



URP2001

# Comparative Urbanization

SUMMER B 2025  
Sections 12289; 12290

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 Candidate, College of Design, Construction & Planning (URP)  
[Farah.akiely@ufl.edu](mailto:Farah.akiely@ufl.edu) (Please use Canvas Inbox to email us unless for DRC accommodations letter)  
Office Hours: Monday, 8:00AM-10:00AM

Isabel Figueroa-Aldunce, Doctoral Candidate, College of Design, Construction & Planning (URP)  
[ifigueroaaldunce@ufl.edu](mailto:ifigueroaaldunce@ufl.edu) (Please use Canvas Inbox to email us unless for the DRC letter)  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 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. Special consideration is given to energy consumption.

## **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

## **General Education Subject Area Objectives**

This course fulfills the International General Education subject area (N), and Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education subject area (S). (<https://undergrad.ua.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>)

Courses with International subject area addresses international content and engagement, and it is a substantial, defining feature of the course. International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness.

- Students will examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world.
- Students will analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

Social and Behavioral Sciences courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques.

- Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, or processes.
- Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes, or human behavior.
- Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

### **General Education Subject Area Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Critical Thinking</b>	<b>Communication</b>
<b>International (N)</b>	Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world.	Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world.	Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively. All course assignments will be used to assess these SLOs.
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)</b>	Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes.	Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.	Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively. All course assignments will be used to assess these SLOs.

### **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 semester. All assignments must be submitted via Canvas by the posted deadline. Please note that using AI tools in course assignments is not permitted in this course. ChatGPT or similar tools generate, or enhance, the answers in the Discussion Board Post or the content and analysis in the Group Project, and this is strictly prohibited. Detection of AI tools in any assignment will result in failure and notification to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action.

- **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** Quizzes will be available only for a 24-hours on the designated date and cannot be accessed earlier.
- **Discussion Posts:** Throughout the semester, you will be asked to participate in discussions 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 responses to others in your group. 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

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.**

Students need to 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, July 14th, 2025, from 12:00 am–11:59 pm (covering Modules 2-5)
  - **Exam 2:** Friday, July 25th, 2025, from 12:00 am–11:59 pm (covering Modules 7-10)
  - **Exam 3:** Friday, August 8th, 2025, from 12:00 am–11:59 pm (covering Modules 12-16)

**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			
07.02	1		200 + 30	55	150			55			
07.05	2			10				10			
07.07	3			10				10			
07.09	4	45		10				10			
07.11	5			10				10			
07.14	EXAM 1								150		150
07.16	7							10			10
07.18	8							10			10
07.21	9							10			55
07.24	10	45						10			10
07.25	EXAM 2									150	150
07.28	12							10			10
07.30	13							10			10
08.01	14							10			55
08.04	15	45						10			10
08.07	16							10			10
08.08	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>			

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%

**Note: A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit.**

### **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, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

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

If you have a serious emergency or life event that prevented you from taking an exam, please contact the Dean of Students Office ([www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu)) and notify us ASAP. The DoS office 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. UF Help Desk, as well as the instructors, MUST be notified as soon as the issue is detected. 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

### **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/>

### **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.

\*\* 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.

### **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> and <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>.

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:	June 30 <sup>th</sup> – July 2 <sup>nd</sup> COURSE INTRODUCTION Quiz 07.02 Discussion Board Post #1 Opens 07.02
Module 2:	July 3 <sup>rd</sup> – July 5 <sup>th</sup> WORLD URBAN DEVELOPMENT Quiz 07.05
Module 3:	July 6 <sup>th</sup> – July 7 <sup>th</sup> THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA Quiz 07.07
Module 4:	July 8 <sup>th</sup> – July 9 <sup>th</sup> MIDDLE AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN Quiz 07.09 Discussion Board Post #1 Due 07.09
Module 5:	July 11 <sup>th</sup> – July 13 <sup>th</sup> SOUTH AMERICA Quiz 07.11
Module 6:	<b>July 14<sup>th</sup></b> <b>EXAM #1 (Modules 2 – 5) Available on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 am – 11:59 pm</b>
Module 7:	July 15 <sup>th</sup> – July 16 <sup>th</sup> EUROPE Quiz 07.16
Module 8:	July 17 <sup>th</sup> – July 18 <sup>th</sup> RUSSIA Quiz 07.18 Discussion Board Post #2 Opens 07.18
Module 9:	July 19 <sup>th</sup> – July 21 <sup>st</sup> GREATER MIDDLE EAST Quiz 07.21
Module 10:	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> – July 24 <sup>th</sup> SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA Quiz 07.24 Discussion Board Post #2 Due 07.24
Module 11:	<b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b> <b>EXAM #2 (Modules 7 – 10) Available on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 am – 11:59 pm</b>
Module 12:	July 26 <sup>th</sup> – July 28 <sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS Quiz 07.28 Discussion Board Post #3 Opens 07.28
Module 13:	July 29 <sup>th</sup> – July 30 <sup>th</sup> SOUTH ASIA Quiz 07.30
Module 14:	July 31 <sup>st</sup> - August 1 <sup>st</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIA Quiz 08.1
Module 15:	August 2 <sup>nd</sup> – August 4 <sup>th</sup> EAST ASIA Quiz 08.04 Discussion Board Post #3 Due 08.04
Module 16:	August 5 <sup>th</sup> – August 7 <sup>th</sup> CITIES OF THE FUTURE Quiz 08.07
Module 17:	<b>August 8<sup>th</sup></b> <b>EXAM #3 (Modules 12 – 16) Available on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 am – 11:59 pm</b>