

# DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND CPTED IN URBAN DESIGN

## URP 4882 FALL 2024

Section 4882; Class Number 19099

## URP 6880 FALL 2024

Section CPTD; Class Number 21473

**INSTRUCTOR:** Laura Dedenbach, Ph.D., AICP  
Instructional Assistant Professor  
Interim URP Chair, Interim SLA+P Associate Director  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
Office: Antevy Hall 466  
Email: [laurajd@ufl.edu](mailto:laurajd@ufl.edu)

**STUDENT HOURS:** Tuesdays 2:00p to 4:00p, or by appointment

**CLASS MEETINGS:** Mondays      Period 4      (10:40a – 11:30a)  
Wednesdays      Period 4&5      (10:40a – 12:35p)  
Rinker Hall 225

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Explore the history, theory, application, and possibilities associated with crime prevention planning. The course investigates theories and strategies in the planner's toolkit and how police, planning, and other agencies interact to implement them. The course focuses on real-world applications and students will visit sites that offer teaching and research opportunities.

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:** In this course, we investigate relationships between crime, crime prevention, and planning in building and maintaining successful, sustainable urban settlements. In so doing, we explore the nature of cities and the history, theory, application, and possibilities (including problems) associated with *place-based* crime prevention planning strategies. These include theories of "defensible space", "CPTED" (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), "situational crime prevention", "environmental criminology", and related approaches to crime prevention in the United States. As time permits, we will discuss space syntax theory, new urbanism as applied to crime prevention, anti-terrorism planning, and a range of other issues including premises liability, retail loss prevention, and community gating. We review how these theories and strategies connect with broader urban issues, such as the globalization of markets, youth unemployment, urban transportation, gang activity, and the increasing privatization of urban space and security systems worldwide. We are also interested in understanding how crime prevention strategies and theories fit into the planner's toolkit and how law enforcement and other public and private agencies interact in helping to design and implement them.

We critically assess the theories and strategies in terms of practical utility, proven (or unproven) success, their implications for living well in urban places (quality of life), and the preservation of civil liberties in free and open societies.

At a practical level, this course aims to provide students with basic crime prevention planning and assessment skills as these relate to urban and regional planning problems and opportunities. To do this, we focus on real-world applications and, consequently, we will visit sites (during field trips) that offer teaching and research opportunities. We will also have guest lecturers with expertise and knowledge in crime prevention and urban design.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** All required readings for the course are posted to the class Canvas site or available through the UF Libraries Course Reserves.

**USE OF UF G SUITE TOOLS:** Throughout the semester, we will use various G Suite tools. For the use of G Suite tools, you will need to sign in to your UF Google account for access. To access G Suite tools, please visit <https://cloud.it.ufl.edu/collaboration-tools/g-suite/>. G Suite are provided through UF at no cost to the student.

**COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES:** The following table describes the UF General Education student learning outcomes (SLOs), URP SLOs, and the specific course goals of URP 4882 and 6880. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

SLOs	URP 4882/6880 Course Goals	Assessment Methods
<p><b>Content:</b> Demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline</p> <p><b>Knowledge:</b> Apply knowledge of human settlement, historical and contemporary practice, and policy and processes relevant to urban and regional planning concepts and theories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the role of planners in crime prevention</li> <li>Explain basic place-based crime prevention concepts and terms</li> <li>Discuss the role of Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Codes in crime prevention planning</li> <li>Conduct CPTED site assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class assignments</li> <li>Project field trips</li> <li>Class participation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication:</b> Communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline.</p> <p><b>Professional Behavior:</b> Display ethical behaviors, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, professional conduct and communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectively discuss and present complex concepts and assessments with peers and professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Participation</li> <li>Presentations</li> <li>Group work</li> </ul>

SLOs	URP 4882/6880 Course Goals	Assessment Methods
<p><b>Critical Thinking:</b> Analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> Apply oral, written, and critical thinking skills required of master's students within their area of specialization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically assess place-based crime prevention theories and techniques through the lens of urban planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class assignments</li> <li>Projects</li> <li>Class participation</li> </ul>

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** Through new knowledge and new experiences, we can develop new ways of seeing. Students and instructors are co-producers of knowledge and together we can create new understanding.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Students can expect from me: enthusiasm for the course and the field of planning, engaging lectures, application of knowledge through classroom activities and fieldwork, organized and neat course materials, and availability to meet outside of class. I expect students to approach the course with enthusiasm and an open mind. I also expect students to come to class prepared to actively participate in our class discussions and activities. The University standard is for students to expect to study at least 3 hours for each credit hour. For example, URP 4882/6880 is a 3-credit course. Therefore, you should expect to study 9 hours per week outside of class.

**FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES:** The first week of class during the drop/add period will consist of an introduction to the course. Please carefully read the syllabus and complete the Introductory Discussion Board Post. Include a picture of your favorite city in the Introductory Discussion Board Post to receive 10 points extra credit.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** This course is based on lectures, discussion of assigned readings, viewing of multi-media materials, activities during and outside of class, and student research and writing outside of class. Class format will combine discussions, lectures, multi-media activities, practice-based activities, site visits, and electronic communications and assignments. We may also have guest lecturers. Students should take notes for lectures, guest speakers, and videos, as use of this material will be incorporated into class assignments. My lecture slides will be posted in the corresponding weekly modules on Canvas. Students are expected to take adequate class notes.

If there are issues, ideas, or readings that you want to bring into the course, please share. You are encouraged to invest some of your time into finding relevant materials of interest and leading discussion on those new ideas.

#### **COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Canvas:** We will use Canvas, UF's e-learning system, as our online "homebase". It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements related to the course. Readings and changes to the syllabus will be posted on Canvas. You are also encouraged to download the Canvas App and allow notifications, so that you receive announcements and assignment due dates.

To login to Canvas you will need to provide your GatorLink User Name and Password. If you are new to Canvas or have any problems using Canvas, please contact the Help Desk at 392-HELP.

**Email:** I will answer your email as quickly as possible but please allow up to 24 hours for a reply during the week, and 48 hours for a reply on weekends. Proper email etiquette is expected. Professional, courteous standards for all emails and discussions includes:

- Descriptive subject line
- Address the reader using proper title and name spelling (Dr. Dedenbach or Dr. D)
- Body of the email should be concise but have sufficient detail
- Give a respectful salutation (e.g., thank you, sincerely, respectfully)
- Minimize textspeak (e.g., OMG, WTH, IMO)

## COURSE POLICIES:

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is mandatory and is part of your class grade.

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every class. After class, attendance will be entered into Canvas.

**Absences:** There are two types of absences – excused and unexcused. Excused absences and inability to engage in class are those described in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#). Please inform me of your absence as soon as possible and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, forgetting to do an assignment, being too busy with other coursework, or going on a family vacation during regularly scheduled class days on the UF calendar. In either case, you are responsible for contacting a classmate to obtain notes on the materials covered.

**Tardiness:** Consistent tardiness (or leaving early) will affect your attendance and class participation evaluation dramatically. When you arrive more than 10 minutes late without explanation or leave early without prior approval, I consider that a missed class.

**PERSONAL CONDUCT POLICY:** Above all else, the classroom is a place of respect for people and ideas. You are expected to treat your fellow classmates, the instructor, guests, and others with respect and politeness. Please be on time and prepared to share your informed questions, impressions, and interpretations of the current week's materials. If you need to leave class early, please let me know ahead of time and sit nearer to the door so as not to disrupt class. We will take a break in the middle of the two-hour block. Students engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the class and will be marked absent for the day.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones and other electronic devices must be set to vibrate mode during class. Cell phones must be put away during class time. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.

**Tablets & Laptops:** You may use tablets or laptops to take notes and access course materials. If you are observed using your electronic device for any non-class uses, you will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.

**ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** Assignment due dates are posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY THE POSTED DUE DATES IN CANVAS.**

Assignments must be submitted by posting on Canvas. **A points reduction of 10% per day will be assessed for late work. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignments have been successfully uploaded to Canvas.** See the Note on Computer or Canvas Problems below.

**Notice:** Certain activities require attendance at events that occur outside of our normal class meeting time. **Review the schedule carefully.** If you have valid reasons for being unable to attend these activities (e.g., team practice schedule, work, another class), then it is your responsibility to inform me of the conflict at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you know of the conflict. Accommodations for alternate assignments may only be made in advance of an assignment.

**MAKE-UP/ASSIGNMENT EXTENSION POLICY:** Students that miss deadlines for acceptable reasons pursuant to UF Academic Policy will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities. Scheduling make-up work is the responsibility of the student.

**GROUP WORK POLICY:** There are two types of assignments in this course – individual and group. Design professions have a long history of collaborative, group-based work (such as charrettes), and individual work completed in a group setting (such as studios). As planners, we often work in multidisciplinary teams. For group assignments, you are expected to: Be a good team member. Be on time. Be respectful. Be responsive with group communication. In addition, everyone is expected to participate and contribute equally to complete the assignment. If there are problems with group dynamics or participation/effort levels, please come and talk to me. *To avoid the problem of free riders, all group projects will include Peer Review attesting to your anonymous estimation of each group member's contribution to the total.*

**COMPUTER OR CANVAS PROBLEMS POLICY:** If you have computer or Canvas problems that prevent you from submitting an assignment, you have the ability to receive an extension if you follow these steps:

- Immediately contact the Help Desk (392-HELP (4357) or [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)) to report the problem and receive a ticket to document the problem. I can only extend the submittal deadline if you have contacted the Help Desk ahead of the assignment deadline and received a ticket. The Help Desk is available by phone and email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- After contacting the HelpDesk and receiving a ticket, contact me, prior to the assignment due time, and let me know there is a problem.
- [Canvas Quickstart Guide for Students](#)
- If you try to submit too close to the assignment deadline and/or try to submit an assignment via your phone, it is your responsibility to ensure that the assignment was submitted.
- If Canvas or the UF Network is experiencing an outage that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, I will receive a notice from UF IT about the outage. The assignment deadline will be revised accordingly. Students will not be penalized for system or network outages.

#### UF ACADEMIC POLICIES & RESOURCES:

Please access the following link for up-to-date UF academic policies and resources:  
<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

**MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEE:** None

## GRADING POLICIES:

Grades will be based on evidence that students have completed assigned reading, watched recorded lectures, completed all assignments, and completed class activities throughout the semester. All completed tasks will be evaluated based on content, critical thinking, and communication. Details of each assignment, including rubrics, are posted on the Canvas site.

An **“A” grade** requires following the instructions completely, demonstrating a solid understanding of the course topics, effort for using data and analysis to make comprehensive planning decisions, organized and sufficient writing and presentation, and a timely submittal.

A **“B” grade** is basically sound, but the submission has a deficiency in one of the above areas.

A **“C” grade** or lower has significant deficiencies in one or more of the above areas.

A reminder that *a points reduction of 10% per day will be assessed for late work*. The first 10% is assessed starting at 12:00am the day after an assignment is due.

Information on current UF grading policies may be found at: [Grades and Grading Policies](#)

The following table outlines the point-accruing components of the course. The total points earned will be summed and divided by the total points in the course: 1,000

Assignments	Points Possible	Approx. % of Total Grade
Reading Quizzes (10 @ 5 points each)	50	5%
Case Study Analysis (Group: Undergraduate)	200	20%
Midterm Exam (All Sections)	200	20%
Final Paper (Graduate Section)	200	20%
Final Project: CPTED Plan (Group: All)	200	20%
Class Participation	100	10%
Introduction & Reflections (50 points each)	150	15%
Attendance	100	10%
Total	1000	100%

**URP 4882/6880 GRADING SCALE:** All grades will be posted directly into the Canvas gradebook. Any discrepancies with points displayed in the gradebook should be pointed out to me. There is no curve for this course and grades will not be rounded up.

Points	Grade
940 – 1000	A
900 – 939	A-
870 – 899	B+
840 – 869	B
800 – 839	B-
770 – 799	C+
740 – 769	C
700 – 739	C-
670 – 699	D+
640 – 669	D
600 - 639	D-
Below 600	E

#### STUDY AND SUCCESS TIPS:

- Read the material before you come to class. Take notes. Interact with your notes and materials early and often.
- Engage your classmates and study as actively as possible.
- Do not fall behind or procrastinate your studies. You cannot cram the night before and expect to do well.
- Check Canvas announcements/emails daily. I will post important and helpful information as announcements or emails.
- Have a positive attitude! Planning is an exciting and dynamic profession! You are learning knowledge and skills that will help you be a more engaged member of your community.



## COURSE SCHEDULE:

Readings and Assignments are posted to the Canvas site for this class.

Date	Topic	What We'll Learn
August 25 & 27	Introduction to Defensible Space and CPTED	Overview of course objectives and structure Historical context of Defensible Space Introduction to CPTED principles
September 1 & 3	Theories and Concepts of Defensible Space	Labor Day – No Class Key concepts: territoriality, surveillance, image, and milieu Case studies: Pruitt-Igoe and other public housing projects
September 8 & 10	Introduction to Urban Design	The role of urban design in shaping cities Relationship between urban design and community safety
September 15 & 17	CPTED Strategies and Applications	First-generation CPTED: Natural surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement Case studies: Successful applications of CPTED in urban areas Wednesday – APA FL conference – No Class
September 22 & 24	Second-Generation CPTED	Social cohesion, community culture, and neighborhood dynamics Case studies: Implementation of second-generation CPTED
September 29 & October 2	The Role of Public Spaces in Crime Prevention	Designing public spaces for safety and community engagement Analyzing successful public space interventions
October 6 & 8	Midterm	All Sections Take Midterm Exam
October 13 & 15	Urban Design & Social Equity	The intersection of urban design, social equity, and safety Designing for diverse and inclusive communities
October 20 & 22	Urban Planning Policies & Crime Prevention	The role of urban planning in crime prevention Policy frameworks and their impact on urban design
October 27 & 29	Case Study Analysis	In-depth analysis of a specific urban area Group presentations on findings and design recommendations
November 3 & 5	Technology & Modern CPTED	The role of technology in enhancing CPTED strategies Smart cities and their impact on crime prevention



Date	Topic	What We'll Learn
November 10 & 12	Future Trends in Urban Design and Crime Prevention	Emerging trends in urban design for safety Predictive design strategies and their potential impact
November 17 & 19	Project Presentations	Presentation of a comprehensive CPTED plan for a selected site Peer review and feedback
November 24 & 26	Thanksgiving Week	No classes this week
December 1&3	Wrap-up Week	
December 7 - 12	Finals Week	Undergraduate Section: Final Project Report on December 10 <sup>th</sup> Graduate Section: Final Paper Due on December 10 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Holidays:</b>	September 1	Labor Day
	October 17-18	Homecoming
	November 11	Veterans Day
	November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break

**Disclaimer:** This 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, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

**Notice:** Some activities may require attendance at events that occur outside of our normal class meeting time. Review the schedule carefully. If you have valid reasons for being unable to attend these activities (e.g., team practice schedule, work, another class), then it is your responsibility to inform me of the conflict at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you know of the conflict. Accommodations for alternate assignments may only be made in advance of an assignment.