



Spring 2023  
Sections 4450; 17A1

UF e-Learning in Canvas (<https://elearning.ufl.edu>)

**Online: 3 Credit Hours**

**General Education Requirements:** International (N) and Social & Behavioral Sciences (S)

**Urban and Regional Planning Minor:** Core Course

**Online Lectures by:** Dr. Christopher Silver  
Dr. Jocelyn Widmer

**Instructors:** Farah Akiely, Doctoral Student, College of Design, Construction & Planning (URP)  
Office Hours: Mondays, 8:00AM-10:00AM

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00AM-12:00PM

**Course Introduction**

This course will introduce students to the concept of urbanization, its related problems, and methods used to combat these problems given that the majority of the world’s population now lives in urban areas. Comparative case studies of contemporary cities in the U.S. and in countries abroad – both industrialized and developing – will be used to illustrate major concepts and issues in urban and regional planning. Students will be exposed to the social, economic, environmental, structural, demographic, legal, cultural, and political problems that cities have faced, currently face, and will continue to face.

**Course Overview**

The online format course combines lectures, quizzes, and discussions of current affairs, viewing of multimedia materials, individual projects, and additional student research in a manner that will help students understand the evolution of the world’s cities and how they will face the challenges of an uncertain, rapidly changing future. As the cities of the world are in constant flux, it is imperative to include relevant current affairs that highlight the issues, some unique and some in common, facing particular regions of the world.

**Learning Objectives**

- To provide students with an overview of urban areas of the world
- To introduce students to countries and cultures throughout the world
- To give students a basic understanding of patterns of urban development and different urban systems (e.g., grid patterns, organic patterns, ecological systems, transit systems, etc.)
- To guide students through the processes of urbanization and to help them comprehend the regional and global consequences of such processes

**Required Text & Materials**

The required materials for the course are:

- Cities of the World: Regional Patterns and Urban Environments. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (2020). Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Stanley D. Brunn, Maureen Hays-Mitchell, Donald J. Zeigler, and Jessica Graybill
  - o ISBN-10: 1538126346 / ISBN-13: 978-1538126349
- Access to Course Website on e-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

## **Student Expectations**

Students are expected to actively participate in all activities planned for the course. While there is structure to this course and deadlines for assignments, online course participation is largely self-directed. Students are expected to:

- To read the required text and materials in a timely fashion
- To watch the online lectures in a timely fashion
- To finish assignments by the scheduled deadlines
- To use external material to support my ideas
- To properly cite references (APA Style) and credits for all materials used in discussions and group assignments
- To follow guidelines concerning computer usage and web etiquette.
- To abide by the University of Florida's rules and regulations, including the Student Honor Code.

## **Grading**

Grades will be based on evidence that students have completed assigned readings, participated actively in all discussion posts, completed weekly interactive assignments, actively participated in group projects, and taken all exams as scheduled throughout the course of the semester. All assignments will be submitted via Canvas by the posted deadline.

- **Module Quizzes:** You will be quizzed on the assigned material (readings, lectures, etc.) for each module. The quiz will be administered through *Quizzes* in Canvas. The syllabus quiz is worth 30 points and the handbook quiz is worth 25 points. Each chapter quiz is worth 10 points. **Total Points: 185**  
Module quizzes will be available only for a 24-hour period on the designated date and cannot be accessed earlier.
- **Discussion Posts:** Throughout the semester, you will be asked to participate in a discussion with assigned group members. The discussion posts will be centered on material that is relevant to the module's region of the world. You will read, view, and/or listen to the material and submit your post to the writing prompt for discussion. Each Discussion Post assignment is worth 45 points. You will be graded on your initial post, as well as at least two additional response posts to others in your group discussion. Your effort will be measured on the level of participation *and* quality of contribution to the discussions. Late discussion posts will receive no credit (0/45 points). Make-up for Discussion Posts is NOT possible, this is due to being group assignments where peer interaction is needed. These are already extended 1-week assignments.  
**Total Points: 135**
- **Group Project: Total Points: 230**
  - Video file of recorded presentation, slides, and written script: 150 points.
  - Effective group communication and three INDIVIDUAL interim group check-ins: 50 points.
  - Peer Review: 20 points.
  - Peer Review Submission: 10 points.

Late Group Project will not receive credit (0/150 points). Individual Group Project is NOT possible, this is due to being group assignments where peer interaction is needed.

## **Overview**

Throughout the course of the semester, you will complete ONE Group Project. This Group Project will correspond with the weekly Modules. The project intended to supplement the material found in the textbook, lectures, and assignments. Project topics can be found in the Group Project Assignments.

## **Group Assignment and Topic**

You will be randomly assigned to a group following the semester Drop/Add period. You will work with your group for the Group Project. After you've been assigned to a group, please go to the Discussion Post link to acquaint yourself with your other group members and to respond to each other's' posts.

**Please note that you will not be allowed to switch groups once assigned.**

## **Project Requirements**

Your group presentation will consist of a maximum of 10 PowerPoint slides with a recorded presentation and written script. You must use PowerPoint to present and submit your group project. Zoom must be used for the recording of your group presentation. A Zoom meeting among group members will be required for the submission of the presentation.

### **Submitting Your Group's Project**

For your group project you must submit three files. The group project will be considered incomplete without the inclusion of all three files.

1. A Word Document or .pdf file of the script for your spoken presentation
2. A PowerPoint file of the slides used in your presentation
3. A Video file of your recorded presentation

Please select one group member to submit the Group Project through the assignment link by the assigned project deadline. Refer to the Due Dates page for Group Project deadlines (varies by group number).

Your submission must be a PDF (for the script) and a PPT (for the presentation) format to be graded. All assignments will be checked on Turnitin for originality.

**DOUBLE CHECK that your submission is posted and properly displayed on Canvas. Submissions past the deadline due to negligence or procrastination are not accepted under any circumstances.**

Please submit evaluation scores for EVERY member of your group by 11:59 pm on the day that your project is due. A spreadsheet to help you determine group member evaluation scores can be found on the assignment's page on Canvas.

If you are unable to complete the Group Member evaluation, you will not be given an opportunity to make up these points.

**Students with a score of fewer than 8 points (whose group felt they did not participate or contribute) will not receive credit for the project.**

- **Exams:** There will be three exams given during the course of the semester, each covering materials from lectures, assignments, discussion posts, and readings. Each exam will be worth 150 points and will focus on material covered since the previous exam. Each exam will be comprised of 50 multiple choice and mapping questions. Exams will be available online for a 24-hour period on the designated date, and you will need to allot 50 minutes to complete the exam. **Total Points: 450**
  - **Exam 1:** Monday, February 13th, 2023, from 12:00 am–11:55 pm (covering Modules 2-5)
  - **Exam 2:** Monday, March 20th, 2023, from 12:00 am–11:55 pm (covering Modules 7-10)
  - **Exam 3:** Monday, April 24th, 2023, from 12:00 am–11:55 pm (covering Modules 12-16)

The final grading scale is as follows:

A	100 %	to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 63.0%
D-	< 63.0 %	to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

**Points Distribution:** There are **1,000 possible points** for this course:

Due Date	Module	Discussion Post Completion 45pts / Post	Group Project Completion 200 pts Peer Review 30 pts	Module Quiz	Exam 1 150 pts	Exam 2 150 pts	Exam 3 150 pts	Total Points Per Module	
01.13	1			55				55	
01.20	2			10				10	
01.27	3			10				10	
02.03	4	45		10				55	
02.10	5			10				10	
02.13	EXAM 1							150	150
02.17	7			10				10	
02.24	8			10				10	
03.03	9	45		10				55	
03.10	10			10				10	
03.20	EXAM 2								150
03.24	12			10				10	
03.31	13			10				10	
04.07	14	45		10				55	
04.14	15			10				10	
04.21	16			10				10	
04.24	EXAM 3				150	150			
Projects	As assigned		200 + 30				230		
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1000</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>13.5%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Extra Credit Opportunities**

Extra credit is intended to compensate for individual assignments you were unable to complete or did not perform to your expectations. **You have multiple opportunities to earn extra credit for a MAXIMUM of 30 points this semester.**

**Course Policies**

**Make-Up Policy**

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: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)

If you are sick or have an emergency that prevents you from taking an exam at the scheduled time, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible. Documentation of the illness or emergency will be required. If you need to schedule a make-up exam, please email me with a detailed explanation and attach documentation. Make-up exams will be given at my discretion. Scheduling make-up exams is the responsibility of the student.

If you have a serious emergency or life event, please contact the Dean of Students Office ([www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu)), and they will contact all of your instructors so that you do not have to provide documentation of the emergency/death in order to make-up exams and coursework. We will work together to create a schedule for make-up coursework upon your return. Please take the time to check this link (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>)

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from UF Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor through Canvas immediately if you wish to request a make-up.

**Sequence for Seeking Answers to Course Questions**

1. Consult course *Syllabus* and *Course Handbook*.
2. Check *Announcements* daily for changes and updates.
3. Consult with instructions for the *Assignments*.
4. Email *Teachers* through *Inbox* in Canvas. Please allow 36 hours for a response and address your instructors in a professional manner.

## **Technology Requirements**

You must have a computer with internet access and a supported web browser. Supported browsers include Microsoft IE 7+, Chrome 18+, and Firefox 12+. If you are a Mac user, Firefox is your best option. Browser settings must be configured to allow cookies, Java, and JavaScript. Likewise, browser security settings should not be higher than "medium". You must also have Sun Java on your computer (Apple on Macs); Microsoft Java will not work properly.

For a detailed explanation of software and hardware requirements, go to [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student\\_Faq](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student_Faq) (Links to an external site.)

## **Software Requirements**

This course will require the use of various online programs. Software particularly required for the Group project are:

1. Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Word (Available for Free on UF apps)
2. Zoom

## **Technical Support**

- Academic Technology - UF Computing Help Desk:  
<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> (Links to an external site.)
- An introduction and support for the E-Learning system can be found at:  
[https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student\\_Faq](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Student_Faq) (Links to an external site.)

## **How do I know when to contact the HelpDesk?**

In the event that you have technical difficulties with E-learning, please contact the UF Helpdesk at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu), or (352) 392-4357. Ground floor of the Hub. If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date, you MUST report the problem to E-learning. Include the ticket number that you are given in an e-mail to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test.

Types of questions that should be directed to the Help Desk:

1. I can't log into E-learning
2. I have clicked on the "submit" button for my quiz and nothing is happening
3. I can't upload an assignment (be sure that you have reviewed the tutorial on how to do this BEFORE you contact the Help Desk)
4. E-learning has given me an error message and I can't submit my assignment.

Late work that involves technical difficulties with E-learning OR technical difficulties with your computer MUST be accompanied by a ticket number from the Help Desk.

Poor internet connections cannot be accommodated with a ticket from the UF Helpdesk. **CONSISTENT WITH UF POLICY, YOU SHOULD USE A WIRED CONNECTION WHEN TAKING QUIZZES AND EXAMS.**

The Course Instructor reserves the right to accept or decline tickets from the UF Helpdesk based on individual circumstances.

## **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC). The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Please see the DRC's website at <https://disability.ufl.edu>.

## **Getting Help**

For issues with technical difficulties in e-Learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP
- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/e-learning-support/>

\*\* Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for: Counseling and Wellness resources, Disability resources, Resources for handling student concerns and complaints, and Library Help Desk support. Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>."

*Disclaimer: This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As the semester progresses, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

- Module 1: January 9<sup>th</sup> – January 13<sup>th</sup>  
COURSE INTRODUCTION  
Quiz 01.13
  
- Module 2: January 14<sup>th</sup> – January 20<sup>th</sup>  
WORLD URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
Quiz 01.20
  
- Module 3: January 21<sup>st</sup> – January 27<sup>th</sup>  
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA  
Quiz 01.27  
Discussion Board Post #1 Opens 01.27
  
- Module 4: January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
MIDDLE AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Quiz 02.03  
Discussion Board Post #1 Due 02.03
  
- Module 5: February 4<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup>  
SOUTH AMERICA  
Quiz 02.10
  
- Module 6: **February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**EXAM #1 (Modules 2 – 5) Available on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 am – 11:55 pm**
  
- Module 7: February 11<sup>th</sup> – February 17<sup>th</sup>  
EUROPE  
Quiz 02.17
  
- Module 8: February 18<sup>th</sup> – February 24<sup>th</sup>  
RUSSIA  
Quiz 02.24  
Discussion Board Post #2 Opens 02.24

- Module 9: February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
GREATER MIDDLE EAST  
Quiz 03.03  
Discussion Board Post #2 Due 03.03
- Module 10: March 4<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
Quiz 03.10
- Module 11: **March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**EXAM #2 (Modules 7 – 10) Available on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 am – 11:55 pm**
- Module 12: March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>  
AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
Quiz 03.24
- Module 13: March 25<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>  
SOUTH ASIA  
Quiz 03.31  
Discussion Board Post #3 Opens 03.31
- Module 14: April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>  
SOUTHEAST ASIA  
Quiz 04.07  
Discussion Board Post #3 Due 04.07
- Module 15: April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>  
EAST ASIA  
Quiz 04.14
- Module 16: April 15<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>  
CITIES OF THE FUTURE  
Quiz 04.21
- Module 17: **April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**EXAM #3 (Modules 12 – 16) Available on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 am – 11:55 pm**