

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

Fall 2025 | Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Jason von Meding  
**Lectures:** Tuesdays 10:40-12:35, Thursdays 10:40-11:30 (RNK110)  
**Office:** 344 Rinker Hall  
**Office hours:** T – 12PM to 2PM <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:** Provides an overview of international trends in reducing the environmental impacts of land development and construction. Surveys best practices in a dozen countries around the world.

**CURRENT GENERAL EDUCATION AREA:** GE-S (link: <https://undergrad.ua.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
Weekly Quiz	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	At least 80% receive a B- or better
Mid-term video			x	x				At least 80% receive a B- or better
Final Exam	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	At least 80% receive a B- or better
Term Project			x	x	x			At least 80% receive a B- or better

## COURSE MATERIALS

The purchase of textbooks is not required for this course. Your learning resources will be a mixture of books, academic journal papers, media articles, videos and other sources that arise. These will be advised and updated on Canvas.

Citation Management Guide from UF Libraries: <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/citationsoftware>

**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:** In person 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.

## ACCESSING UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC POLICIES AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

To support consistent and accessible communication of university-wide student resources, please use this link to academic policies and campus resources: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>.

**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.*