

## Environmental Land Use Planning and Management

### URP 6421 – Fall 2025 – Online MURP Section 6421

Dr. Kathryn Frank  
Associate Professor, URP  
352-294-1495

Canvas email (preferred) or [kifrank@ufl.edu](mailto:kifrank@ufl.edu)  
Office hours by appointment



This course surveys environmental land use planning and management practices across the breadth of the field through six modules. Each module examines environmental concerns, associated land use planning and management goals and practices, and illustrative cases. Environmental planning is an important topic for those who want to be environmental planners, generalist planners, planners in all other specializations (e.g., transportation planners), natural resource managers, environmental policy makers, and professionals in many other environmental fields.

#### Modules

1. Environmental planning framework and crosscutting methods
2. Watersheds, aquifers, and wetlands
3. Landscape conservation
4. Natural hazards and climate change
5. Soils, land resources, and land use
6. Sustainable settlements

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to

- Identify the environmental policy context of planning.
- Describe cross-cutting planning practices that apply to environmental concerns.
- Identify a wide range of environmental concerns and specific land use planning practices to address them.
- Integrate knowledge and planning responses across environmental concerns, and include social and economic interests, for sustainability.
- Conduct environmental planning with an adaptive, learning approach for resilience.

Modules will open one week prior to starting in the schedule below. Each module has specific learning objectives. Use these to guide your reading and assignments.

The required textbook is *Environmental Land Use Planning and Management*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2011) by John Randolph, Island Press. Additional optional readings will be provided to relate the topics to current events.

The course's Canvas site will contain all course content, assignments, and grades. Recorded lectures, guest speakers, and other video materials provided in Canvas are required viewing. They will support the module topics and reinforce the textbook readings.

This syllabus is subject to minor change with advance notice to students.

## Assignments and Grading

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Instructions</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
<i>Professor check-ins</i>	Individually meet three times with Dr. Frank via Zoom.	10%
<i>Discussions</i>	Write five discussion posts and provide peer feedback.	20%
<i>Field trip podcast</i>	Individually conduct a self-guided field trip and create a short podcast to present to a classmate.	15%
<i>Case study meeting</i>	Individually report on a planning meeting related to your case study.	15%
<i>Case study presentation</i>	As a small group, give a recorded presentation of an environmental planning case	20%
<i>Case study recommendations</i>	Individually evaluate your case's plan and make recommendations.	20%

All assignments have grading rubrics that show the points for each part of the instructions. Overall, an "A" grade requires a solid understanding and application of the course topics, reflection and analysis, clear and compelling communication, proper citations and references, and timely submittal. A "B" grade is basically sound but has a deficiency in one of the areas above. A "C" or lower grade has significant deficiencies.

*Late assignments* will be marked down 10% of the total grade if they are not turned in by the deadline, and an additional 10% for each week they are late. *Makeup work* are allowed with acceptable, documented, and prompt reasons for the missed deadline, with communication to me as early as possible. The terms of making up missed work will be determined the professor in discussion with you. Refer to UF's attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

The relationship between letter grades and numeric grades is: A ( $\geq 94.0$ ), A- ( $\geq 90.0$ ), B+ ( $\geq 87.0$ ), B ( $\geq 83.0$ ), B- ( $\geq 80.0$ ), C+ ( $\geq 77.0$ ), C ( $\geq 73.0$ ), C- ( $\geq 70.0$ ), D+ ( $\geq 67.0$ ), D ( $\geq 63.0$ ), D- ( $\geq 60.0$ ), and E ( $< 60.0$ ). Where A=4.0, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.0, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.0, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.0, D-=0.67, E=0.0.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their

accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## Academic Honesty and Avoiding 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. To read the Conduct Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

You must submit work that is *original to this course*, unless it is used as a reference and properly cited. Canvas will screen all written assignments for plagiarism using the text-matching tool Turnitin (<http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>). For guidance on avoiding plagiarism, including how to paraphrase, watch this video by the UF Writing Studio: <https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/27e154a024d8432aad8baa9d6f50f3d61d>.

## Use of AI

The assignments in this course are designed such that ChatGPT or other AI are not needed and may be counterproductive. There may be limited use of these tools, which I am open to exploring with you, but you must describe them to me when submitting the assignment and preferably in advance. If you do not declare your use of AI, it will be considered plagiarism.

## Course/Instructor 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://bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Getting Help

UF provides a variety of services for distance learning students: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>

To resolve E-learning technical issues, contact the UF helpdesk website at e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) or call 352-392-4357

### Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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.

### Academic Resources

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Online Students Complaints:* View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

### About Professor Frank

Dr. Frank specializes in planning and engagement for sustainability, resilience, and social equity. Specific areas include sea level rise adaptation, ecosystem and watershed management, regional planning, rural planning, collaborative planning, neighborhood planning, and youth participation. She is the director of the Florida Center for Innovative Communities, which focuses on action research to design and pilot test new community engagement processes. She previously worked as a planning consultant and environmental engineer. She has a doctorate in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech and a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon. Her undergraduate majors were chemical engineering and mathematics.

**SCHEDULE**

<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading Due</b>	<b>Assignment due Wednesdays</b>
<b>Module 1 – Environmental Planning Framework and Crosscutting Methods</b>			
Week 1 8/21-23	Course kick-off		Start Discuss 1
Week 2 8/24-30	Synchronous class introductions Canvas Zoom Environmental planning framework	Ch. 1-3	Start Case Study
Week 3 8/31-9/6	Collaboration Geographic information systems	Ch. 4-5	Discussion 1 Start Env Pln Mtg
<b>Module 2 – Watersheds, Aquifers, and Wetlands</b>			
Week 4 9/7-13	Surface water and watersheds	Ch. 7 (not append), 8	Start Discuss 2
Week 5 9/14-20	Aquifers and wetlands Water supply planning	Ch. 9, 10 (342-363)	EnvPlanMtg
<b>Module 3 – Landscape Conservation</b>			
Week 6 9/21-27	Landscape ecology	Ch. 10 (317-328), 11	Discussion 2 Start Discuss 3
Week 7 9/28-10/4	Land conservation	Ch. 15	
<b>Module 4 – Natural Hazards and Climate Change</b>			
Week 8 10/5-11	Natural hazards	Ch. 13	Discussion 3 Start Podcast
Week 9 10/12-18	Climate change	Ch. 12	

**Module 5 – Land Resources**

Week 10    Soils, erosion, agricultural practices  
10/19-25

Ch. 6            Podcast due  
Start Discuss 4

Week 11    Integrated land use planning  
10/26-  
11/1

Ch. 14           Discussion 4

**Module 6 – Sustainable Settlements**

Week 12    Sustainable cities  
11/2-8

Ch. 16, 17

Week 13    No new topics - Finish case study presentations  
11/9-15

Case Study Present  
Start Discuss 5

Week 14    Growth management and regional planning  
11/16-22

Ch. 18           Start Case Recom

Week 15    *Thanksgiving holidays*  
11/23-29

Week 16    No new topics – Work on final assignment  
11/30-  
12/6

Discussion 5

Week 17    Finals week  
12/7-13

Case Recommend