

**COURSE OUTLINE, Robert Wagner School, N.Y.U.**

P11.1603 (001), Fall 2008

Introduction to Urban Planning Practice & Methods

Frank Fish, FAICP

Tuesdays 6:20 - 8:00 pm, Room 705, Silver Center

Discussion sessions are at BFJ from 4:30-6:00 pm

**1. Introduction 9/2**

- Course Materials & Reading
- Maps, Scales, Graphics
- Reports & Information Sources
- Planning Process/Legislative Basis

**2. Site Planning 9/9**

- Topography/Elevation
- Soils/Wetlands/Vegetation
- Roads/Drainage
- Site Issues: Visual, Surroundings, Costs

**3. Approvals and Subdivisions 9/16**

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Discussion Session: Site Planning 4:30

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- Authority
- Sketch, Preliminary & Final
- Landscape/design
- Readings: Westchester Primer - Planning Board

**4. Supporting Infrastructure 9/23**

- Transportation
- Parking
- Utilities
- Parks & Open Space

**5. Demographic & Economic Analysis 9/30**

- Demographic Forecasting
- Market Analysis
- CEDS - Economic Development Strategies

**6. Components of Master Plan 10/7**

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Discussion Session: Neighborhood 197A Plans 4:30

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- Population Studies
- Socio/Economic Analysis
- Land Use Studies/Infrastructure
- Development of Alternatives
- Recommendations
- Reading: Part 1 pages 68-96

**Fall Break ( No Class) 10/14**

**7. Zoning Codes 10/21**

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Discussion Session: Zoning Discussion: NYC Zoning Code  
4:30

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- Legal basis
- Organization
- Schedules
- Maps
- Reading: New York City  
Zoning Handbook

**8. MID-TERM 10/28**

**9. GIS Plan Applications 11/4**

- Neighborhood Plans
- Build Out Analysis
- Master Plans/Zoning Codes
- NYMTC Suitability Analysis

**10. Special Legislative Powers 11/11**

- Variance
- Special Permit
- Official Map/Recreation Reservation
- Urban Renewal/Eminent Domain
- Reading: Westchester County, Planning Primer Series,  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**11. Preservation & Design Principles 11/18**

- Legislative Basis/Limitations
- Architectural Review Board
- Landmark Designation
- Surveys, Controls, and Standards

- Reading: Westchester County, Design Review Boards

**12. Environmental Review 11/25**

- Legislative Basis/Limitations
- NEPA/SEQR/CEQR
- EIS Process
- Evaluation/Methodology

**13. Course Overview & Presentation Rehearsals 12/2**

**14. Final Presentations (BFJ) 12/9**

**15. Final Presentations (BFJ) 12/16**

**READING LIST**

**Course Textbook:**

The practice of local Government Planning, International City Managers Assoc.  
Washington, D.C.

**Readings:**

Municipal Planning Primer Series  
Westchester County Planning Department

- The Role of the Planning Board
- Design Review Boards
- The Zoning Board of Appeals
- NYC Zoning Handbook, Dept of City Planning, NYC

**Office Hours: 9:00 - 6:00 p.m. by appointment**

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