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11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets
Spring 2009

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MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning Spring 2009
11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets

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Reflection #1
Expectations, Goals and Apprehensions

Over the course of the semester, we will engage in the act of reflection around our practice and our classroom work and relationships. Written exercises and class discussion will be used to help you understand how you think and learn in the course of action and deepen understanding of some of the core issues of planning practice. This first assignment is part of your personal semester-long on-line journal on. These assignments are geared to explore issues faced by planners during the planning process as well as document student professional growth and experiences working in multi-disciplinary teams.

For this first assignment, we ask that you start on a very personal note. Our work has not yet begun but we all have expectations and thoughts about the coming semester. We ask that you take some time to articulate your expectations about the class, your role in the group, and thoughts about the project in New Orleans. Please address each of the following questions:

1. What are your expectations for the class? You may have chosen this class because it was the only one that fit your schedule, you didn't get into another practicum that was tops on your list, because it fits your goals and interests, or most likely, because of a complex set of reasons. Now that you are enrolled and about to leave for New Orleans, what are your expectations for this semester? Be as specific as you can about workload expectations, thoughts about working for a client on a real project and about working with your classmates.
2. Do have specific professional and academic goals for yourself this semester? Talk a bit about new skills you wish to acquire or new experiences you hope for in this class. Have you ever worked in a multi-disciplinary group? Do you have goals for working with the client, the community, your classmates? What new disciplines might you wish to learn or read about?
3. Likewise, what are your apprehensions about the course and working in a team? Are there expected challenges? Again, be as specific as possible.