



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University

Built Environment

MUPS0003
Decision Making and Governance

Prof. David Wilmoth



Disclaimer

This abbreviated course outline is indicative of the outcomes, delivery and assessment. While Course Learning Outcomes will remain constant, other details may be subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle.

1. COURSE STAFF

Course Convenor	Prof. David Wilmoth
Email	d.wilmothl@unsw.edu.au

2. COURSE DETAILS

Credit Points: 6 UoC

Learning Activity	Hours Total
Lecture	24
Tutorial	24
Studio	0
Computer Lab	0
Online learning activity	0

Description

How are decisions which influence strategy for investment in infrastructure, critical land uses and major policy directions made? The course examines the roles of Ministers and Cabinet, the State and local Government public service and how they interact with investors, developers, interest groups and the wider community in a range of Australian and international settings. It will explore the motivations, expectations and rights of key players and the methods used to construct an argument, apply evidence and direct influence to achieve an outcome that affects how a city is shaped and performs. The notions of public value, utility and welfare are important concepts to be covered. The value of long term strategy as well as the need to retain flexibility in a changing environment and political landscape will feature in the course.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

This course addresses the following MUPS Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an advanced and integrated understanding of urban policy and strategy
2. Critically analyse, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and apply established theories to practice
3. Apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, expert judgement, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the field of urban policy and strategy in its interdisciplinary context, and the ability to manage complex interdisciplinary problems
5. Demonstrate the qualities of an ethical practitioner
6. Demonstrate leadership through the capacity for entrepreneurship and innovation, and the capacity to initiate and embrace change
7. Demonstrate cultural awareness, environmental and social responsibility, and a respect for diversity

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) with Alignment to PLOs and Assessment

CLO #	CLO Statement	PLO #	Related Assessments
CLO 1	Familiarity with concepts and issues associated with decision-making and governance for urban development and change, infrastructure and services (including theories of the modern state and civil society; political and organisational power and organisational change; interest groups, pluralism, conflict resolution and participation; federalism, intergovernmental relations and decentralisation; corporate governance, risk management, principal-agent relations, flexibility and resilience).	1,2,4,5,6,7	1,2,3,4
CLO 2	A contemporary knowledge of the main sectors in urban policy and strategy – government (local, regional, state/provincial, national, international, global and virtual), business (including urban developers, investors and financiers, small-medium-micro enterprises) and civil society (including non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, interest groups and individuals).	1,4,5,7	1,2,3,4

3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment Task	Weight	Course Learning Outcomes assessed	Due date
1. Assignment 1 - Group assignment	30%	1,2	Weekend 2
2. Assignment 2 - Book report	20%	2	Weekend 3
3. Assignment 3 - Individual essay	40%	1,2	2 weeks after w/e 3
4. Assignment 4 - participation	10%	1,2	In class

4. WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Activity	Related CLO
Weekend 1 2 days x 8 hrs =16 hrs)	Day 1 Theories and concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module addresses the nature of the modern multi-level state as evolved in Australia, structure and agency, and different theories of governance as they apply to cities, both as jurisdictions and urbanised regions. 	1,2

	<p>Day 2 Governance and decision making practice</p> <p>Governance Practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how decisions are made, from rational decision-making through incrementalism to forms of non-decision-making. • This module looks at how decisions are made, from rational decision-making through incrementalism to forms of non-decision-making. • Good governance (including normative criteria) is explored for Australian and international cities. • This module looks at the use of principal-agent theory as a way of understanding the frameworks of urban decisions, and look more at the basis of compliance, both as a social norm and as a requirement of good corporate governance • This module examines lessons for contemporary practice 	
<p>Weekend 2 2 days x 8 hrs =16 hrs)</p>	<p>Day 1 Commonwealth, State and Local.</p> <p>Private Sector and Civil Society</p> <p>Day 2 Local, Metropolitan and Regional</p> <p>Global and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module examines the constitutional and institutional basis of urban decision-making in Australia's federal system, drawing on the class' experience and recent international practice. • This session will review Commonwealth-State relations in policy areas that affect city development (not only explicitly), and identify features that help and hinder effective policy responses the challenges Australia's cities face. • Workshop on the role of the private sector in urban governance • This module is a discussion on the many roles of civil society actors – NGOs, community organisations, urban social movements, online activists and other individuals – in establishing governance frameworks and making decisions about urban growth and change. The session will cover modes of participation and empowerment. • This session will examine the origins and purposes of local government and then explore issues such as changes to function, new demands on accountability, boundaries and amalgamations through the lens of 'hard power', 'soft power' and current reform movements. • Governing metropolitan regions is one of humanity's challenges, long at the core of thinking about how to plan and manage urban 	<p>1,2</p>

	International	<p>growth and change. Policy responses range widely, and theories underlying practice remain contested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This module looks at cities world-wide in this challenging era of globalisation, looking at cities' international relations and global governance, comparative urban governance, developing cities and multilateral agents in urban affairs • A workshop will examine these issues in more detail and strengthen skills in risk management, an essential part of effective urban governance often misunderstood. <p>1.</p>	
Weekend 3 2 days x 8 hrs =16 hrs)	<p>Day 1 Key Urban Issues</p> <p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Day 2 Financing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a session on undue influence in urban decisions, appropriate and inappropriate influences on key decisions, using cases. • Guest speakers discuss the role of the private sector view in urban affairs, and social innovation and entrepreneurship strengths to harness big data, and deliver community insights that inform evidence-based urban development decisions • This session examines major infrastructure planning and decision-making and explores Australian frameworks within which decisions are made • This module examines State level infrastructure processes, the view from the Treasuries, how Australia really decides on major projects, and explore international frameworks. • This session looks at how private urban development is financed, and reviews urban public finance from a governance and decision-making perspective. It will include public-private partnerships and other modes of project delivery, and explore different approaches to municipal financing • This session looks at how people influence community engagement: the role of civil society in co- creating urban decision-making. • Workshop to wrap up the issues examined in the course. 	1,2