

**G/School of Architecture/ University of Florida**  
**ARC 4930 – 2G80**  
**ARC 6911 – 2G81**

**Fall 2016 Syllabus**

**Professor Martha Kohen**

ARC 262 [mkohen@ufl.edu](mailto:mkohen@ufl.edu) 392 0205 ext.232 /

**Graduate Seminar Sustainable Urbanism**

Thursday's period 7-9. Room: Little Hall 235

Office Hours: M W periods 7-8-9

### **Framing**

In the Century around the Millennium milestone, humanity is urbanizing itself at an unprecedented pace and reaches. We have become increasingly aware of the cities and buildings' role in generating, as well as possibilities for mitigating the ongoing environmental crisis. It is imperative for us, as architects of the present and the future, to understand the opportunities and challenges in front of us for contributing to address and intervene in the urban process from our professional advantage point. The course will critically evaluate the state of the art in Sustainable Urbanism, and demand your full involvement in expanding the meaning of this evolving subject.

**“The city is not the problem, the city is the solution”**

Jaime Lerner 2009

### **Class organization**

Calendar: Classes begin August Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 and will end December Tues 6<sup>th</sup> 2016  
The course will consist of interactive lectures, student presentations, case studies, group discussions, field trips and inputs from invited guests. Field trips will occur on Thursdays and occasionally extend beyond class hours. Absences need to be formally justified. The student is responsible for obtaining missed information if absent. An extensive bibliography on the subject is being provided and though there are no texts books, students are expected to read in accordance with their interests from the list. There will be a number of required articles to review and each student will present at least two. Students can start a blog for exchanges. A 2000 word essay on subjects chosen from a list of 5 topics will be submitted on November 10th. The professor will provide feedback in

individual up to ten- minutes long meetings on November 19<sup>th</sup> during class time. The final revised papers are to be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Course learning objectives:**

After taking this course students will be able to:

- ◆ Develop a conceptual understanding of sustainable urbanism inclusive of the multiple dimensions and reach of SU
- ◆ Address the concept of sustainable design incorporating the different scales of involvement, regional, landscape, urban and architectural.
- ◆ Develop critical analysis and decision making capabilities regarding urban sustainability.
- ◆ Be further prepared for sustainable practice at urban scale.
- ◆ Competently review relevant worldwide literature and case studies.
- ◆ Demonstrate cultural and global literacy regarding the understanding of sustainability
- ◆ Continue to develop critical thinking and collaborative working skills ,as well as written and oral presentation skills.

**Course ethics expectations:**

The professor will arrive on time to class, be prepared for the class, provide timely feedback on all student work and be available for questions and discussion during office hours.

The students will arrive to class on time, be prepared for class, will be active participants of the course development and discussions, will complete all assignments in a timely fashion, and follow the University of Florida rules of academic integrity and honesty. Class attendance is mandatory; absences need to be justified. Students will participate in group work equitatively and respectfully. Field trips involving third parties should be professionally conducted.

**Course Evaluations:**

The students will be evaluated through:

Class participation and attitude.....	30%
Student presentations.....	20%
Research capability.....	20%
Essay.....	30%

**Grading Scale**

A	93.4-100 %
A-	90-93.3 %
B+	86.7-89.9 %
B	83.4-86.6 %
B-	80-83.3 %
C+	76.7-79.9 %
C	73.4-76.6 %
C-	70-73.3 %
D+	66.7-69.9 %
D	63.4-66.6 %

D- 60-63.3 %

E <60.0 %

The Professor will provide evaluation rubrics to be discussed with the students.

### **Field Trips:**

Study visits will be conducted to locations close to the University using personal transportation means. Students are encouraged to group for transportation. Students will be required to sign a disclaimer for field trips

1. City of Gainesville Planning Offices , and Mayor 's office
2. Towns of Alachua and Newberry (small traditional cities) and interview with Planning officers and architects.
3. Haile Plantation and Town of Tioga (New Urbanist examples) and interview with developer representatives.

### **Invited possible Lecturers, Interview candidates and Panelists: ( to be confirmed)**

1. Mayor of Gainesville Pegeen Hanrahan
2. Rapid Transit Director for Gainesville Douglas Robinson
3. Professors Rosario Pavia and Pepe Barbieri from the University of Chieti ( European perspectives, Infrastructure and sustainability)
4. Dean Christopher Silver DCP (Asian perspectives)
5. Arch Heinz Tesar from Austria (European perspectives)
6. City of Newberry planner
7. Assist. Prof Vandana Baweja (SOA DCP)
8. Haile Plantation Developer.
9. Steve Lochnict Gainesville chamber of Commerce
10. Anthony Lyons Director of Alachua Community Redevelopment Agency

**Case Study Cities :** Gainesville, Haile Plantation, Portland, Curitiba, Montevideo, Tianjin, Dongtan..

### **Bibliography:**

A comprehensive bibliography is being provided to the class , and the students are strongly encouraged to enrich it along the course, stating their names. It will be used in years to come. We can establish rating systems and commentary slots. We are striving to consolidate a significant bibliography on our subject. The bibliography includes two sections: Books and articles. Main articles are provided in a CD format to each student It is especially encouraged that students bring current newspaper and magazines articles and websites to the discussion, as the nation is reevaluating the subject in real time.

**Calendar of Activities: This calendar is only indicative and might be adjusted.**

Week 1 25-27/8	Sharing our backgrounds and ideas. Assigning an editorial team. Teaching methods, research methods, diagrams. Preliminary presentation of recent newspaper articles.
Week 2 1-3/9	Statistics positioning. History of Urban Design USA: review of critical literature and ephemera.
Week 3 8-10/9	Components of Urban Sustainability Case studies Curitiba and Portland
Week 4 15-17/9	Invited speaker from Gainesville Field trip to Gainesville planning offices and RTS
Week 5 22-24/9	Discussion and critical assessment of Gainesville Case study Alachua and Newberry. Field trip
Week 6 29/9 1/10	The urban footprint concept. Energy analysis. Land Use, water, infrastructure, transportation systems. Invited Speaker of RTS Gainesville: Douglas Robinson. Research week directives.
Week 7 6-8/10	Group research week of New Urban rules for America HUD/DOT Professor in Mexico Conference October 4 to 14th.
Week 8 13-15/10	Asia overview with invited professor Vandana Baweja China case studies by students web research
Week 9 20-22/10	European overview of Sustainable Urbanism. Prof. Heinz Tesar Group presentations of research week New Urban rules for America
Week 10 27-29/10	Global Instruments, Millennium Goals, Kyoto Agreements, Assessment and rating systems. Master plans, Codes and policies. The Informal City. Choosing a subject for individual essay.
Week 11 3-5/11	America revisited: New urbanism and Sustainability Field trip to Haile Plantation and Town of Tioga. Interviews

Week12 10-12/11	The infrastructure question. Professors Pavia and Barbieri. Economic and social sustainability. Harmonious development
Week 13 17-19/11	Peer review of student's essays session, dual discussions. The Latin American experience overview and a practitioner's perspective.
Week 14 24/11	Poverty and sustainability. Informal settlements, global views Thanksgiving holiday (no Class November 26 <sup>th</sup> .)
Week 15 1-3/12	Evaluation of course and feedback proposals. Class legacy Individual 10' m feedback of each personal paper .
Week 16 8/12	Class discussion on careers perspectives with students. Grant application mini tutorial for research interests.

### **Academic Honesty, Software Use, Services for Students with Disabilities, UF Counseling Services**

The University of Florida requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts diminish the process of learning. When students enroll at UF they commit themselves to honesty and integrity. Your instructor fully expects you to adhere to the academic honesty guidelines you signed when you were admitted to UF.

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

*"I understand the University of Florida expects it students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."*

Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied:

*"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

It is to be assumed all work will be completed independently unless the assignment is defined as group project, in writing by the professor. This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

### **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 crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health is located on the second floor of the Student Health Services in the Infirmary.

1. *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575; personal and career counseling: [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)
2. *Student Mental Health*, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling: [www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm](http://www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm)
3. *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling; and
4. *Career Resource Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development Assistance and counseling.

### **Students with Disabilities Act**

The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes the registration of disabilities, academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faulty-student disability related issues.

*Dean of Students Office*, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-7066, [www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu).