48-742: Graduate Seminar 3: Planning and Public Policy for the Future of Urbanism
Units: 3 or 6
Instructor: Raymond W. Gastil

This seminar focuses on the connections between policy, planning, and the design of regions, cities, and neighborhoods, down to the scale of the individual project. Built form and urban landscapes, from new housing to reused factories and brownfield developments, respond to overarching urban models and plans as well as to detailed incentives, regulations, and review processes driven by social, economic, and environmental aims. This course introduces frameworks, from local zoning to global sustainable development goals, and includes emerging models more responsive to social justice, community empowerment, and ubiquitous information.

The course is organized into four modules: 1) Challenge and Frameworks; 2) Existing and Future Strategies; 3) Inclusive Innovation; and 4) Project Proposals for planning and policy, which have ranged from remaking social housing to redesigning food systems to coastal communities responding to climate change. Models discussed include Just Transition for carbon-intensive economies, New Local Mobility, and Smart Communities, health-driven community design, Adaptive Preservation, and Resilient Regionalism.

Note: Students choosing the 6-unit option, rather than the 3-unit one, will have an additional assignment of an individual research document.