

SYLLABUS

DCP 1003 | 1 CR | Spring 2026

1 INSTRUCTOR

Genesis Okken

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Virtual Office Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/7169838934>
Office Hours: Mon-Thu 1:30-2:30pm (or virtually by appointment on Fridays)

Student Aid:**Jianna Thomas**

Contact via Canvas messages with information regarding excused absences or concerns about the attendance record.

2 COURSE OVERVIEW

2.1 MEETING

Tuesdays at 9:35am in Turlington L005

2.2 DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the planning, design and construction of the built environment. Includes consideration of professional practice in architecture, construction management, historic preservation, interior design, landscape architecture, sustainability and the built environment, and urban and regional planning.

2.2.1 Prerequisite knowledge and skills:

Admission to one of the College of Design, Construction and Planning (DCP) disciplines.

2.2.2 Material and Supply Fees:

N/A

2.3 PURPOSE

The built environment is a vast and complex system with a number of related fields working together to develop a functional final solution. The College of Design, Construction, and Planning brings together many of these disciplines. This introductory course provides DCP students an opportunity to learn about the different disciplines within the college and how they are related to one another.

2.4 COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course students will have demonstrated their ability to:

- DESCRIBE THE PROCESSES OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE DCP DISCIPLINES.
- IDENTIFY THE TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DCP DISCIPLINES.
- RECOGNIZE THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ALLIED PROFESSIONS/DISCIPLINES/CULTURES OF ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INTERIOR DESIGN, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, AND URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING.
- COLLABORATE IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS TO PREPARE GROUP PRESENTATIONS.

2.5 INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This is primarily a lecture-based course. It also includes discussion of assigned readings, viewing of multi-media materials, activities during and outside of class, and student collaboration outside of class. Class format will combine discussions, lectures, multi-media activities, practice-based activities, and electronic communications and assignments. We will host many guest lecturers.

Students should listen actively and take notes during lectures, guest speakers' presentations, and during videos, as this material will also be included on the quizzes and synthesized for the final presentation. Regarding note taking: many studies indicate that knowledge retention is more effective when notes are taken by hand rather than on a digital device as one is forced to synthesize information in order to record it rather than copying words verbatim. Please consider this in your note-taking and study strategy here and in your other classes.

3 COURSE CONTENT

Each week, students will be presented with information about the disciplines, opportunities, and programs within the College of Design, Construction and Planning (DCP). Information will be presented in lecture format, discussions (via chat), and activities with faculty and industry professionals.

Readings and materials are posted to the course's Canvas webpage. Students should complete all readings in preparation for each class meeting. Students should take notes for lectures, panels, readings, and other resources, as this material will also be included on the quizzes.

3.1 ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken each class. If you are 5-15 minutes late, you will be marked late. If you are more than 15 minutes late or depart early without an approved excuse, you will be marked absent for the day.

3.2 QUIZZES

Three quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions and are administered through Canvas. Quizzes may be cumulative in nature, meaning that all material (lectures, discussions, readings, videos) since the previous quiz is eligible. This will require that you prepare in advance, are present for class both physically and intellectually, take notes and review course materials over the course of the semester. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a zero.

3.3 DCP EVENT

The college hosts different events related to DCP disciplines throughout the year. Unless you have a valid reason, **everyone is expected to attend the DCP Career Fair**. If you are not able to make that event, you will need to make arrangements to attend another DCP related event before the end of the semester.

You will be required to attend at least one event and submit evidence of attendance via Canvas. **It should be clear from your submission that the event you attended and that it was YOU there (take a picture of yourself and your name tag/ID)**. Make sure you also sign-in at the event as a way to validate your attendance. If there is another event outside of DCP that you feel would support professional development and is related to our allied disciplines, please request approval from the instructor to confirm if attendance will satisfy this requirement.

3.4 FINAL GROUP PRESENTATION

You will be divided into multidisciplinary teams. As a team, you will be provided with instruction for reflecting upon the lessons learned over the course of the semester. Your final presentation will synthesize and provide a means to evaluate your understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of DCP disciplines (at UF and professionally) and serve as a reflection and evaluation of DCP 1003. Instructions for the final group presentation will be posted in the Assignments section of our Canvas page. Submissions are made via canvas.

4 GRADING POLICES

Assignment	Percent
3 Quizzes @ 10% each	30%
DCP Event	10%
Final Project - Group Presentation	25%
Attendance/Participation	35%
Total	100%

4.1

4.2 GRADING SCALE

Final grades will be computed according to the following scale:

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.

Information regarding UF's grading policy can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

5 UF POLICIES

5.1 PLEASE SEE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

([HTTPS://GO.UFL.EDU/SYLLABUSPOLICIES](https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies)) REGARDING:

- Requirements for attendance and makeup assignments (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>)
- Getting connected to the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>)
- UF Grading policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>)
- Course Evaluations (<https://my-ufl.bluera.com/>)
- Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>)
- In-Class Recording
- Academic resources (i.e. Computing Help Desk, Career Connections, Library Support, Writing Studio, etc.)
- Campus Health and Wellness Resources (<https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover>)

6 COURSE POLICIES

6.1 ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is **mandatory** and is factored into your grade for the course. The attendance grade will be computed in proportion to the number of “presents” on the days the rolls were taken. Requirements for class attendance and make-up quizzes, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)

Absences for reasons of illness, religious holiday, emergency, or official university business, as described in the Undergraduate Catalog are excused. Please inform your instructor of any excused absences and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. You are responsible for contacting a classmate to obtain notes on the materials covered in class, but you may also visit office hours for help reviewing content. If you encounter an emergency or illness that requires an extended absence, you may wish to contact the Dean of Students Office (202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261) for assistance in providing support and documentation.

6.2 PERSONAL CONDUCT

The classroom is a place of respect for people and their ideas. You are expected to be both physically and intellectually present and to treat your classmates, instructors, guest speakers, and individuals in the classroom and in places you visit for the class with courtesy and respect.

Be on time and prepared for class. If you need to leave class early or arrive late, please let me know ahead of time and sit nearer to the door so as not to disrupt class. Please do not allow the door to slam upon your early exit or late entry. Students engaging in disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the class and/or will be marked absent for the day.

Cell Phones & Connected/Related Devices: Cell phones and other electronic devices including smart watches must be muted and/or set to theater mode during class (not vibrate). Earbuds and similar must be removed (unless use is noted in an Accommodation Letter from the DRC). Cell phones must be put away during class time unless instructed to use them for participation. Students who receive or make calls, text, etc. during class may be asked to leave and/or will be marked absent for the day. This applies to all activities occurring during class time.

Tablets & Laptops: You may use tablets or laptops to take notes and access course materials. If you are observed using your electronic devices for social media, shopping, email, messaging, or other non-class uses, you may be asked to leave and/or marked absent for the day. This applies to all activities occurring during class time.

Regarding Note Taking: Many studies indicate that knowledge retention is more effective when notes are taken by hand rather than on a digital device as one is forced to synthesize information in order to record it rather than copying words verbatim. Please consider this in your note-taking and study strategy here and in your other classes.

6.3 ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Assignments will be posted on Canvas well in advance of their due dates. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY THE POSTED DUE DATES IN CANVAS. Completed assignments must be submitted on Canvas.

Late work cannot be accepted unless you have documentation for an excused circumstance. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignments have been successfully uploaded to Canvas. Extensions are not granted lightly and must be arranged with appropriate documentation.

A NOTE ON GROUP WORK: Design professions have a long history of collaborative, group-based work, and rely on individual work completed within the group setting. There is one group assignment in this course. You are expected to contribute your best to your group and observe the following behaviors:

- Be a good team member. Be on time, be respectful.
- Be responsive with group communication.
- Everyone is expected to participate and contribute equally in each assignment. If there are problems with group dynamics or participation/effort levels, please come and talk to me. Team members will be evaluating one another at the end of the project.

6.4 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/>.

7 SCHEDULE *[SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON SPEAKER AVAILABILITY]*

WK01 (01/13): INTRODUCTION & THE COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

Welcome and introduction session; Developing questions for the next guest speaker

Readings: Review the Syllabus and Canvas page

WK02 (01/20): URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Lecture: Dr. Laura Dedenbach, AICP

Instructional Assistant Professor, Graduate and Undergraduate Coordinator

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Required readings:

- <https://www.planning.org/plannerprofile/>

WK03 (01/27): LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Lecture: Dr. Jules Bruck, RLA

Chair and Professor, Landscape Architecture

Recommended readings:

1. About Landscape Architecture

<https://www.asla.org/aboutlandscapearchitecture.aspx>

2. What is Landscape Architecture? <https://www.asla.org/> Top red button on left

• Landscape Architecture Improves Our Health

<https://www.asla.org/healthbenefitsofnature.aspx>

• ASLA Award-winning Works of Landscape Architecture

<https://www.asla.org/2016awards/index.html>

WK04 (02/03): CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Lecture: Dr. Robert Cox

Associate Professor; Ph.D. Program Director

M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management

WK05 (02/10): DISCUSSION SESSION / DCP ADVISING TEAM

Meet your DCP Advising Team and learn how they can support you during your time in our college. Group discussion in class to reflect on previous speakers and overview on developing professional interviewing skills.

WK06 (02/17): ARCHITECTURE

Lecture: **TBD**

Recommended readings:

1. <https://brooklynrail.org/2013/09/criticspage/what-is-architecture-art>
2. <https://www.ncarb.org/become-architect/basics>.

WK07 (02/24): INTERIOR DESIGN

Lecture: **Genesis Okken, NCIDQ, ASID Educator**

Undergraduate Coordinator, Instructional Assistant Professor

Department of Interior Design

Recommended media:

CIDQ Advocacy Resources: <https://www.cidq.org/hsw>

WK08 (03/03): AI IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Recorded Lecture: **Karla Saldaña Ochoa - Dr.Sc MAS LA ETHZ Arch**

Assistant Professor, School of Architecture

WK09 (03/10): DISCUSSION SESSION/DCP AMBASSADORS

Group discussion in class to reflect on previous speakers and develop questions for upcoming sessions

WK10 (03/17): SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

WK11 (03/24): REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

Lecture: **Tim Becker**

Director – Master of Science in Real Estate Development (UF's Warrington College of Business)

WK12 (03/31): SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Lecture: **TBD**

Recommended reading:

Hawken, P. (1994). The Ecology of Commerce. Chapter 1.

Hawken, P. (1994). The Ecology of Commerce. Chapters 2 – 12.

WK13 (04/07): HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Lecture: **Dr. Linda Stevenson**

Adjunct Professor, Department of Historic Preservation

Recommended reading:

Fitch, J.M. (1982). Historic Preservation: Curatorial Management of the Built World.

Chapters 2 and 4

WK14 (04/14): DISCUSSION SESSION/ GROUP COORDINATION

Group discussion in class to reflect on previous speakers and group collaboration.

WK15 (04/21): GROUP COORDINATION/FINAL PROJECTS DUE

Meet with collaborative groups to discuss final project

Professor to address questions as needed

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents the course objectives and current plan. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected – the course canvas page will be updated to reflect the most current schedule.