

## DCP 6230: Master's Research Project, Integrated Sustainable Development

Summer 2025 | 6 Credits | Hybrid

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Patricia Kio, Ph.D., LEED GA, Intl. Assoc. AIA, CM-Lean, MNIA</b> Assistant Professor Architecture   Sustainability and the Built Environment Faculty College of Design, Construction, and Planning (DCP)   University of Florida
<b>Office Correspondence:</b>	AH 132 ( <a href="#">Antevy Hall</a> )   Phone: 352 294 1425 <b>Messaging through Canvas is preferred</b> Alternative: <a href="mailto:p.kio@ufl.edu">p.kio@ufl.edu</a>
<b>Course Time &amp; Location:</b>	<b>Monday</b>   Period 6–E1   3:30–8:15 pm   <a href="#">Remote</a> <b>Wednesday</b>   Period 2–4   9:30–1:45 pm   <a href="#">RNK 0106</a> & <a href="#">Remote</a>
<b>Course Co/Prerequisite:</b>	Enrollment is limited to DCP Graduate students
<b>Course Credit:</b>	This is a full-semester (summer C) course, Master's Research Project (MRP), which will be undertaken for 6 credits. Due to the rigorous workload and comprehensive nature of the research, the MRP course is designed to be taken as a standalone course in the student's final semester.
<b>General Education Credit:</b>	None
<b>Final Exam Schedule:</b>	N/A
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<a href="#">Tuesdays</a>   12:00 PM –2:00 PM <a href="#">Thursdays</a>   10:00 AM –12:00 PM or by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Integrated sustainable development involves connecting people, processes, data, and the built environment. The Master's Research Project (MRP) is the final deliverable for the Master of Integrated Sustainable Development (MISD) degree program. It demonstrates a student's comprehensive understanding of a chosen sustainability topic, including its processes, impacts, and interventions.

This course requires students to establish a research line on sustainability topics that align with their interests and can be completed within the allotted time. It emphasizes conceptualizing a research topic, selecting a study subject, and employing information-gathering strategies commonly used in practice, such as case studies, experimental and quasi-experimental methods, surveys, open-ended interviews, and observations. The course focuses on defining sustainability

problems, formulating suitable research questions, developing simple conceptual models, understanding various study and data collection methodologies, and overall research strategies.

The MRP emphasizes study design, interpreting findings, and disseminating results through written and oral communications. The report format is developed in consultation with the course instructor and the student's research committee, which must be finalized before starting the MRP.

The MRP demonstrates the student's understanding of sustainability knowledge, professional skills, ethics, critical thinking, effective communication, professionalism, and research methods. It includes an abstract and literature review, applying relevant precedents and theories to inform the final product. The research results, analysis, and synthesis should be defensible, logical, and significantly inform the final product. Professional skills are demonstrated through visual, oral, and written communications. The methodologies, research findings, and conclusions should align with the research focus.

The student's supervisory committee should be appointed as soon as possible after admission to the Graduate School, and no later than the end of the first term of graduate study. Therefore, you must identify a chair during the first semester. Ideally, this should occur early since the degree is one year in duration. You are required to submit a one-page final project proposal outlining your topic at least one week before the beginning of your second semester in the program. In this proposal, you must indicate your top two choices for committee members, specifying who will serve as chair and co-chair, and distribute your proposal to them. The relevant faculty will review your document and respond to let you know whether they agree to participate in your committee. **You can then prepare the supervisory committee form and submit it to Pat Dejong for inclusion in your student record.**

\*Please note that many professors are on a 9-month contract with the university and conduct research full-time during the summer, making them unavailable to work with students at that time.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Classes start	Monday, May 12, 2025
Deadline to apply for graduation	Wednesday, July 2, 2025
Final Presentation/3MP	Monday, July 21, 2025 (3:00 – 5:30 PM) or Wednesday, July 23, 2025 (9:30 AM – 12:00 PM)
Final submission deadline	Friday, July 25, 2025
Summer 2025 Commencement	<b>Friday, August 8, 2025</b>

The following is a breakdown of the instructor's and committee's role, their descriptions, and intended contributions:

**- Instructor (COMMITTEE)**

- Guides students through course modules
- Ensures students are meeting deadlines and providing deliverables
- Facilitates dialogue and meetings between the students and their respective committees
- Possible to serve a Chair or co-chair if needed and requested

**- Chair: must be DCP faculty**

- Serves as main topical editor/point of contact for research project
- Position typically involves 3-4 meetings, review and editing of drafts, final presentation participation and feedback
- Ultimately signs off on pass/fail for Final Exam/MRP

**- Co-Chair: must be DCP faculty**

- Serves as secondary editor/point of contact for research project
- Position typically involves 1-2 meetings, review and light editing of drafts, final presentation participation and feedback
- Ultimately signs off on pass/fail for Final Exam/MRP

**- Special Member: anyone can serve; will need to get a UFID and Gatorlink**

- Serves as point of contact for any questions or local insight needed
- Position typically involves 0-1 meetings, review and editing of final draft, optional participation of presentation and feedback.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Acquire the ability to identify, analyze and solve design and development problems facing the built and natural environments.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify, analyze and solve complex built environment problems.
- Show oral, written, and critical thinking skills required of master's students within their area of specialization.
- Exhibit proficiency in presenting their own work as well as discussing and constructively critiquing their own and the work of others.
- Develop the professional skills necessary for collaboration, time management, workload distribution, and decision-making under uncertainty within individual and team settings.

## EXPECTATIONS

Students are required to participate in live discussions via Zoom and in person with the faculty and peers as scheduled below. It is encouraged for students use a webcam to turn on their videos for these virtual sessions to maximize your engagement. Students are also required to engage with the Chair and Co-Chair faculty, for the benefit of the student research. The instructor will be available to answer all forms of contact through Canvas or email. Students are expected to spend 6 hours a week on the research project. This includes lectures and independent work.

## READING

Williams, D. E. (2007). *Sustainable design: ecology, architecture, and planning*. John Wiley & Sons.

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

This course includes lectures, readings and reflections, multimedia materials, in-class engagement activities, research/writing on MRP. The following is a summary of expectations:

- Student expectations of instructor: enthusiasm for the course; engaging lectures; application of knowledge through classroom activities and fieldwork; easy to access course materials; clear guidance and assessment rubric; openness and encouragement of critical thoughts and new ideas; constructive feedback, and reasonable flexibility to meet with students outside of class.
- Instructor expectations of students: compassionate curiosity; positive attention and intention; enthusiasm about learning new ideas and contribution to the learning environment, consistent attendance; punctual arrival; active participation in class discussions and activities; advance-reading and note preparation of assigned reading; on-time completion/submission of all assignments; proper citation management; professional attitude, adherence to proper netiquette and all University rules and regulations.

## COURSE COMMUNICATIONS AND E-LEARNING/ CANVAS PORTAL

This class will be delivered through hybrid instruction. The instructor will utilize the UF Canvas e-Learning portal as the primary medium to send announcements and to distribute course information, assignments, reading materials, resources, and grading. Students are responsible for checking the Canvas portal regularly for announcements, course content, access to all supplemental readings, and for submitting assignments and projects. Lecture slides will be posted on Canvas in advance of each scheduled lecture. Reviewing materials online is not a substitute for class attendance. Lectures posted on Canvas by the instructor are not intended to be a complete study aid and should be viewed as supplementary to personal notes.

## METHODS BY WHICH STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED OUT OF 1000

	Item	Points & Percentage	Description	Deadlines
1.	Attendance	50 (5%)	For regular class attendance	Every class
2.	Research Topic Proposal	100(10%)	Submit a research topic proposal by the end of the week	On Canvas. Refer to schedule
3.	Research Design and Methodology	100 (10%)	Submit a research design and methodology plan; submit an annotated	On Canvas. Refer to schedule

	Plan. Annotated Bibliography		bibliography of at least 10 sources	
4.	Data Collection Instruments and Preliminary Analysis	100 (10%)	Begin data collection and preliminary analysis	On Canvas. Refer to schedule
5.	Data Collection	100 (10%)	Develop and submit data collection instruments	On Canvas. Refer to schedule
6.	Bi-weekly progress updates	150 (15%)	Five bi-weekly presentations	5/21/25, 6/4/25, 6/18/25, 7/2/25 & 7/16/25
7.	Draft of the Introduction and Methods Sections	100 (10%)	Submit a draft of the introduction and methods sections. Grad school template	On Canvas. Refer to schedule
8.	Complete Draft of the Research Paper	100 (10%)	Submit a complete draft of the research paper	On Canvas. Refer to schedule Apply for graduation by July 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
9.	3 MP Presentation	100 (10%)	See the guidelines on Canvas	<b>July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, or July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025</b>
10.	Final Research Paper	100 (10%)	Minimum of 60 pages The final submission deadline to graduate school is <b>July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>	July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025, or July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1000(100%)</b>		

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be kept. Students are expected to attend classes regularly. 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>

## MAKE-UP POLICY

Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time of one week to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities because of

the acceptable reasons for absence stated in the university policy. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. However, students are to present a legitimate reason for late work. There will be a deduction of 10% of the points for every day that work is late. The maximum deduction is 50%. This is to be fair to other students who turned in their work by the deadline.

## CLASS PROTOCOLS

- Students attend class prepared for active participation and discussion. A quality learning experience in this course relies heavily on interaction and exchange of ideas related to the sustainable built environment.
- All assignments, credit submission, and presentations must be turned in on time; projects or assignments may be turned in early. If you will not be in class to turn the assignment in, even if it is an excused absence (e.g. studio field trip), you must turn the assignment in early. Any assignment turned in after it is due will incur a 10% from grade deduction for every day late (e.g. assignment due Tuesday at 11:59 pm turned in at 12:00 am Wednesday counts as a full day late).
- Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com via Canvas for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately. The maximum Turnitin similarity index report of submissions is 20%.
- Requirements for class conduct and attendance in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:
  - <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

## GRADING

### Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93– 100	90– 92.99	87– 89.99	83– 86.99	80– 82.99	77– 79.99	73– 76.99	70– 72.99	67– 69.99	63– 66.99	60– 62.99	0– 59.99
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Final student grades will follow University of Florida grades and grading policies.

- Graduate Students Handbook: <https://grad.ufl.edu/media/gradufl.edu/pdf/handbook.pdf>

## OTHER IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with any disability should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### University of Florida 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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the [UF Conduct Code website](#) for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### 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.a.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.a.ufl.edu/public-results/>

### Materials and Supplies Fee

There are no additional fees for this course.

## COURSE MODULES AND TOPICS\*

Detailed weekly plans, readings, quizzes, and course content will be available on Canvas throughout the semester and will be announced in class.

### Weekly Class Schedule

Week	Class #	Dates	Topic/Activity	Assignment Given
1	Module 1: Course Introduction and Topic Selection			
	1	5/12/25	Introduction to the course: Review of syllabus, schedule, grading, and resources ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	CANVAS: Introduction and Software Installation Assignment

	2	5/14/25	Overview of the research process, expectations, and timeline. Work during class (In person and <a href="#">remote</a> ).	Assignment 1: Submit a research topic proposal by the end of the week. <b>Due 5/21/25</b>
2	Module 2: Introduction and Literature Review			
	3	5/19/25	Introduction. Work during class ( <a href="#">remote</a> ).	Assignment 2: Write the introduction (6-9 pages). <b>Due 5/26/25</b>
	4	5/21/25	Literature Review. Presentation of research progress. Work during class (In person and <a href="#">remote</a> ).	Assignment 3: Start the literature review (8-11 pages). <b>Due 5/28/25</b>
3	Module 3: Literature Review			
		5/26/25	Holiday	
	5	5/28/25	Research Problem and Objectives. Work during class ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	Assignment 4: Define the research problem and objectives. <b>Due 6/04/25</b>
4	Module 4: Literature Review			
	6	6/2/25	Summarize key findings from the literature. Work during class ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	Assignment 5: Review relevant literature and identify gaps. <b>Due 6/09/25</b>
	7	6/4/25	Establish the theoretical framework. Presentation of research progress ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	Assignment 6: Complete the literature review (10-12 pages). <b>Due 6/11/25</b>
5	Module 5: Research Design and Methodology			
	8	6/9/25	Describe the research approach, data collection methods, and analysis techniques. Work during class ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	Write the research design and methodology section (8-11 pages). <b>Due 6/16/25</b>
	9	6/11/25	Ensure data collection is thorough and	Collect data as per the methodology. Begin preliminary data analysis. <b>Due 6/18/25</b>



			accurate. Work during class (In-person and <a href="#">remote</a> )	
6	Module 6: Data Analysis and Results			
	10	6/16/25	Analyze data and interpret results. Work during class ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	Complete data analysis (8-10 pages). <b>Due 6/23/25</b>
	11	6/18/25	Present findings clearly with tables, graphs, and charts. Presentation of research progress (In-person and <a href="#">remote</a> )	Write the results section (10-12 pages). <b>Due 6/25/25</b>
Holidays - 6/23/25 to 6/27/25				
7	Module 7: Discussion and Conclusion			
	12	6/30/25	Discuss the implications of the findings ( <a href="#">remote</a> ) Summarize the research and suggest future work. Work during class.	Write the discussion (7-9 pages). Write the conclusion (3-5 pages). <b>Both due 6/30/2025</b>
	13	7/2/25	Presentation of research progress (In-person and <a href="#">remote</a> ).	<b>Submit a complete draft of MRP 7/02/2025</b>
8	Module 8: Iterations			
	14	7/7/25	Edit the introduction and literature review sections ( <a href="#">remote</a> ).	
	15	7/9/25	Edit the results, discussion, and conclusion sections (In-person and <a href="#">remote</a> ).	<b>Submit a revised draft of MRP 7/11/2025</b>
9	Module 9: Student Reviews			
	16	7/14/25	Student discussions and peer review ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	

	17	7/16/25	Student discussions and peer review. Presentation of research progress (In person and <a href="#">remote</a> )	<b>Submit the final MRP 7/18/2025</b>
10	Module 10: MRP/3MP			
	18	7/21/25	Final presentation of MRP/3MP (In-person)	See details on Canvas
	19	7/23/25	Alternate date for final presentation/3MP (In-person)	Final MRP submission deadline to graduate school - 7/25/25
11	Module 11: Publication			
	20	7/28/25	Edit for journal submission <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/sustainable-cities-and-society">https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/sustainable-cities-and-society</a> ( <a href="#">remote</a> )	Search the journal and summarize three manuscripts that align with your topic.  Due – 7/30/2025
	21	7/30/25	Final class presentation (In-person and <a href="#">remote</a> )	
<b>Commencement – August 8, 2025</b>				

### Summer 2025 Commencement

College of Design, Construction and Planning (DCP) Sustainability and the Built Environment

**Friday, August 8, 2025 | 7pm - 9pm (processional at 6:30pm)**

Stephen C. O'Connell Center (250 Gale Lemerand Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611)

#### **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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 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/> 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](#).

- Academic Resources E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu). Visit the website at <https://training.it.ufl.edu/services/elearning-tools--services/>
- 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/>
- On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>