

## Sustainable Urbanism in the Americas

Cities comprise natural, built, and socio-economic environments that are constantly subject to growth and development pressures. This 3-credit seminar explores sustainable patterns of growth and development in several types of urban environments in the Americas. Readings and discussions provide an understanding of how growth and development pressures may threaten the long-term viability of urban areas. Students learn several theories of urban form and development, methodologies for urban analysis and strategies for implementation of sustainable plans. Through case studies, students explore potential options for sustainable urban environments.

Sustainability issues are discussed in the larger context of specific cities and metropolitan regions in the Americas, taking into consideration urban and regional planning influences in the way cities grow and the shape they take. Urban management practices, particularly those related to urban lifestyles and consumption patterns, are also covered in the seminar. Students compare development trends among cities in both developed and developing countries based on ecological, environmental, and socio-economic aspects and investigate sustainable design and development alternatives for these cities in the future.

The theoretical and methodological foundations gleaned from the literature allow students to determine desirable levels of environmental, social, and economic sustainability for cities. The case studies present to students examples of how urban areas have faced challenges and suggest ways to mitigate the effects of unplanned growth and intense development on cities. This seminar steers students towards potential solutions to sustainability problems and guides them to face the challenge of creating more sustainable cities.

### Topics

Some of the topics to be covered in this seminar include:

- dynamics of human settlements
- urban development patterns
- urban growth and development trends
- natural systems and passive infrastructure
- urban design and development
- urban design and policy
- sustainable morphologies
- sustainable typologies

### Objectives

The course will direct students toward an understanding of urban sustainability and how it affects growth and development in cities and regions. The scope of the course will be limited to cities in the Western Hemisphere, comprising urban areas in developed countries (US and Canada) but mostly urban areas in the emerging countries of Latin America and other developing nations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The main objective of the seminar is to introduce students to fundamental concepts of urban sustainability, applying theoretical principles to areas of study. Other objectives include teaching students:

- to analyze the impact of urbanization on natural systems
- to understand the physical organization of cities,
- to analyze the effect of socio-economic trends on cities,
- to apply analytical systems to interpret urban elements, and
- to explore theories and principles of urban sustainability and how they apply to various city scales.

### **Method, Expectations and Evaluation**

The course objectives will be achieved through a variety of activities. Reading assignments, class discussions, lectures, essays, papers and presentations will be part of class activity. The purpose of this collection of activities is to help students better understand various issues associated with planning and design of cities and to prepare students to conduct scholarly research, from conceptual framework and analysis to presentation of results.

This course will be taught in a seminar format, so each class member should share in the responsibility for how well the course works. Each person's active participation in the course is central to its effectiveness. Classes taught in a seminar format are student-focused rather than teacher-centered, which makes it difficult for students to adopt a passive role. All students are expected to be on time for class, to attend all classes, and to be present, engaged and mindful during class. Students are also expected to read, think, write, and participate in all the activities planned for the course, including special events such as occasional lectures and exhibits taking place on days and times outside the class schedule.

Students will also be expected:

- to read the course materials in a timely fashion;
- to turn in assignments by the scheduled deadline;
- to list references in scholarly citation format and to credit all materials used in research and assignments, including images, sounds, and other non-written materials;
- to subscribe to a superior work ethic, perform to high standards and keep an open mind;
- to follow guidelines concerning computer use and web etiquette (netiquette);
- to abide by University of Florida's rules and regulations, including the Student Honor Code.

### Grades

Grades will be based on evidence that students have completed assigned reading in preparation for class, participated actively in all seminar discussions and other activities related to the course, completed assignments, and presented papers as assigned throughout the semester.

Students should prepare their assignments without collaboration or consultation with other students and in accordance to the Student Honor Code and the Student Code of Conduct (refer to “Academic Honesty” below). Violations will be handled in accordance to University policy.

The standard UF grade scale will be used. For an explanation of UF grade scales, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Grades will be distributed as follows:

Class participation: 15%

Leading Discussion: 10%

Assignments: 75% (25% each)

### **Seminar Format & Assignments**

The seminar format requires that students be present, in body and mind, and be active participants in each and every class. Participants should attempt to make meaningful contributions to every class discussion. The seminar format also requires that participants avoid disruptive behavior, such as chronic tardiness, early departures, parallel conversations, and cell phone interruptions. Students should advise instructor prior to class in case of a necessary disruption.

Each student will be responsible for leading class discussion at least once during the semester. The student leader will prepare a summary of the discussion and submit it to the instructor by 5PM on the day preceding the assigned class. This discussion summary should be no longer than three double-spaced pages and should explain the main points gleaned from the readings as well as those to be covered during class discussion in narrative format. The discussion summary should synthesize the readings, not list topics of each reading as bullet points or in outline format; different topics may be structured within the narrative with subtitles. Discussants are encouraged to consult other materials and suggest additional readings to complement those required for each class.

Reading and writing assignments are planned based of the Carnegie Rule, that is, students should work 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class. Attendance is the student's responsibility. Participation in seminar discussions will be evaluated at all times, thus, it is in the student's best interest to attend and participate in every class. Students will work on three research-based assignments during the semester centered on analyses of specific cities in the Western Hemisphere. Assignments are not only designed to provide the instructor with a basis for assessment, but also to provide students with a better understanding of concepts.

The required assignments will be evaluated according to the following criteria: thorough and encompassing use of resources, quality of resources used, ability to synthesize while comparing and contrasting authors and their respective viewpoints, and ability to draw conclusions from reading materials and class discussions. Students are free to read and consult open sources, such as Wikipedia, local government websites, blogs, etc., but the foundation for their research should come, for the most part, from books and scholarly articles. On-line references may be used but should be kept to a minimum (no more than 25 percent of the total number of cited references). Scholarly sources made available electronically through UF Libraries and other subscription services are acceptable as cited references and should be cited accordingly. The format for these papers should follow standard research paper format; for style, please use Chicago or APA (refer to "Recommended Books" below).

Students should prepare all assignments without collaboration or consultation with other students and in accordance to the Student Honor Code and the Student Code of Conduct (refer to "Academic Honesty" below). Violations will be handled in accordance to University policy. Deadlines are firm and may only be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted. Cases of emergency, serious illness or bereavement will be dealt with according to UF's policies, which includes documentation for all cases.

### **Class Materials**

#### Required Textbooks

Beatley, Timothy. 2011. *Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Francis, Robert A. and Michael A. Chadwick. 2013. *Urban Ecosystems: Understanding the Human Environment*. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Textbook for Students with no Prior Knowledge of Latin America

Kent, Robert B. 2006. *Latin America: Regions and People*. New York; London: The Guilford Press.

Recommended Case Study Books

Gerring, John. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Read Chapter 5: Techniques for choosing cases by Jason Seawright).

Hancock, Dawson R., and B. Algozzine. 2006. *Doing case study research: a practical guide for beginner researchers*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Yin, Robert K. 2003. *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. 3 ed. Vol. 5, *Applied social research methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Recommended Additional Reading

Ryn, Sim Van der. 2007. *Ecological Design*. Washington; Covelo; London: Island Press.

Wheeler, Stephen M. and Timothy Beatley. 2014. *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Style Guides

- A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian (7th edition).
- The Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition) [<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>]
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th edition) [<http://www.apastyle.org>]
- The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. [<http://www.bartleby.com/141/>]
- Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace by Joseph M. Williams.

Additional readings and other materials will be available in the following formats:

- books on reserve at the Circulation Desk of the Architecture and Fine Arts Library (AFA).
- materials available at the Latin American Collection of Smathers Library (LAC).
- articles and reports available via electronic reserve (Ares), listed under the course number.
- hard-copies distributed by instructor when readings are not from books on reserve nor available via electronic reserve.
- other class materials, such as videos and other media, also on reserve at AFA or LAC or made available electronically through UF Libraries' digital resources.

Please check course program and reading lists for appropriate location of all materials and call numbers. Any difficulty accessing materials should be reported to instructor or UF Libraries staff. Inability to access course materials will not constitute a justification for not completing

assignments. Here are just a few of the many links and web addresses to facilitate your access to UF Libraries:

Library Homepage	<a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu</a> (for all library services and collections)
Course Reserves	<a href="https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu">https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu</a> (for hard copy and/or electronic reserves)
Latin American Collection	<a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/lac/">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/lac/</a>
HAPI	<a href="http://hapi.ucla.edu">http://hapi.ucla.edu</a>
Ask-A-Librarian	<a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask</a> (direct email or online chat for assistance)
IR @ UF	<a href="http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=ufirg">http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=ufirg</a> (to access the UF digital Institutional Repository)
Library Tools and Mobile Apps	<a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools</a> (UF archives, Digital Collections, Mobile apps, RSS feeds, etc.)
Subject Guides/Specialists	<a href="http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx">http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx</a> (by discipline and/or course)

Students are also encouraged to use a variety of media and tools to achieve course objectives. These will vary depending on the distribution of individual assignments and choice of technique to communicate project results.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices should not be used during the class. Students who must use their laptops to take notes in class shall sit in the front row. Each disruption caused by an electronic device in class will result in a 5-point reduction of the final grade.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students must follow the University's policy regarding plagiarism, cheating and the use of copyrighted materials. Students are responsible for reading and abiding by the University's Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) and the University Honor Code. Under the Student Honor Code, "on all work submitted

for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” In particular, there are rules governing plagiarism. If you directly quote someone or use an idea from another source, you must attribute that idea or those words by appropriately citing the source.

Failure to follow the rules in the Student Honor Code will result in failure on the paper in question and consequently may result in a failing grade in the course. In addition, possible disciplinary action may be brought under the Judicial Process for Academic Honesty Violations. Students who are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism should make an appointment with the instructor to clarify any questions. In addition, all should consult the above websites and the graduate catalog for further information.

### **Special Accommodations and Counseling Services**

The instructor will respect the needs for accommodations for students with disabilities consistent with University policy. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office ([www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting special accommodations.

UF’s Counseling Center offers confidential services at no cost to students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their academic performance and their general well-being. For additional information, check [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu) or call 392.1575.

### **General Information**

Class meeting time: Mondays, 2<sup>nd</sup> period (8:30AM-9:20AM) and  
Wednesdays, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> periods (8:30AM-10:25AM)

Classroom: ARC 439

Credits: 3 credit/hours

Instructor: Joseli Macedo, Ph.D., AICP

Office: ARC 458

Tel.: 294.1490

e.mail: [joseli@ufl.edu](mailto:joseli@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> periods (10:40AM-12:35PM)  
or by appointment