

# EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN SCHOOL OF PLANNING & PUBLIC POLICY

## SPECIAL TOPICS & SEMINAR COURSES - FALL 2008

As of June, 2008

### URBAN PLANNING & POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

#### **34:970:510:03:11503 – Studio: Transportation Heritage Studio**

Wednesdays 9:50 am – 12:30 pm Civic Square Building Room 243 lab

Instructor: William Vigrass

Investigate the feasibility of adapting the historic Jersey Central Terminal in Liberty State Park to function as a heritage railway that doubles as an effective park shuttle service.

The course will include the following activities to investigate and recommend the most feasible, least environmental impact, lowest cost, route for restoration/installation of track to connect with:

A. The active railroad with the south side of the Central RR of NJ Jersey City Terminal in Liberty State Park. Purpose: to allow movement of locomotives and cars into and out of the Terminal area for display (including periodic rotation) and to provide a means of mass transit within the park and a vintage rail ride experience for park visitors.

B. South Lawn area & parking with rail line in "A" above or more directly to Liberty Science Center/Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit System utilizing Stephenson/Lisbon trolley.

C. Interpretive Center with the CRR of NJ Terminal/ferry area utilizing a miniature Cagney or amusement-type rail line, either with historic connections to NJ.

D. (Future) Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit System station more directly to CRR of NJ Terminal/Ferry area, with standard gauge trolley utilizing PCC cars; loops and other rail; overhead wire and hardware; trolley poles; etc.; which the Heritage group has, ready for reuse.

#### **34:970:571:10199 Green Buildings (Special Topics in Industrial Ecology)**

Tuesdays 9:50 am to 12:30 pm Civic Square Building Room 369

Instructor: Prof. Clint Andrews

This graduate seminar focuses on the green building phenomenon. It provides a multidisciplinary, rigorous, and practical introduction to green building. Students will learn about the following:

\*Socio-economic context: post-materialism, ecological modernization, socially responsible business

\*Nested policy and planning framework: protecting global commons, correcting national market failures, regional smart growth, traditional neighborhood design, green technology promotion

\*Finance & markets: real estate finance, market structure, green premiums

\*Design: architecture 101, engineering 101, integrated design process

\*LEED and other design guides: key systems and design choices

\*Case studies and best practices

\*Evaluating building performance

\*LEED AP exam primer

Grades will be based on a paper or project of the student's own choosing, such as an actual LEED-EB analysis, an evaluation of a particular plan or public policy, or a comparative assessment of relevant technologies. The Industrial Ecology course is periodically devoted to special topics in energy and environmental planning and management. This year its focus is on green buildings. Graduate students from all disciplines are welcome.

#### **34: 970:644: - International Economic Development**

Thursdays 6:10 pm – 8:40 pm Civic Square Building Room 113

Instructor: P.K. Rao, Dept. of Engineering

This seminar offers applied, methodologically founded approaches and applications to the field of international economic development. The course contents will be relevant in practice at various national/international organizations, among others. This seminar does not promote theory for its own sake but draws upon relevant theories for understanding a balanced policy framework, and takes into account latest developments in relevant policy areas.

The main modules here deal mainly with the following:

Economic Growth and Development –Theory and Evidence, Poverty- Measurement and Analyses, Finance and Economic Development, Regulation, Transaction Costs and Role of Institutions, International Trade and Development, Globalization and Inequality, Sustainable Development, Millennium Development Goals, Global Economic Institutions.

**34:970:672:08823 – Seminar: Energy Policy and Planning**

Wednesdays 1:10 pm – 3:50 pm Civic Square Building Room 168

Instructor: Res. Prof. Frank Felder

Energy policy is gaining increasing recognition as a critical component of state and national public policy. Issues surrounding the reliability and security of energy supplies directly effect national domestic and foreign policy, as well as state level environmental, economic development and land use concerns. Moreover, the policies, strategies, and programs adopted by both the public and private sectors will directly impact upon our lives as professionals, members of a community, and our families. This graduate seminar course will examine energy policy and planning through a timely, critical and practical approach designed to give students an insight into the factors that shape energy policy.

## **PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM**

**34:833:522:06829 – Public Policy Advocacy**

Wednesdays 6:10 pm – 8:40 pm Civic Square Building Room 168

Instructor: Robert Sommer, President, Observer Media Group

The goal of this course will be to help each student understand the dramatic growth of lobbying – or as we call it – government advocacy, especially in a federal election year. We will examine various tactics used in advocacy on the federal, state and local levels. The concentration will be on the practical rather than the theoretical approaches to the profession. Specifically, we will examine one issue as an in-depth case study. It will be one making headlines, be polarizing, and have forceful advocates on all sides. You will have the chance to play policy maker, key influencer, reporter, advertiser, public affairs professional and the voting public.

This course is designed to make you a better observer of how government works. You will come away from the semester with a refined opinion on what the smoke-filled rooms of yesteryear are actually like today.

**34:833:585:07130 – American Social Policy**

Thursdays 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Civic Square Building Room 369

Instructor: Prof. Jocelyn Crowley

Why do certain social problems persist over lengthy periods of time? Are some issues, such as poverty, child abandonment, and lack of health care “facts of life” that should simply be accepted as the price to be paid for living in a modern, industrialized society? Or does the government simply lack the will and the political support to implement potential solutions?

This course is designed to help you think analytically about social policy problems and the politics that either expand or contract the scope of conflict around them. Rather than relying on one methodological and/or theoretical lens, this course will draw upon insights from various disciplines—political science, economics, sociology, and history—to explore the evolution of contemporary social policymaking.

**34:833:681:13861 – Managing People and Organizations**

Tuesdays 9:50 am – 12:30 pm Civic Square Building Room 112

Instructor: Prof. Julia Rubin

This course is designed to help develop the skills and understanding needed in order to become an effective and responsible manager, particularly in the public and nonprofit sectors. The course highlights the distinctiveness of management and leadership in public and nonprofit organizations and focuses on the importance of understanding the behavior, motivation, and actions of individuals in these sectors. The course relies on cases, self-assessment exercises, simulations and evaluative instruments. Topics covered will include understanding an organization’s culture, fostering creativity, motivating yourself and others, power and organizational politics, decision making, communicating effectively with others, working in groups and teams, managing conflict, and organizational change.