methodology and techniques of writing a thesis, including the research and presentation of the document.

**URP 566 MASTER'S THESIS (3 Hours)**

Students electing the thesis option must obtain approval from the faculty for the prospectus. All requirements of the Graduate School for submission dates must be met.

**URP 570 INTERNSHIP (3 Hours)****URP 571 GIS FOR PLANNING (3 Hours)****URP 572 ADVANCED CONCEPTS IN GIS URBAN PLANNING (3 Hours)****URP 700 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES (3 Hours)**

Intensive investigation and discussion of major contributing factors to the economic, social and ecological development of cities. The course will require students to apply historical research methodologies in the analysis of urban agglomerations.

**URP 702 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN PLANNING (3 Hours)**

Study of the advanced theoretical concepts in urban planning and the relationship between planning theory and social science precepts. Comparative analysis of theories that stimulate planning thought and philosophy.

**URP 710 ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: URP 502 or equivalent.

The course is designed to offer state-of-the-art procedures and paradigms in statistical applications.

**URP 712 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (3 Hours)**

Students acquire a foundation in conceptualization, measurement, research design, prospectus preparation, data collection, approaches to data analysis, documentation, and presentation of substantive research.

**URP 714 ETHICS IN PLANNING SEMINAR (3 Hours)**

In this course students examine the theory and practice of professional ethics. The principles of ethical thinking and behavior in the planning profession are covered extensively.

**URP 720 URBAN HOUSING POLICIES (3 Hours)**

This course examines the policies that impact housing systems in the United States. Factors contributing to housing shortages and housing costs are analyzed, and programs developed to address these issues are evaluated. Additionally, the role of housing advocacy is studied.

**URP 722 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING (3 Hours)**

A thorough analysis and evaluation of the principles and practices of community development. Substantive areas of housing, economic development, education, public safety, social services, transportation, infrastructure, the environment, citizen participation and leadership will be selectively covered. This course places an emphasis on the application of planning methods and theory to the resolution of community problems.

**URP 724 URBAN REVITALIZATION STUDIO (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: Specialization in community development and housing.

In-depth study of a selected problem related to urban revitalization. Students will be required to prepare a detailed planning document addressing the redevelopment needs of a specific urban neighborhood or area. Topics vary each semester depending on research opportunities.

**URP 726 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (3 Hours)**

This course provides an intensive study of the roles of citizen participation influencing the public planning process. Consideration is given to emerging methods and programs for public involvement as well as the role of survey research in the citizen participation process. Techniques for developing local capacity through citizen mobilization and a focus on community building will be explored.

**URP 728 LOCAL & REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (3 Hours)**

An in-depth examination and evaluation of strategies and tools for developing employment, business ownership, and investment in local, state, and regional economics. This course allows students to conduct research on a specialized interest in the areas of economic development and finance, while gaining a greater understanding of the relationship between local and regional economic development patterns and practices.

**URP 729 POLITICS OF PLANNING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (3 Hours)**

This course will examine the key role of politics and the planning functions that are carried out by local governments within the United States. Key issues in several functional areas will be highlighted such as sustainable development that will focus on transportation, environmental concerns, housing, land use, and community economic development.

**URP 730 ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE (3 Hours)**

This course investigates the major competing theories and policies related to the built environment and natural world. Methods of classifying and evaluating the effects of pollution upon natural and social systems are discussed.

**URP 731 GROWTH DEVELOPMENT (3 Hours)****URP 732 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ETHICS (3 Hours)****URP 733 COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (3 Hours)**

In this course, students examine the theory and practice of countryside development and planning. The principles of ecological, socio-economic, political elements and development models shaping planning for rural communities in a sustainable setting are covered extensively.

**URP 735 LAND USE PLANNING STUDIO (3 Hours)**

Selective problems related to urban and/or rural issues are presented. Students are required to prepare (individually or in teams) area or comprehensive plans that are designed to provide alternative solutions to identified problems.

**URP 736 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENT (3 Hours)**

An overview of conditions, policies, and programs that characterize living patterns in international settings. Students are required to conduct research and make scholarly presentations regarding the diverse settlements found in western and non-western nations.

**URP 737 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (3 Hours)**

The theories, practices and rationalizations for planner involvement in the implementation of alternatives are investigated. Students are required to present a formal strategy for the implementation of a planning proposal.

**URP 740 FOUNDATIONS IN URBAN DESIGN (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: URP 700 or permission of the instructor.

Examination of the social, physical and cultural determinants of form, pattern, and space that expresses the heritage of urban design and city building; and the role of urban design in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning.

**URP 742 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION METHODS FOR URBAN DESIGN (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: URP 740.

Exploration of the theoretical, methodological and practical issues of urban design, including urban space and morphology, conceptions of place, cognition, perception and information field theory. Students will gain a working competence in at least one of the methods analyzed. Focus on selected contemporary issues in commercial and neighborhood design and planning.

**URP 744 URBAN DESIGN STUDIO (3 Hours)**

Systematic study of specialized subject matter leading to the design and effectuation of physical improvement plans, program design, and public policies. Synthesis of urban design and planning issues and research methods in a laboratory setting. Topics vary each year, depending on current planning interest and needs.

**URP 746 URBAN DESIGN DOCTORAL SEMINAR (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: Completion of Ph.

Discussion and critique of selected research work and analytical methods involving issues of urban design. Presentation and critique of research proposed by members of the seminar. D. core courses and required urban design concentration courses.

**URP 750 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ISSUES IN PLANNING (3 Hours)**

This course is designed to study the most current and effective practices to study the most current and effective practices in the profession. A range of considerations related to the techniques of intervention methods of design, and public involvement in the planning and decision-making process are selectively covered.

**URP 751 REGIONAL PLANNING (3 Hours)**

**URP 760 ADVANCED READINGS (3 Hours)**

In this colloquium students read and discuss the assigned books. The instructor facilitates the discussion. Each student will be responsible for at least two readings and weekly discussions.

**URP 770 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-9 Hours)**

By arrangement with the advisor and approval with the faculty, students may pursue a topic of special academic or research interest. The independent research must be at an advanced graduate level and related to the field of planning. May be repeated with change of topic.

**URP 771 SEM IN GIS FOR URBAN PLANNING (3 Hours)**

**URP 772 ADVANCED GIS APPLICATIONS IN URP (3 Hours)**

**URP 777 DOCTORAL RESEARCH PREPARATION (1-6 Hours)**

The course is designed to specifically and exclusively for those students who have completed all required coursework, obtained permission to enroll from the Department Chair, and seek time to prepare for the Comprehensive Examination. The course will permit qualified students to interact with faculty and colleagues to properly prepare for the Comprehensive Examination. Permission from the Department Chair is required.

**URP 899 DISSERTATION HOURS (1-9 Hours)**

Prerequisite: completion of all Ph.

Working with a faculty approved committee, the student is required to undertake dissertation research. D. course work, approved dissertation proposal, and dissertator status with the Graduate School. Course may be repeated provided progress is being made on the dissertation.