

Practicum in Sustainability and the Built Environment (DCP 4941/DCP 6931) Course Syllabus (Fall 2016 @ 6 Credits)

Course Co/Prerequisite: DCP 3220 (can be taken simultaneously; potential alternatives via departmental approval)

Course Times: Tuesdays / Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30 am (UF Class Periods 2nd, 3rd, 4th)

Course Location: Architecture (Building #0268 / Room #423) – <http://campusmap.ufl.edu/?loc=0268>

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

Praxis: (n) the process by which a theory, lesson, or skill is enacted, embodied, or realized. (Wikipedia)

Course Overview & Purpose: Sustainability is not a spectator sport. Through an *involved* format of readings, facilitated discussions, field praxis, and self-reflection, students will gain actionable awareness of sustainable living through *vita activa* (the active life). Specifically via personal experience, students will come to realize their own individual and collective answers to the following four fundamental questions of human life: how do we... (1) eat and drink to thrive? (2) dwell to survive? (3) move to arrive? and (4) commune to (self) realize? This is the opportunity to put your previous coursework together, to learn how to unearth and decipher new information, and to build critical thinking skills for your future personal lifestyles and professional workstyles, so that you are able to respond to sustainability related inquiries from just about any person, business, company and/or organization.

Campus Accessibility Considerations: 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-rts.com/campus-routes-next.php>

Instructors: Hal Knowles (352-273-0239 / hknowles@ufl.edu) & Craig Miller (352-392-1513 / craigmil@ufl.edu)

Instructor Office Location: Program for Resource Efficient Communities, 2295 Mowry Road, (Building 0106), PO Box 110940, Gainesville, FL 32611-0940 (Main Phone: 352-392-5684)

Instructor Office Hours: By Appointment

Additional Instructor Context: The instructors, mentors, and field guides for this course include faculty with UF's Program for Resource Efficient Communities, other UF campus and/or County Extension Faculty, government employees, and individuals representing businesses/private companies. Background and/or specialties include civil engineering, resource economics, construction management, planning, environmental horticulture, animal sciences, soils science, hydrology, community based social marketing, environmental studies, waste management, transportation, natural resources, energy analysis, etc.

Course Objectives: To facilitate student learning and leadership in the establishment, maintenance, and enhancement of more sustainable communities. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating, auditing, researching, making and sharing lifestyle changes, and developing references/resources. Students will be:

- Challenging their past assumptions and actively learning the concepts of sustainability in life, not just in text;
- Integrating new information, combined with previous knowledge, into real world situations, with consequential outcomes;
- Applying critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills and technical capabilities to enhance the written and oral exchange of ideas; and
- Developing the professional skills necessary for collaboration, workload distribution, and decision-making in group/team settings.

Course Description: This course will explore the opportunities and constraints of data mining, interpersonal, and observational skills within the context of “green” certification programs, creation of infographics, planning and executing personal behavioral change goals and actions, conducting home energy and water efficiency audits, content development for the Sustainable FloridiansSM/FESC programs, and developing a personal “best links” electronic 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 may also be involved in creating short video clips with the assistance of the UF/IFAS/ICS unit graphic designers. In addition to developing your own resource guide, you will be involved in the development of educational content for the Sustainable FloridiansSM program and reviewing/writing for FESC (Florida Energy Systems Consortium).

Specific Topics, Trainings, and/or Tours May Include: The land grant system; Sustainable communities; “Green” certification programs; Energy; Water; Multi-modal transportation; Earning a certificate in “Cultivating Community Change: Social Marketing to Encourage Environmental Behaviors”; Food systems; Evaluating exhibits; Tour of the UF Stomwater Ecological Enhancement Pond (SEEP) and the Alachua County Sheetflow Restoration Project at Paynes Prairie; Community leadership and engaging others; “Green” purchasing; Wastewater Treatment; Rating a home for energy and water efficiency; Production agriculture; Sustainable agriculture; Local food movement; Food canning and labeling; Nitrogen forms and impacts on water quality; Adaptive capacity and resilience (“wicked” problems); Landscaping and sustainability in the built environment; Climate change and sea level rise; “Green” cleaning; Working with professionals in the built environment; Urban-rural fringe issues; Community design; Waste management; Tour of one or more GRU facilities (e.g., Deerhaven Power Plant, Murphree Potable Water Treatment Plant, Kanapha Wastewater Treatment Plant); Tour of White Oak Pastures; Tour of Wakulla Springs and its riverine ecosystem; Resume’ building and more.

As the course evolves and opportunities arise, we may make changes to the readings, assignments, and schedule in response to student talents, interests, and timely ecological, social, and economic events happening during the semester. Both instructors and students are expected to be flexible, yet engaged.

Required Text(s): None that you will have to purchase. However, various publications identified for class discussion and assignments will be supplied in hardcopy and/or via the UF Canvas e-Learning portal – <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Additional Expenses: Due to the field praxis nature of this course, you may be responsible for costs of supplies used in activities (optional consumables), which will be yours to keep, tours/entrance fees, or private transportation costs. The total cost for local field trips is estimated at under \$50. The Tallahassee / White Oak Pastures (Bluffton, GA) joint field trip may require an [overnight stay at the ranch with associated travel, room, and board costs](#) (estimated from \$50 to \$150 per student depending on logistics). Students may also be expected to use their own mobile file storage and transfer device or web-based service to present and share information in class.

Class Meeting Dates:

Week 1: August 23, 25

Week 2: August 30, September 1

Week 3: September 6, 8

Week 4: September 13, 15

Week 5: September 20, 22

Week 6: September 27, 29

Week 7: October 4, 6

Week 8: October 11, 13

Week 9: October 18, 20

Week 10: October 25, 27

Week 11: November 1, 3

Week 12: November 8, 10

Week 13: November 15, 17

Week 14: November 22, 24 (no class on Thanksgiving)

Week 15: November 29, December 1

Week 16: December 6, 8

Final Exam: May consist of a two-part final exam with the first half as an in-class test and the second half as take-home exercises due no later than the regularly scheduled final exam date/time ([Group 15E on Thu, Dec 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm](#)).

Performance Expectations:

Required Attendance. 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 with sufficient advance, may excuse early departure from scheduled field visits that need to extend beyond regular class hours. Notify the instructor at the beginning of the course, or as soon as possible, if you expect to be absent from class on a certain date. Note that work for each excused absence may include the writing of a multi-page paper, and/or other suitable exercises, on the topic(s) covered in your absence in addition to completing the activities conducted in the class you missed.

Class Participation. Your engagement in, and 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 be well prepared for each class by keeping up with assigned readings, completing assignments, and creatively contributing information and commentaries. Short (potentially unannounced) quizzes may be given periodically to be certain that you have kept up with the readings. Student presentations and discussions will be scheduled in advance to allow you to prepare in a timely manner.

Class Demeanor. Treat this course as you would a new job. 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, posting status updates, sending email messages, etc. is unacceptable during class unless otherwise allowed for teaching/research purposes. Unless otherwise notified, clothing for field trips should **always** include closed toe shoes and casual, yet professional clothing. (Note that, for safety purposes, long pants are often required.) Field trip announcements will be made in advance, so be prepared. Remember, you not only represent yourself (soon to be looking for employment, perhaps) but also the University of Florida. Should you so desire, it is your responsibility to bring a full, refillable water bottle and snacks on all field trips.

Website. This class will primarily utilize the UF Canvas e-Learning portal to distribute course information and materials. Assignments will be submitted in different formats, written or electronic, depending on the topic.

Assignments and Grading. 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 your knowledge per se, but rather in 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? If yes, how? Is it considered more "sustainable" if it is produced closer to your home? If yes, why? If no, why? 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 potentially serving as lead author/editor on group projects. This is an opportunity to build your resume' as materials developed will extend far 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 Category | Percent of Total |
|---|------------------|
| Attendance | 20 |
| Class participation (determined by your classmates and your instructor) and punctuality | 20 |
| Assignments | 40 |
| Quizzes and Final Exam | 20 |
| 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%

*Extra credit points may be earnable as described by the instructors at various points throughout the term.

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

- Undergraduate Students: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
- Graduate Students: <http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=1054#grades>

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. See **Performance Expectations**, earlier in this document, for more information.

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: <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 and include: The *University Counseling & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575 and *The Career Resource Center*, CR-100 JWRU, 392-1601, <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/> and <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>

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/>

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.
- Albert Einstein