

LAS 6905; LAS 6938; LAS 4935
Fall Semester 2021
3 credit hours
376 Grinter
Tuesday (periods 3-5 for LAS 6938 and LAS 4935)

Instructor:
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LATIN AMERICA CITY + LANDSCAPE URBAN DESIGN ACROSS LATIN AMERICA

Course resources, information, announcements, updates, assignments, and discussions are available through the course canvas site (www.elearning.ufl.edu).

Course Description:

Relying on the lens of landscape urbanism, this seminar examines the past, present and future of cities and their landscape context in Latin America. We will review processes of urbanization and their ecological settings, studying cities and settlements as complex socio-ecological systems. Home to some of the worlds earliest cities and dense settlements, we will survey early urban forms in order to provide a spatial and temporal foundation for the rapid changes occurring today. Relying on readings drawn from anthropology, architecture, design and planning, students will have the opportunity to explore emerging ecological urbanism in Latin America along with the challenges facing communities in the context of complex issues like climate change and population pressure. Over the course of the semester each student will have the opportunity to explore spatially and temporally a specific city or region in depth creatively documenting the issues and opportunities facing communities. These explorations can be presented in a variety of media, e.g., design, print, video, or cartography. The core purpose of the seminar is to critically review the past and present as a means to think creatively about the future of cities, urban design, planning and landscape across Latin America.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand fundamental concepts about urbanism, urbanization, and urban society.
2. Explore theoretical perspectives on cities, especially those related to settlement ecology and landscape urbanism.

3. Apply the ideas of landscape urbanism and urban design to examine, investigate, and evaluate Latin American cities in the ecological and social contexts.
4. Critique contemporary urban design theory and especially its application beyond design disciplines.
5. Survey emerging patterns of urbanism in Latin America in order to relate these patterns to global discussions of sustainability and resilience.

Required Texts:

All of the media for the course, including videos, readings and audio recordings are available through our Canvas course (see www.elearning.ufl.edu) and some materials will also be available through the UF Libraries Course Reserves. Please let me know if you have any problems fully accessing and using the course canvas site.

Grades, Grading Distribution, and Grade Points:

Grades for the course will be calculated through evaluation of the following assignments:

1. Discussion and Short Papers:	30%
2. City Poster:	30%
3. Final Paper:	30%
4. Participation/Peer Review:	10%

Total: 100%

Final Grades will be assigned based on the following chart:

A	93-100	4.00		C	73-77	2.00
A-	90-93	3.67		C-	70-73	1.67
B+	87-90	3.33		D+	67-70	1.33
B	83-87	3.00		D	63-67	1.00
B-	80-83	2.67		D-	60-63	0.67
C+	77-80	2.33		E	0-60	0.00

Grade points are assigned based on University of Florida policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Assignments:

PLEASE NOTE: Assignments 2 and 3 listed below must be completed to fulfill the 2000 word Writing Requirement.

1. **DISCUSSION POSTS/SHORT PAPERS:** As an ongoing element of the course, students will answer a series of questions by reflecting on their readings, presentations, videos, and other media assigned. For example, each student should expect submit a discussion post ranging in size from 500 to 1000 words (weekly and biweekly) and respond to a peer post (250 to 500 words). Three interim papers (1000 to 1500 words) will be prepared and submitted by students. The papers respond to specific topics in the course and provide a foundation for the final research paper/capstone project. Simply, well considered interim papers can be edited and integrated into the final research paper/capstone project. Papers will be themed as follows: 1. History/Prehistory/Indigenous Urbanism; 2. Ecology and the City; and, 3. Human, Social Networks and the City. In the first 2 weeks of the semester, select a city and let that city become the context for all of your papers and the poster in the semester.
2. **CITY POSTER:** Each student will produce a digital 24X36 poster about a city and key aspects of that city throughout the semester. The poster should complement the interim papers and final paper/project and include information about the history, ecology, and design of the city. The poster should be visually refined and not necessarily just a linear representation of the information in the papers.
3. **FINAL PAPER:** A manuscript length research paper (~7500 words) on the general topic of Urban Design Across Latin America or City and Landscape in Latin America. The paper should be based on original research and describe the results of an empirical study or creative inquiry. Alternative media for submissions is possible with discussion. For example, a student may identify a design competition or project that they wish to prepare for that

directly relates with the seminar. All effort will be made to accommodate student interests, please keep an open line of communication if you are deviating from a paper and be sure to get approval early in the semester.

UF student honor code, original work, and plagiarism:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the 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.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this course.

Original thought, writing, and discussion is critical for core questions about our place in the natural world and for meaningful discussions about culture and nature. Please be thoughtful and meticulous in your citations. This video offers useful information for how to avoid plagiarism and cite appropriately.

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9> If you have any questions, please ask your instructor.

Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment. A second incident of plagiarism will result in a failing grade (E) for the course.

Attendance:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Accommodations for students:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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.

Online course evaluation by students:

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 during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

Important Student Wellness Resources:

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact 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/>

Important Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to 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/>

Student Complaints On-Campus:
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Course Structure and Weekly Course Schedule:

The course, like all graduate seminars, will benefit greatly from your participation and peer interaction throughout the semester. Several weekly assignments require you to formally participate through responses to readings, facilitating discussions, and brief presentations, but please try to find ways to consistently engage seminar topics. This will not only benefit your own progression in the seminar, but all of us as we work on our individual and commonly multidisciplinary studies of cities in Latin America.

A weekly reading list will be provided at the beginning of the semester. Alterations will be necessary throughout the semester. A weekly outline of course material is located below.

Theory and History	Week 1:	Introduction to the course. Why study Latin American Urbanism and Cities?		
	Week 2:	What is a city? Urbanism, Urbanization and Latin America		
	Week 3:	Early Cities and Urbanization in Latin America	Interim Paper 1 Due	
Analysis and Design	Week 4:	Ecology and Cities		
	Week 5:	The Natural History of Cities in Latin America		
	Week 6:	Settlement Patterns and Settlement Ecology	Interim Paper 2 Due	
	Week 7:	Cities and Landscapes as Socio-Ecological Systems		
	Week 8:	Cities and Landscape as Social Networks in Latin America	CITY POSTER INTERIM	
	Week 9:	Urban Design and Landscape Urbanism		
	Week 10:	Sustainable Urbanism		
	Week 11:	High Density Landscapes and Informal Settlements	Interim Paper 3 Due	
	Future of Cities	Week 12:	Climate, Climate Change, and Disasters	
		Week 13:	Emerging Ecological Urbanism, Sustainability, and Resilience in Latin American Cities	
Weeks 14 & 15:		The future of cities in Latin America	Final Project Due Final CITY POSTER	

General Writing Rubric: This will be used for all writing assignments.

*modified from UC Davis composition rubric

	A: 90 – 100	B: 80 – 90	C: 70 – 80	D: 60 – 70	E: < 60
Ideas (40pts)	Excels in responding to the assignment. Demonstrates sophisticated thinking. Central ideas are clearly communicated and complexity of ideas are presented. Understands and critically evaluates and cites sources. (36-40)	A solid paper, mostly responding to the assignment. Clear statement of ideas, but may have some minor issues or incomplete discussions. Shows careful reading of sources, but perhaps not as sophisticated of use of sources. (32-36)	Paper responds to the assignment but weakly. There is a central idea, but it is not sufficiently described and communicated. Often very general thoughts presented. (28-32)	Does not present a clear idea or respond full/appropriately to the assignment. Central idea is vague. (24-28)	Does not respond to the assignment. Lacks central idea. (0-24)
Organization and Coherence (30pts)	Logically structured paper for its purpose. Paper guides the reader through a progression of ideas. (27-30)	Shows a logical progression of ideas and uses fairly sophisticated transitional devices. Some logical links are absent or faulty. Each paragraph matches the central idea of the paper. (24-27)	Lists ideas or includes central ideas, but not in an organized structure. Uses transitions simply and sequentially. On their own, each paragraph responds to the central idea, but it isn't synthetically structure. Some lack of coherence in sentences. (21-24)	Random organization with no real structured coherence. Paragraphs lack structure and not all sections relate directly to central idea. (18-21)	No organization lacks coherence. (0-18)
Support (10pts)	Uses evidence appropriately and effectively. (9-10)	Begins to offer reasons to support paper's key points and often using a variety of evidence/sources. Makes connections between ideas and evidence, but doesn't fully use evidence effectively. (8-9)	Uses generalization or opinions to support its points. Uses examples, but they aren't directly connected or relevant. Personal experience and assumptions are common. (7-8)	Cliches and overgeneralizations are relied upon with little reference to resources or evidence. Personal narrative dominates informed narrative. (6-7)	Uses irrelevant details or lacks supporting evidence. (0-6)
Style (10pts)	Chooses words with precision and uses specificity. Sentences are clearly structured and carefully focused, not rambling. (9-10)	Uses words accurately and effectively but not necessarily with precision. Sentences are clear, structured, and focused, though some may be awkward or incomplete. (8-9)	Uses vague and general words. May use some inappropriate language. Sentences are structured correctly, but perhaps unfocused, repetitive or confusing. (7-8)	Vague, abstract, and personal in content. Several awkward sentences. Sentence structure is simple and doesn't facilitate understanding. (6-7)	Awkward sentences throughout. Misuse of words. Inappropriate language. (0-6)
Mechanics (10pts)	Entirely free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. (9-10)	Contains a small amount of errors that challenge the reader, but don't interfere with understanding. (8-9)	Several mechanical errors that interfere with meaning, but don't impede overall understanding. (7-8)	Many mechanical errors that challenge meaning. Hard to understand connections. (6-7)	Many mechanical errors making it impossible to understand. (0-6)