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**General Course Objectives:**

Urbanized land areas in the United States have grown by more than fifty percent over the last twenty years as our population continues to leave rural areas and as cities rapidly expand outward, a phenomenon called urban sprawl. Wetlands, farmland, and forests shrink as inefficient land use gives rise to isolated parcels of open space of limited recreational and ecological value. Recognition of these trends and other significant land use issues both domestically and abroad has generated renewed interest in environmental protection and land use.

A number of public programs and private land use practices have been adopted in response to the loss and fracturing of open space. Sustainable development practices such as smart growth, brownfield reclamation, and urban in-fill development have gained momentum. However, the most popular response to sprawl and open space loss has been an explosion of programs and important funding mechanisms to protect open spaces directly. Land conservation financing has evolved from traditional federal programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund to include many state and local programs created through legislation and ballot initiative. In addition, national service organizations, land trusts, and private foundations have invested billions of dollars of private money in land preservation.

The objectives of this course introduce students to methods of financing private land conservation efforts, including developing private markets for conservation services. We will consider state and federal programs, land conservation initiatives and implementation at the local level, and private market innovation in land conservation.

**Pedagogy:** This course will involve some background talks on the nature of the land conservation movement, land use law, land conservation and development practices, and some basic public land conservation mechanisms. It will follow with a series of talks given by professionals in the conservation industry.

**Required Materials:**

Reading materials will be provided in advance of each talk via email or Concourse.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Course Requirements:**

Course requirements are attendance at 5 of 6 sessions and a group assignment available on the Concourse website.

**Classroom Policies**

There is only one general classroom policy – please be mindful of others. You are welcome to ask questions or volunteer an opinion at any time in class, but please allow others the same courtesy. Unless you are facing a potential emergency, please turn off phones before entering class. It is very important that we are respectful and attentive in the presence of guest speakers, as we represent the University.

**Tentative Topic Coverage:**

3/20, 3/27, 4/3 - Introduction and background – Dave H.
4/10 – Kathy DeCoster, The Trust for Public Land: The view of land conservation from the Hill
4/17 - Story Clark, Conservation Consultant: The state of the art in conservation finance
4/24 – Linda Meade, President, Delaware and Raritan Greenway: The business of conservation from a land conservancy perspective