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DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

SURP 855: Environmental Planning and Management

Contact Time	One 3-hour session per week	
Format	Lecture/discussion, in-class activities	
Class Assessment (potential)	Environmental Planning and Management Overview 10% Environmental Planning and Management Report 45% Environmental Planning and Management Presentation 30% Participation in Class Sessions 15%	

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will focus on the relationship between environmental planning and management and the quality of life in cities and regions. There is an emphasis on planning Natural Heritage Systems (NHS), Climate Action Planning (CAP), and Community Energy Planning (CEP) within the urban context.

A Natural Heritage System (NHS) consists of core natural areas, such as woodlands and wetlands, connected by linkages and corridors, such as watercourses, functioning together as a system. The identification, delineation and protection of an NHS provides a high degree of confidence that the biological diversity and ecological functions of an area will be preserved and enhanced for future generations. Within the context of anticipated ongoing urban development, NHS planning is necessary to protect the habitat of plants and animals and ensure long-term ecological integrity on the landscape.

Climate Action Planning (CAP) involves setting out a framework for measuring, tracking and reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as mitigating and adapting to climate risks and adopting climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

Community Energy Planning (CEP) is a tool that helps define community priorities around energy to improve efficiency, cut emissions, and drive economic development. CEPs can help municipalities address local climate change/weather patterns, including supporting municipal energy emission reduction projects together with a healthier community.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and discuss Natural Heritage System planning and how the NHS can protect and enhance natural areas and systems in the face of development pressures within built up urban areas.
2. Understand and discuss how Climate Action Planning (CAP) and Community Energy Planning (CEP) can be used by municipalities to improve quality of life.
3. Understand a broad range of environmental planning and management perspectives, processes and methods.

COURSE TOPICS

Topics include urban natural areas, woodlands, protected areas, community energy and climate action in the context of environmental planning and management.

COURSE READINGS

Rey Benayas, A. (2020). Landscape restoration in a mixed agricultural-forest catchment: Planning a buffer strip and hedgerow network in a Chilean biodiversity hotspot. Ambio, 49(1), 310–323.