UP 455 is a project-based course, focusing on a specific local urban economic development or redevelopment challenge. Possible projects include:

- A downtown multi-use plaza at the southeast corner of Neil and Washington streets.
- A plan for the design and development of the mid-town area between Campustown and Downtown.
- Development solutions in the economic downturn – the “New Normal.”
- Sustainable Economic Development practices and standards.

Who should take it?
Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, and other students interested in working in a team environment to solve an urban design or planning problem, and who wish to put into practice techniques, skills, and tools acquired in their other courses.

What will you learn?

- How to formulate and articulate a solution to a challenging urban development or redevelopment problem.
- How to work effectively on a multi-disciplinary team to enhance the quality of the final product.
- How to clarify a problem, consider alternatives, and effectively communicate a solution in writing and orally.

What will you do?

- Clarify and define the redevelopment problem.
- Conduct field work, collect data, administer surveys, take pictures, and gather other information.
- Develop alternative solutions and select the best among them.
- Communicate the solutions in writing and present them orally in a professional manner.

About the Instructor
Craig Rost is the Deputy City Manager for Development for the City of Champaign. With over 20 years in that position and previous experience in planning, zoning enforcement, and landscape architecture, he brings a breadth of knowledge and experience to urban design challenges and planning policy development. He has an undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture and a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.