

CourseNo: PLANA4501_001_2013_3

Meeting Location: [BUELL HALL 200](#)

Meeting Time: T 11:00A-01:00P

Instructor Information: [Stacey Ann Sutton](#)

General Description:

Urban planners must weigh socially equitable, politically palatable, financially feasible and expedient options. Economic development, widely considered a conceptual tool, analytic approach and an outcome, is an essential dimension of urban planning practice and decision-making. Nevertheless, it's an elusive and contentious area that often lacks a coherent normative vision, strategic approach, or widely acceptable set of outcomes. At the heart of economic development are broad concerns including: public and private investment; physical development and redevelopment; industrial growth, decline and mobility; human capital development and workforce development; spatial embeddedness, regionalism and localism; economic equity and opportunity structures; as well as civic and state institutions involved in decision-making.

A fundamental feature of this graduate seminar is to enhance *critical thinking skills* with regard to economic development concerns. In other words, we will routinely reflect on the underlying assumptions about the public good; distribution of benefits and burdens; the market, the state and civic institutions, among other tacit and explicit assumptions. Another fundamental feature of this seminar is to enhance *analytic skills* necessary for good/fair/just planning, argumentation and decision-making. Consequently, this seminar examines both local economic development (LED) theories and methodologies, and illuminates the underlying politics of LED decision-making.