

Graduate Center for Planning and Environment/School of Architecture
Fall Term, 2005

PL 668 - LAW & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

3 credits Higgins Hall North Mondays, 8PM
Seminar, Required
Enrollment Capacity: 20
Instructor: Robert Alpern. Fax: 718/399-4315. boba1p140@aol.com

Course Description:

PL 668 focuses on what law and planning are -- in theory, practice and actual impact. Special attention is given to the distribution of burdens and benefits among classes, racial groups and geographic areas and between the individual and society; to meetings and decisions and the rules that govern them; and to use and misuse of planning tools at the municipal level.

Goals/Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students should be better able to talk to lawyers -- use lawyers and talk back to lawyers. Students should be better able to use meetings -- meetings they lead, meetings they attend -- to inform their decisions or advice. Students should be better able to think critically about the things they see or are told, especially as those things relate to fair shares distribution (the core issue in law) and carrying capacity (the core issue in planning). Students should understand the theory, practice and actual impact of the planning tools available to them at the local level: plans, zoning ordinances, official maps, and procedures for program and planning review.

Course Requirements

Complete readings before class and think critically about them, if possible in a small study group with other members of the class: then actively participate in class discussions. Learn to brief court decisions. Regularly review and revise the Working Papers distributed at the first session, based on readings, discussions and experience. Complete the final take-home open-book exam.

Methods of Assessment

Grades are based on class participation, the final exam and the revised Working Papers.