

## URP 6409: Sustainable Community Development

Summer B - 2019

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Office hours: by appointment

### Course Overview

This course explores the range of planning and development processes associated with creating sustainable communities, that is places that evidence respect environmental values, that do not exploit natural resources, that are accessible to all citizens, and that ensure a high quality of life for current and future residents. The use of sustainable community planning in this context ranges in scale from individual buildings, to collections of buildings and spaces within neighborhoods or larger collections of neighborhoods, as well as planning at the city and regional levels. A great many of the examples of sustainable community development draw upon recent experiments in developed regions of North America, Europe, and sections of Asia. But there are also emerging sustainable community practices in developing nations that are an important part of the current movement.

The course examines the various components of sustainable community planning, such as land use, transportation, ecological planning, green design in the built environment, resource utilization in the critical areas of water and energy consumption, climatic factors that influence sustainable community planning, and how sustainable community planning contributes to livability and economic resilience. The intent of the course is to demonstrate that sustainability must be approached from a systems perspective, where the interactions between the built and natural environments create opportunities to advance the quality of urban and community life. We will draw on readings from urban and regional planning, anthropology, socioecological systems science, and political ecology to assess sustainable development and planning at multiple scales and across diverse global contexts.

### Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

- Define the meaning of, and provide examples of, sustainable planning practices.
- Understand how land use and transportation planning and policies affect sustainable community development in diverse contexts.
- Understand resource use and system dynamics across built and natural environments.
- Have knowledge of best practices of sustainable community development in various regions of the world, as defined by diverse stakeholders.
- Understand how government policies contribute and influence to sustainable community development.
- Identify characteristics of building design and construction that contribute to sustainable communities.
- Analyze and assess the various evaluation systems that determine the level of sustainable practices in the built and natural environments.

### Course Outline

	Discussion Post Assignments	Other Assignments
Module 1: Sustainable Community Development Theory	Discussion Post and Response	
Module 2: Land Use Planning Strategies	Discussion Post and Response	
Module 3: Transportation Systems	Discussion Post and Response	Choose case city
Module 4: Ecological Systems	Discussion Post and Response	
Module 5: Energy Systems	Discussion Post and Response	
Module 6: Designing the Built Environment	Discussion Post and Response	
Module 7: Sustainable Governance	Discussion Post and Response	City paper and presentation due
Module 8: Sustainable Community Models for the Future	Discussion Post and Response	Final Exam

## Required Texts

- Timothy Beatley, ed., *Green Cities of Europe: Global Lessons on Green Urbanism* (2012, Island Press), T. (2012). *Green cities of Europe: Global lessons on green urbanism*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Newman, P., & Matan, A. (2013). *Green Urbanism in Asia: The emerging green tigers*. World Scientific.
- Mark Roseland, *Toward Sustainable Communities: Solutions for Citizens and Their Governments*, 4th edition (2012, New Society Publishers), M. (2012). *Toward sustainable communities: Solutions for citizens and their governments* (4th ed.). New Society Publishers.

## Grading

Discussion posts = 30%

Case study project (paper and presentation on city of choice) = 40%

Final exam = 30%

## Important Information

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open the last few weeks of the semester.

## Student Support

### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
- Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- On-Line Students Complaints: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>
- Writing and developing good habits as related to writing and editing is a challenge. There are opportunities at UF to help students develop these skills. Please take advantage of these opportunities. See <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

## Honor Code:

Work submitted for this course should follow the University of Florida student Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>