

University of Florida  
M.E. RINKER, Sr. SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
**BCN 1582 International Sustainable Development, 3 Credits**

Spring 2025 | Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Jason von Meding  
**TA:** Jazlyn Yarbrough and August Healy  
**Office:** 344 Rinker Hall  
**Office hours:** W – 12PM to 1PM <https://ufl.zoom.us/my/vonmeding>  
**Email:** Use mail tool in e-Learning or email [jason.vonmeding@ufl.edu](mailto:jason.vonmeding@ufl.edu) from your UF email address  
**Prerequisites:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Understanding key concepts related to sustainable development worldwide, gain familiarity with key environmental and resource issues and the effects on humankind if present population and consumption trends remain unchanged.

**CURRENT GENERAL EDUCATION AREA:** GE-S (link: <https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>)

**MINIMUM GRADE REQUIRED:** A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** Class lectures, guest lectures, videos, discussion assignments, exams, and term project.

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:** To teach the student on the importance of sustainable development and related concepts including key international plans and sustainable community movements worldwide, prepare a paper to report either water or climate change issues for the selected country or continent as assigned.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs):**

Upon completion of the course students will demonstrate their ability to:

1. Describe how sustainable development is changing humankind's interaction with the planet (ACCE SLO 18)
2. Explain the basic concepts of sustainable development (ACCE SLO 18)
3. Discuss the ethical foundation for sustainability and sustainable development (ACCE SLO 6)
4. Identify key environmental and resource issues that threaten quality of life and the environment for present and future generations (ACCE SLO 18)
5. Identify and contrast key international sustainability initiatives (ACCE SLO 18)
6. Explain how various industries and organizations are adopting strategies to function in a sustainable manner (ACCE SLO 18)
7. Indicate how sustainable development concepts can be applied to the creation of a sustainable built environment (ACCE SLO 18)

*ACCE: American Council for Construction Education; SLO = Student Learning Outcome; ACCE SLO 6: Analyze professional decisions based on ethical principles; ACCE SLO 18: Understand the basic principles of sustainable construction;*

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Assessment	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4	CLO 5	CLO 6	CLO 7	Target
<b>Weekly Quiz</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	At least 80% receive a B- or better
<b>Mid-term video</b>			x	x				At least 80% receive a B- or better
<b>Final Exam</b>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	At least 80% receive a B- or better
<b>Term Project</b>			x	x	x			At least 80% receive a B- or better

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- **State of the World 2017, EarthEd: Rethinking Education on a Changing Planet.** The Worldwatch Institute, Washington, DC. ISBN: 9781610918428. <https://earthed.info/book/> (Students do not need to purchase – will link to open access chapters via Canvas)

## SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

- Readings will be provided via canvas and organized by each weekly Module.

**STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:** Student grades will be based on exams, quizzes, a term project, discussions and homework assignments. Optional extra credits may become available for this course. There are **no make-ups** for missed quizzes, exams, term project, and optional extra credit activities unless UF attendance policy applies (link to UF attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>)

## COURSE GRADING: (Total points available 500)

- **Mid-term Video:** Create a special interest sustainable development video, worth 100 points.
- **Discussions and homework:** 85 total points.
- **Weekly quizzes:** 65 total points.
- **Term Project:** Develop a comprehensive project that furthers your topical and geographical interests in sustainable development, worth 150 points. Project will occur in sequential parts during the semester.
- **Exam:** A computer-based final exam, worth 100 points.
- **Optional Extra Credits:** There may be optional extra credits available throughout the term. Check emails and announcements for further details.

### Grading based on points earned as a percentage of total points.

A=93-100; A- =90-92.9; B+ =87-89.9; B=83-86.9; B- =80-82.9; C+ = 77-79.9; C=73-76.9; C- =70-72.9; D+ =67-69.9; D=63-66.9; D- =60-62.9; E<60.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office 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 (discussion, term paper, extra credit) 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.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. The Honor Code will be applied in the class. 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 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." It is Rinker School policy that any incident of cheating, copying, or other attempts to deceive will be penalized by course failure.

**NETIQUETTE, COMMUNICATION COURTESY POLICY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Detailed guide is available at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

**GETTING HELP WITH E-LEARNING WEBSITE:** In the case you have technical difficulties with e-Learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu); (352) 392-HELP - select option 2; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml> . If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date/time, you **MUST** report the problem to the UF Help Desk **before** the due date/time.

**CELLPHONES.** Cellphone use is not allowed in classrooms. Use of cellphones during class will discount attendance. Use of cellphones during an exam will result in failing the exam.

**LAPTOPS & TABLETS.** These devices should only be used to take notes related to lectures. Use of these devices for

social media or any other unrelated purposes during class hours will result in a penalty of 10 points for every incident.

### **COMMUNICATION**

- Use the e-Learning in Canvas environment to send an email to the instructor and teaching assistant. Do not e-mail the course instructor and teaching assistant outside of the e-Learning in Canvas system because emails received outside of e-Learning will not receive a response. Please allow 36 hours for a response to your email. The instructor and teaching assistant reserve the right not to respond to course inquiries on the weekend.
- You are responsible for addressing grades/omissions within one week of the grade being posted on e-Learning in Canvas. After one week, the grade/input stands for the class regardless of cause or circumstance.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

“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/https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.”

### **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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### **STUDENT PRIVACY**

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

**Note from the instructor:** *The syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicate clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*