

EVDS 683.74 Planning for Urban Growth

RESEARCH PAPER

Assigned: August 30, 2002

Due: December 2, 2002



1 OBJECTIVES

This course will provide both theoretical understanding and practical insights into urban growth management policies through a comparative assessment of the experience of Seattle and Portland Oregon.

Within this framework the objectives of the course are:

1. To provide an understanding of planning policies affecting urban growth management;
2. To develop practical knowledge on planning alternatives to implement these policies in the most efficient and effective manner.

Planning concepts and policies within the following thematic areas will be explored in a comparative perspective:

- Regional Planning: Institutional and Policy Frameworks
- Urban Growth Management, Transportation Planning, Transit Oriented Developments
- Neighbourhood Planning and Design, Urban Villages, Housing Redevelopment.

Discussions along these lines will be guided by several fundamental questions: What can we learn from the regional planning experience of Seattle and Portland Oregon? How do planners manage growth? What planning policies make the implementation process successful? What best practices in neighbourhood planning or transit oriented development can be transferred to the Canadian context?

2 COMPONENTS

Depending on specific interests, students might be able to work individually or in teams. The topic of the research paper should be related to the thematic areas listed above and approved by the instructor.

The research paper consists of the following components:

1. **Literature review**

Select several readings, which most effectively describe planning policies and urban growth management strategies in the city under review. Social and physical settings are subject to different pressures, depending on such factors as the rate of economic growth, restructuring in the labor market, migration, demographic change, urban policies and planning intervention. The influence of these factors may vary according to the city's economic structure or the location advantages it has to offer in the global marketplace. The city, however, reflects and responds to these changes according to its own character and internal dynamics. It is important to provide a good understanding of the context within which different planning strategies and alternatives for urban growth management are implemented.

2. Analysis

Prepare a research paper, which explores the different aspects of the topic you have selected. Refer to major theoretical approaches and concepts discussed in the planning literature and indicate the way they have been applied to your case study. Summarize the key findings of your research and integrate the information in a consistent framework. Use separate headings and subheadings for each group of questions (e.g. socio-economic trends, suburban growth, policy context, institutional frameworks, etc.).

3. Illustration of results

Outcomes of urban growth management strategies can be evaluated in a number of ways – through several frameworks that have been established in the planning literature (e.g. process and plan evaluation, post-implementation evaluation, etc.) Certain results create well defined urban development schemes with their unique identity and characteristic features. Highlight the most distinctive features of the projects/plans/case studies under review. This should be done with photographs, sketches, plans. Comparative perspectives are particularly appropriate in that regard.

3 DATA SOURCES/ REFERENCES

You could use a variety of sources for this assignment such as chapters in books, journal articles, reports, materials distributed by urban development corporations, information on the Internet, interview data. Materials collected during the field trip available in the Resource Centre are a useful starting point. But you will have to go beyond these resources.

4 FORMAT

The research paper should begin with a brief introduction that outlines the topic, its significance and your approach. It is useful to describe the organization of the paper in one or two sentences. Its major part should address the issues identified in the literature review. Avoid excessive description; emphasize trends and patterns of change based on the information available. A reference to theoretical concepts applied in the analysis of your case study is required. Finally, it is important to include a brief conclusion that summarizes your findings. The research paper should be well organized and coherent. It should be in the range of 5,000 words. Please attach graphs, tables, and a bibliography. Be sure to include an abstract (50 words) that summarizes your ideas. Neither the graphs nor the tables are included in the word limit. Refer to <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPA.html> for specific guidelines on referencing style.

Please submit an electronic version of your paper together with the hard copy. The material will be used for the development of a group project on urban growth management.

Note that the December 2, 2000 is a final deadline. Students may wish to complete their work earlier.

5 EVALUATION

You will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of the paper, the creativity in presenting your findings, and a demonstrated understanding of how economic, social and spatial processes are interrelated at the local level. This assignment is worth 50% of your final course mark.

The following marking scheme will apply:

- ✓ Literature review and data analysis - 50%
- ✓ Interpretation, style and written presentation of results - 40%
- ✓ Illustrations - 10%.

Under style and written presentation of results, marks are assigned for the organization of the research paper, the quality of the writing, the choice of examples, and the ability to articulate conclusions in an effective manner.

6 DISCUSSIONS

Regular monthly meetings will be held in PF3173 on September 24th, October 29th and November 26th, 2002. In addition, the instructor will be available for consultations during regular office hours.