

Practicum in Sustainability and the Built Environment (DCP 4941/DCP 6931) Course Syllabus – Fall 2013

(6 Credits)-Meets in Architecture Room 213

*Tell me and I'll forget
Show me and I'll remember
Involve me and I'll understand.*
Old Chinese Proverb

Course Overview: Through an *involved* format of readings, facilitated discussions, field trips, and audits/ratings students will study, research, observe, and seek answers while practicing skills and developing reports, presentations, and educational materials that address environmental, economic, and social sustainability at individual, university, school, home, business, and/or community scales. This is the opportunity to put your previous coursework together, while learning new information and skills, so that you are able to respond to sustainability related inquiries from just about any person, company and/or organization.

Instructors: The primary instructors for this course are part of the Program for Resource Efficient Communities or an affiliated faculty member of same. Background and/or specialties include civil engineering, resource economics, construction management, planning, environmental horticulture, horticultural sciences, environmental studies, natural resources, energy analysis, etc. Additional guest lecturers will be from within the University of Florida along with government/industry/business speakers on related topics. Primary contact is Dr. Kathleen C. Ruppert, Extension Scientist, Program for Resource Efficient Communities, 2295 Mowry Road, (Building 0106), PO Box 110940, Gainesville, FL 32611-0940, Phone: direct line is 352-392-7260 and main line is 352-392-5684, Email: kr@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 – 11:30 am or 2nd through 4th periods (field trip days may extend class times and will be announced ahead of schedule so you can make appropriate plans); Class typically meets in Room 213, Architecture Building, but will meet at other nearby locations as announced in class. Place the word *architecture* in the search feature at <http://campusmap.ufl.edu/> to find location of the building where we will primarily meet. If driving to campus, check out <http://www.zimride.com/ufl> and be aware of parking decal restrictions (see the map and other information at <http://www.parking.ufl.edu/>). If riding a RTS campus bus, see <http://go-rtts.com/campus-routes-next.php>

Course Prerequisites: DCP 3220 or department approval

Course Description: This course will explore the opportunities and constraints of resource mining, interviewing and observational skills within the context of “green” certification programs, auditing of an office in Marion County, and material development for the Sustainable FloridiansSM program in addition to developing a personal “best links” reference manual.

There are a number of “green” certification programs available throughout the world. We will concentrate our efforts this semester on evaluating a home using the Florida Green Building Coalition’s Florida Green Home Designation Standard and the Florida Water StarSM Home standard. We will also be involved in evaluating the Marion County Extension Office for sustainability related characteristics and activities. In addition to developing your own resource guide, you will be involved in the development of some educational materials for the Sustainable FloridiansSM program

The mission of the Sustainable FloridiansSM program is to guide Floridians on how to take individual responsibility for protecting Earth’s limited resources. Through a discussion-to-action format, the program educates participants about making wise use of resources, making households and communities more resilient and financially sound, and understanding the

impact of individual lifestyle choices. Operated as a teaching program in some counties and as a volunteer program in others, this interactive class brings in local knowledge, creates group discussion and promotes lasting behavioral changes.

Specific topics and/or tours will include:

Rating a home for energy and water efficiency; Evaluating an office for sustainability; Biodiversity; “Green” certification programs; The case for change; Energy; Water; Transportation; Community based social marketing –changing behavior; Community leadership and engaging others; Agriculture and food systems; Nitrogen forms and impacts on water quality; Adaptability and resiliency—“wicked” problems; Landscaping and sustainability in the built environment; “Green” cleaning; Working with professionals in the built environment; Urban-rural fringe issues; Community design; Waste management; + more

Course Objectives: To help the students take the lead in the establishment, maintenance, and enhancement of sustainable communities with an emphasis on evaluating, auditing, researching, recommending changes, and developing references/resources.

Students will be:

- Actively learning the concepts of sustainability and applying this new information, combined with previous knowledge, to real world situations.
- Improving critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills and technical capabilities to enhance the written and oral presentation of ideas.
- Improving the skills necessary for collaboration, workload distribution, and decision-making in group/team settings.

As the course develops, we will make changes to the readings, assignments, and schedule as new information is garnered and new opportunities arise. Be flexible, yet engaged.

Required Text: None that you will have to purchase. However, a book will be loaned to you. If not returned at the end of the semester, or if damaged, a \$25 charge will be assessed.

Additional Expenses: May be responsible for costs of supplies used in activities (optional consumables), which will be yours to keep, or private transportation costs. The total cost will be under \$25.

Class Meeting Dates:

August 22, 27, and 29

September 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26

October 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29; 31

November 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26

December 3; final exam will be take home and due on UF’s regularly scheduled date for the final exam for this class, which is by 9:30 am on December 13th

Performance Expectations:

Attendance. Required

Attendance is mandatory and viewed as a very important component of this course. According to UF policy, absences may be excused due to illness, religious holiday, death in the family, or participation in official UF athletic events. Work for excused absences can be made up if completed within two class periods after your return. Additionally, conflict with other classes, if documented and notified to the instructor long in advance, may excuse early leaving from scheduled field visits that extend beyond regular class hours. Notify me at the beginning of the course if you expect to be absent from class on a certain date.

Class participation. Your contribution to class discussions is essential to the success of this course as we all learn from new perspectives. As such, you are expected to prepare well for class by keeping up with assigned readings, completing assignments, and creatively contributing information and commentaries. Short, unannounced quizzes will be given periodically

to be certain you have kept up with the readings. Student presentations will be scheduled in advance to allow you to prepare in a timely manner.

Class demeanor. Respect, honesty, and professionalism are always expected. Tardiness is not acceptable as it is rude to both the instructor and your fellow classmates. Tardiness on field trip days may result in you missing the entire field trip and subsequently receiving an unexcused absence for the day. Cell phone usage, along with the use of other electronic devices, including texting or sending email messages, is not acceptable during class unless otherwise allowed for teaching/research purposes. Clothing for field trips should always include closed toe shoes and casual, yet professional clothing. For some field trips specific clothing, such as long pants, are required. For these field trips, an announcement will be made in advance of same. Be prepared. Remember, you not only represent yourself (soon to be looking for employment, perhaps) but also the University of Florida. Bring a refillable water bottle and snacks on all field trips.

Website. This class will primarily utilize Sakai to distribute all course materials and submit all assignments during the semester.

Assignments. As forward-thinking higher-level undergraduate students or graduate students you are now to the point of advancing your knowledge to the comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation stages of learning. Therefore this practicum is not centered on knowledge per se but how you apply this information both internally and externally. In other words, how can you apply what you’ve learned/experienced to questions or situations that come up both personally and professionally in everyday life? For example, what’s in your refrigerator? Where did you purchase it? Where was it grown/raised/produced? Could it have been grown/raised/produced closer to your home? If no, why not?; if so, how? Is it considered more “sustainable” if it is produced closer to your home? If so, why? If no, why not?, etc. Another example...your home town is attempting to decide what fuel source their new power plant should use. What information could you add to the discussion to make the most “sustainable” decision possible for your community?

All students will have assigned activities and readings along with serving as lead author/editor on group projects. This is an opportunity to build your resume’ as materials developed will extend beyond the walls of the classroom. Graduate students will have additional readings, will be expected to take leadership roles in support of undergraduates on the group projects, and will serve as researchers in a supportive role for professional documents.

Grading*.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Attendance (.7% deducted for each absence; .3% deducted for each unexcused tardy)	20
Class participation (.7% earned for each class in which you participate)	20
Marion County office audit project	20
Quizzes	15
Assignments	20
Final (take home)	5
Total	100

Grading Scale:

A = 96.5 – 100%; A- = 93.0 – 96.4%; B+ = 89.5 – 92.9%; B = 86.0 – 89.4%; B- = 82.5 – 85.9%; C+ = 79.0 – 82.4%; C = 75.5 – 78.9%; C- = 72.0 – 75.4%; D+ = 68.5 – 71.9%; D = 65.0 – 68.4%; D- = 61.5 – 64.9%; E = 0 – 61.4%

*Up to three extra credit percentage points may be earned for your participation/attendance at three instructor-approved activities/meetings related to sustainability and the built environment. For these points to count toward your class grade, the activity has to be approved prior to the event.

Note: For more information on grades and grading policies, please visit:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> for undergraduate students and

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=1054#grades> for graduate students

Make-Up Policies: Assignments due on the excused day missed will be due two class meetings following your return. There is no make-up policy for unexcused absences.

Academic Honesty: “In 1995 the UF student body enacted an [honor code](#) and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all individual work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: **“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean, Student Honor Council or Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in the Dean of Students Office.” (Source: 2013-2014 Undergraduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>))

Software Use: All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources: Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling & Wellness Center is located at 3190 Radio Road. *University Counseling & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> *Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601 ext: 0, <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall), 392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>