

**Undergraduate Course Offerings  
Spring 2021  
School of Public and International Affairs**

All information in this guide is tentative and subject to change. Check the course catalogue for updates.

**UAP 1024: PUBLIC ISSUES IN AN URBAN SOCIETY**

Instructors: Stephanie Davis

Offered: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10-11:00 am

Delivery Mode: Hybrid

Course Description: This class introduces some of the most vital concerns and issues challenging democratic capitalistic urban societies today. Topics addressed include different perspectives on the causes and portent of the urban underclass, the growing inequality between the educated and less well educated in the nation's labor markets, the causes of the marked resegregation of many of the nation's urban centers by race and income and the implications of privatization and interjurisdictional competition for the public policy behavior and outcomes of subnational governments.

**UAP 2004: PRINCIPLES OF REAL ESTATE**

Instructors: David Bieri

Offered: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:20-1:10 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Introduction to real estate, including markets, land use planning and zoning, development, finance, construction, sales, marketing, management and property valuation. Examines the key actors and processes in each of these areas. Explores major public policies impacting real estate.

**UAP 3224: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

Instructors: Stephanie Davis

Offered: Monday & Wednesday 4:00-5:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Systematic analysis of the field and practice of public policy implementation. Includes analysis of the structure and dynamics of the policy process as well as specific analytic approaches to understanding policy implementation. Includes analysis of intra-organizational, interorganizational and intergovernmental implementation processes.

**UAP/PSCI 3744: PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS**

Instructors: Andrea Morris

Offered: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:25-2:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Methods and approaches used in the analysis and evaluation of public policy; strengths and limitations of various analytic tools; normative issues in the practice of policy analysis.

**UAP 4394: COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS**

Instructor: John Randolph

Offered: Tuesday 5:00-7:30 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Practical design fundamentals for small scale renewable energy systems: solar building heating and cooling; solar domestic hot water; wind, photovoltaic, and hydroelectric systems; alcohol, methane and other biomass conversion systems. Developing plans, programs, and policies to stimulate development of renewable systems.

**UAP 4754: LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF PLANNING**

Instructors: Ari Theresa

Offered: Tuesday / Thursday: 9:30am to 10:45am

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Examination of the legal context in which urban planning and public policy operate. Legal structure, role of law, powers of sovereign governments, constitutional limitations on government activities, and public-private conflict and their influence on planning and public policy are examined. Pre: Junior standing required.

**UAP 4854: PLANNING OF THE URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Instructors: Theo Lim

Offered: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45 pm

Delivery Mode: Hybrid

Course Description: Course examines the interdependences among the elements of the built environment of the city and those between the elements of the built environment and the policy/planning structure of the city. Considered are those elements associated with the primary urban activities (residential, commercial, industrial) as well as the urban form-giving infrastructure facilities that support those land uses (water supply, sewerage, solid waste disposal, transportation, education, recreation, health, and safety).

**UAP 4914: SEMINAR IN PUBLIC AND URBAN AFFAIRS - SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FUTURE OF WORK**

Instructors: Ralph Hall

Offered: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Unsatisfied with current economic and development trends? Concerned about the environment? Worried that advanced technology/robotics/AI are undermining the future of work? Students in this capstone seminar will explore these questions and consider how programs such as the Green New Deal could provide a unique opportunity to advance a more sustainable future.

**PSCI 1014: INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Instructor: Chad Levinson

Offered: Monday and Wednesday 4:00-5:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online Synchronous

Course Description: Introduction to government and politics of the United States the Constitution, and various institutional designs and structures. Focus on political culture, interest groups, political parties, and elections. Roles and responsibilities of Congress, bureaucracy, Presidency, and federal courts; Discussion of selected current policy issues.

### **PSCI/IS 3624: FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY**

Instructor: Giselle Datz

Offered: Monday 7:00-9:30 pm

Delivery Mode: hybrid mode (online and in person, if/ when possible)

Course Description: Focuses on actors, issues, and processes pertaining to foreign policy formulation and implementation. Examines theoretical and historical perspectives on foreign policy analysis. Investigates the national security, foreign policy, and diplomacy nexus. Discusses types of diplomacy and diplomatic methods. Pre: IS 2054 or PSCI 2054 or GEOG 2054.

### **PSCI/IS 4034: TOPICS IN DIPLOMACY LAB**

Instructor: Joel Peters

Offered: Tuesday 7:00-9:45 pm

Delivery Mode: Hybrid (Zoom/in person)

Course Description: Examines the fundamentals of policy analysis and formulation and emphasizes research and writing on topics pertaining to diplomacy, security, and foreign policy. Focuses on policy analysis and evaluation and concentrates on policy design. Emphasizes preparation and presentation of policy reports. May be taken three times for credit with different policy topics. Pre: Junior Standing. (3H,3C)

### **SPIA 2024: COMMUNITY SYSTEMS THINKING**

Instructors: Diane Zahm

Offered: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-9:15 AM

Delivery Mode: Hybrid

Course Description: Introduction to systems thinking concepts and their application to community-based problem solving and decision making. Emphasis on identifying interactions between technical and contextual dimensions of persistent, complex global problems. Introduces systemic frameworks for defining problems, identifying and engaging stakeholders, ideating interventions, selecting and employing criteria for decision making, and creating feedback mechanisms for iterative design. Ethics of community engagement is considered. Includes problem-based service-learning projects.

### **SPIA/GEOG 2244: SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

Instructors: R. Oliver

Offered: Tuesday & Thursday 5:00-6:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Process of urbanization and theories and approaches of urban development. Debates on the meanings of sustainable urbanization and development in cities and how they are measured. Urban sustainability initiatives in the context of urban political economies, land-use

practices, urban inequality and diversity, urban nature, and urban policy and politics. Programs and policies designed to enhance sustainable urbanization. Comparative approach and global perspective.

### **SPIA 2314: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PLANET**

Instructors: Ralph Buehler

Offered: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Connections among active transportation (e.g., bicycling, walking) and significant global challenges such as physical inactivity, health, the environment, and the economy on local to global scales. Methods to assess walkability among communities with different worldviews and the influence of the built environment on rates of active transportation. Approaches to evaluate demographic and psychosocial predictors and physical and policy barriers to use of active transportation. Successful strategies to increase active transportation through community design guidelines, behavior change tools, transportation planning, and policy.

### **SPIA 3554: TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROBLEM SOLVING FOR SOCIAL ISSUES**

Instructors: Shalini Misra

Offered: Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online -Asynchronous

Course Description: Strategies and skills for transdisciplinary problem solving. Emphasis on integrative thinking strategies and cognitive and interpersonal skills required to bridge scientific discipline-based, non-scientific discipline-based and cultural knowledge. Strategies to identify important disciplinary, non-scientific, ethical, cultural, and structural elements of a problem. Problem-based learning, ethics, team work, and effective communication skills.

### **SPIA 4454: FUTURE OF CITIES**

Instructors: M. Gebresselasie

Offered: Wednesday 7:00-9:45 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Location: Arlington & Blacksburg

Course Description: Cities as complex systems. Interdependence of social, economic, environmental, and technological components and how these change over time. Theories about city formation, structure, and change, with implications for sustainability, resilience, and globalization.

### **SPIA 4464: DATA AND THE ART OF POLICY-MAKING AND PLANNING**

Instructors: Theo Lim

Offered: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30-12:15 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Critical examination of use of scientific and technical information in planning and policy-making, exploring issues and challenges through social science lens.

Investigation of appropriate and responsible use of data within collaborative and deliberative policy-making and planning processes. Presentation of data and underlying models in accessible and understandable formats. Integrating all forms of knowledge into decision-making, including local and traditional knowledge.

### **SPIA 4554: CREATING THE ECOLOGICAL CITY**

Instructors: Terry Clements

Offered: Wednesdays 6:30-9:30 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: Team oriented, problem-solving approaches to creating ecological cities that foster the interconnections between human and natural systems through coordination among multiple disciplines. Analysis of problems from practical and ethical perspectives in the context of the diverse knowledge bases and values of decision-makers in ecological cities. Formation and utilization of integrated design teams to solve complex urban design problems at a variety of scales.

### **SPIA 4784: COMMUNITY SYSTEMS CAPSTONE**

Instructor: Neda Moayerian

Offered: Wednesday 1:30-4:00 pm

Delivery Mode: Online w/Sync Mtgs

Course Description: This class offers collaborative community problem solving in team environments. Data collection, interpretation, and presentation augment community-based, iterative design and planning processes. Consideration of ethical engagement and community goals related to social justice, resilience, and sustainability. Discourse-based project culminating in presentation of intervention proposals to stakeholders. Pre: SPIA 1024, SPIA 2024, 3 credits in Discourse. (3H, 3C)