

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY and PLANNING

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

**GEOGRAPHY 428
SITE PLANNING
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Spring, 2010

Instructor:	Pam Figge	Class Time:	M/W 5:30 - 6:45 pm
Office:	Butte 508	Room:	Butte 101
Hours:	M/W 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm or by appt.	Phone:	877-4544
E-mail:	pfigge@csuchico.edu		

“Make no small plans.”

-Daniel Burnham

“In our profession, a plan that everyone dislikes for different reasons is a success. A plan everyone dislikes for the same reason is a failure. And a plan that everyone likes for the same reason is an act of God.”

- Richard Carson

“I’ve often thought that if our zoning boards could be put in charge of botanists, of zoologists and geologists, and people who know about the earth, we would have much more wisdom in such planning than we have when we leave it out the engineers.”

- William O. Douglas

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the relationship of physical, biotic, cultural, and aesthetic factors to land use planning. Techniques for sustainable site development including: analysis and layout, topography, grading, slope stability, infrastructure, hydrology, vegetation/landscape, and functional design will be explored. A specific site planning project is undertaken by the class each semester.

The class involves the practical application of site planning concepts and knowledge. A lecture format will be conducted during the early weeks of the class. Students will be divided into working groups to perform specific planning tasks related to our class project. Field surveys will be conducted on various days, including some weekends (dates to be decided by the class); therefore, the class may not meet on a particular class date or it will meet for only a portion of the scheduled time. Additionally, students will meet with their assigned group outside the regular class time. **This class demands that each student works to the best of her/his ability in a group situation. Your grade depends on your involvement and commitment to your fellow students and our “plan.”**

REQUIRED READING: On Electronic Reserve (Access Code -) - Meriam Library.
The Instructor may also ask students to review websites prior to discussion/lecture on a specific topic.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

	Possible Points	Grading Scale
Mid-Term Examination	100	A = 225-250
Self-Guided Field Trip Exercise	50	B = 200-224
Class Project-Participation	<u>100</u>	C = 175-199
Total	250	D = 150-174
		F = 125-149

The mid-term examination will be objective (true/false, multiple choice) and short answer/essay based on readings and class lectures/presentations. Lectures may address subject matter which is not covered in the reading; therefore, class attendance is important. The Instructor will provide a list of topics and essay questions for study prior to the exam. Students will be allowed to bring in notes to use during the exam. No copies of the instructor's Power Point presentations or photocopies of required readings will be allowed.

Class Exercise: This self-guided field trip around Chico will introduce you to various types of neighborhoods and adjacent infrastructure. You will tour the specified areas and answer questions pertaining to your impressions. Additional information will be distributed during the third week of class.

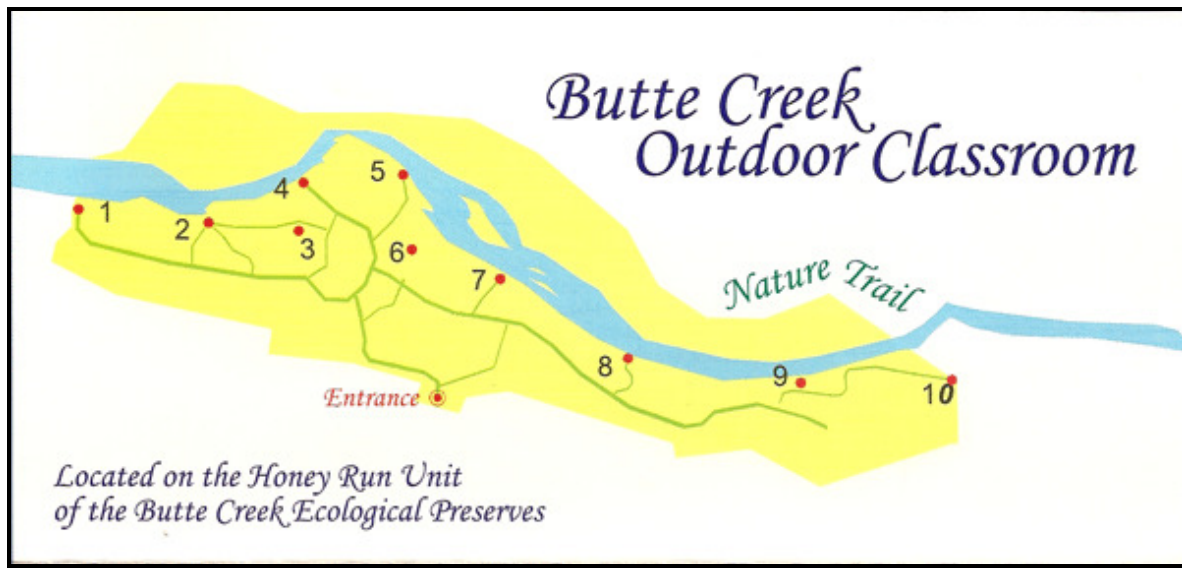
Scheduled assignments not turned in on the due date, will lose 5 points per day.

Graduate students enrolled in this course are expected to assume a leadership role in the class. Tasks include specific "hard copy" work for the final document plan, and a major role in the final plan presentation.

Class attendance and participation is important and will be used to determine your grade. If you have scored low on the mid-term and/or exercise, please talk with me early in the semester. If you wait till the end of the semester, it will be too late to recover from a poor grade.

Class Project

Students will work in small groups (3-5 persons) preparing a study and master plan for the Butte Creek Ecological Preserves (BCEP).




A brief description of the site as noted on the BCEP web page (www.csuchico.edu/bcep/index.html) for the preserve follows:

“The Butte Creek Ecological Preserve is a 93-acre site along the middle section of Butte Creek. The site was formerly used for gold, sand and gravel mining, and is recovering from those activities. The property contains more than a mile of creek frontage, which is critical salmon habitat and spawning grounds, as well as habitat for many species of special status, including Chinook salmon and bald eagle. In December 1998 the University Research Foundation purchased this site with grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Federation, CALFED, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The goal of the preserve is to work in conjunction with other programs towards achieving a reasonable balance among the diverse demands on the resource base of the Butte Creek watershed. The research foundation will provide an adaptive management approach to managing the property. Program areas at the preserve include habitat management and conservation, outreach and education, and research. The reserve is open to the public year round.”

Dr. Don Hankins (Geography and Planning Department) is the Field Director for the Preserve and our “client” for the Site Planning class. Dr. Hankins is interested in limited development of the site in the future. Any construction on the site will need to be carefully planned and analyzed in light of the environmental resources associated with the property. Geography 427 Environmental Impact Analysis students will use our Project Description to evaluate potential environmental impacts and mitigations to reduce those impacts to “less than significant.”

Geography 428 students will produce a hard-copy Master Plan document and make a formal presentation to Dr. Hankins, and other interested faculty/students. **Graduate students** enrolled in this course will coordinate each group to ensure the work is consistent and take a leadership role in producing our final document.

Preliminary Class Calendar

Date	Topic	Assignment Electronic Reserve (ER)
1/25 & 27	Intro – Course Overview; What Is Site Planning?	ER The Art of Site Planning pages 1-28; Group Selection Discussion
2/1 & 3	Elements of Site Planning	ER The Natural World pages 78-89; Video: Michael Freeman – architect planner
2/8 & 10	Landscape Ecology; Open Space Self-Guided Field Trip Instructions Distributed	ER The Built World pages 89-103; Site Layout pages 299-302; Schedule Preserve Visits
2/15 & 17	CAMPUS CLOSED 2/ 15 Information Gathering	ER Site Analysis pages 27-53; Sustainability and Site Design pages 1-25; What Information Do We Need to Collect for our Project? Formulation of Groups
2/22 & 24	The User; Mid-Term Review	ER What People Have to Do, Want to Do and Where They Do It pages 128-140; What are the Components of our Project?
3/1 & 3	▶ 3/3 MID-TERM EXAMINATION	Research component, format discussion
3/8 & 10	Existing Conditions Report Work ▶ 3/8 SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIP EXERCISE DUE	Data collection for existing condition
3/15 & 17	 SPRING BREAK	
3/22 & 24	FURLOUGH DAYS FOR THE INSTRUCTOR	Grad Students – Meet with Class – Finish Existing Conditions - Hard Copy
3/29 & 31	Existing Conditions Complete	Plan Components and Groups
4/5 & 7	Plan Preparation	
4/12 & 14	FURLOUGH DAY 4/12 Plan Preparation	
4/19 & 21	Plan Preparation	
4/26 & 28	ALL HARD-COPY WORK SUBMITTED 4/26 Final Editing of Hard-Copy Document – Powerpoint Presentation Work	
5/3 & 5	FURLOUGH DAY 5/3 – Organization of Presentation HARD-COPY DOCUMENT TO PRINTER	
5/10 & 12	POWER POINT COMPLETED GROUP PRESENTATION PRACTICES	
	▶ FINAL PRESENTATION: Wednesday, May 19 - 6:00 - 7:50	