

Course Number and Name:

URP 6646/4804 – International Perspectives in Urban and Regional Planning

Instructor:

Dr. Abhinav Alakshendra
448 ARCH
352-294-1488
alakshendra@ufl.edu

Class Period and Location:

Monday: 1.55 – 4.55 (period 7-9)

RNK 220

Office Hours:

Monday 12.45-1.45 PM and/or by appointment.
Tuesday 11 AM – 1 PM (by appointment only)

Instructional Methods:

Classes will be conducted using lectures, discussions, and audio-visual presentations.

Course Description:

In this rapidly globalizing world, students need to understand the changing needs and demands of the planning profession and people. Current and rapid changes in the structure and trends in Globalization, Urbanization, Inequality, etc., have intended and unintended consequences on the development outcome and the planning process. This undergraduate-graduate 'joined' course is designed to present contemporary global and critical issues in urban and regional planning. This course carefully selects critical topics and case studies from around the world and encourages students to evaluate and develop different strategies and corrective courses of action. Students are expected to analyze and solve problems using critical thinking, conceptual thinking, innovative thinking, and intuitive thinking. This course provides global insights to students and prepares them to think critically to solve real life local and global problems in a more informed way.

This course is divided into 7 modules. Each module discusses topics such as Globalization, Inequality, Segregation, Immigration, etc. Every module consists of an issue that directly or indirectly affects the planning community, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

Course Objectives:

The main objective of the course is to make students aware of global issues. Developing knowledge-based critical thinking among students is one of the important objectives of this course.

The planning profession is expected to have active engagement with various stakeholders of the community at a local and global level. In this course, students will learn about the various urban planning issues and the interconnections between them.

Students are expected to learn and adapt to the changing dynamics of planning and apply the knowledge in plan formulations. We will also discuss the best practices in planning from all over the world and analyze the government's role.

Student Learning Objectives:

This course aligns well with defined SLOs objectives. Students are expected to identify, understand, and explain global conditions and interdependencies. In addition to this, students will play central and active role in the classroom. Active learning format is known to cause students to think critically.

SLO 1:

Students are expected to participate in the class discussion and discuss the class material and other assigned readings. The assigned readings and the class discussions require them to identify, understand, and explain the material, and the context. Students will be taught and are expected to understand the underlying cultural differences before analyzing a problem.

SLO 2:

Every module consists of topics which are global and as well as local in nature. However, these issues affect countries differently because of differences in the economic development, culture, and population. Students are expected to understand these differences before problem solving.

SLO 3:

Students will work in groups and individually to prepare and present a country profile of an assigned country. They will discuss topics covered in class in the context of the assigned country. This exercise involves data gathering, extensive reading, communicating with citizens of the assigned country to understand cultural differences, working in groups to present their findings which strengthens communication skills. Having right information will make students sensitive, and aware about the world they live in.

Course Content:

This course is divided into seven modules. Each module discusses contemporary planning issue in detail. Each segment consists of a topic that directly or indirectly affects citizens, planning community, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

Grading:

Assignment	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Course Paper (Extra requirements for 6646) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Idea presentation (50pts)Final paper presentation (100pts)Final paper (150pts)	300	30%
Class Participation and Article Summaries <ul style="list-style-type: none">Class Participation (100pts)Summaries (100pts)	200	20%
Country Profile Presentations	200	20%
Assignments (2x150 each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extra requirements for 6646	300	30%

Letter grades:

Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92.9	85-89.9	82-84.9	80-81.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Modules:

Module 1: Globalization (2 Weeks)

- Trends: USA and Rest of the World
- Causes and Consequences
- Politics, Economics, and Globalization
- Planning Process and Globalization

Module 2: Economics and Geography of Jobs (2 Weeks)

- Trends: USA and Rest of the World
- Where are the Jobs?
- Offshoring and Job Quality
- Planning Intervention and Job Creation
- Best Practices around the world

Module 3: Inequality (2.5 Weeks)

- Types of Inequality
- Causes and Consequences
- How to Measure Inequality
- Inequality around you
- Trends: USA and Rest of the World
- Reducing Inequality through Planning Interventions
- Best Practices around the World

Module 4: Segregation (2 Weeks)

- Trends: USA and Rest of the World
- Causes and Consequences
- Integration through Planning
- Best Practices and Success Stories

Module 5: Immigration (1.5 Weeks)

- Trends: USA and Rest of the World
- Causes and Consequences
- Planning Challenges and Immigration

Module 6: The New Economic Reality (2 Weeks)

- Trends: USA and Rest of the World
- Changing Housing and Office Space Demand
- Planning in Recession
- New Strategies

Module 7: Special Topics (If time permits ~ 1 week)

- Economics of Smart Cities
- Efficiency and Smart Growth
- Environment and Economics
- Cost of Sustainability

Text and Readings:

1. Miraftab, Faranak., and Neema Kudva. Cities of the Global South Reader. Routledge Urban Reader Series, 2014. (Recommended)
2. Moretti, Enrico. The new geography of jobs. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. (Recommended)
3. Alterman, Rachelle. "Can Planning Help in Time of Crisis?: Planners' Response to Israel's Recent Wave of Mass Immigration." Journal of the American Planning Association 61.2 (1995):156-177.
4. Lovering, John. "Will the recession prove to be a turning point in planning and urban development thinking?." International Planning Studies 15.3 (2010): 227-243.
5. ***More readings will be provided as we progress.**

Course Participation:

Course participation is part of your grade for the course. Participation will be evaluated by in class discussion. The discussion participation should be substantial in quality (not simply "I agree" or "I disagree").

Make-up Work and Exams:

No late work will be accepted. Computer problems that arise during submission will not be accepted as an excuse for late work. All work must be completed and submitted by the designated time in Canvas or you will not receive credit for the assignment.

In the event that you have technical difficulties with e-Learning, please contact the UF Help Desk. If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date, you MUST report the problem to Help Desk. Include the ticket number and an explanation of the issue based on consult with Help Desk in an e-mail to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test. The course faculty reserves the right to accept or decline tickets from the UF Help Desk based on individual circumstances.

Netiquette:

Course communication should be civilized and respectful to everyone. The means of communication provided to you through e-Learning (e-mail, discussion posts, course questions, and chats) are at your full disposal to use in a respectful manner. Abuse of this system and its tools through disruptive conduct, harassment, or overall disruption of course activity will not be tolerated. Conduct that is deemed to be in violation with University rules and regulations or the Code of Student Conduct will result in a report to the Dean of Students. All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all forms of communication.

University Policies:

University policies on such matters as add/drop, incomplete, academic probation, termination of enrollment, reinstatement, and other expectations or procedures can be found in the [graduate student handbook](#) and at the [Dean of Students website](#).

Accommodation for students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff at the Disability Resource Center will assist any student who registers as having a disability.

Student Honor Code and Academic Honesty:

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."
Students must follow the University's policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials. Please visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> for more information.

Attendance:

Class attendance is required and will be the basis of class participation grades.

Common Courtesy:

"Distractions are a part of our daily activities, and they often result from electronic technology (e.g., laptops, tablets, cellphones). The challenge is to ensure that they take a proper role in teaching and learning. Because this course is designed to maximize participation, students should plan to minimize the interference of technology during class. Students will turn off and put away cellphones and other handhelds, tablets and other devices that are not a direct part of the educational experience. If you are expecting an urgent call, please let your instructor know so that you do not disturb the class when the call comes in."

Online 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.

Feedback:

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/>

Campus Resources:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450

Disclaimer:

1. Subsequent changes may be made to any aspect or detail of this syllabus if and when necessary. Any changes will be announced in class as soon as practical.
2. The online sessions will be recorded, and the recordings will be available to all participants. Please email me if you would like to know more or if you have questions/concerns.