

IDS 385/SOC 389: Urban Sustainability

Spring 2018

T/Th 1-2:15 PM

New Psychology Building 230

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Office Hours: Monday 1-3 PM

Course Description

According to the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects report, more than half of the world's population lived in cities. By 2050, this number will increase to 66%. Faced with challenges such as climate change, natural resource scarcity, food distribution, and inequality, cities around the world are turning to sustainability and resilience as frameworks to proactively prevent future issues while adapting to changes. In this course, we will examine current problems and outline strategies to promote urban sustainability and resilience. Discussion will include individual and collective responsibilities, traditional and alternative forms of governance, principles of urban ecology, economy and equity, and other topics of interest. Students will engage in both individual and group work to investigate case studies of urban sustainability and resilience around the world as well as actively participate in urban communities.

Course Goals

- Explain and apply the concepts of sustainability and resilience within urban environments
- Design and measure indicators to measure urban sustainability
- Determine facilitators and barriers to urban sustainability
- Understand the different sustainability/resilience dilemmas
- Research and present sustainable urban innovations
- Interview city leadership regarding their ideas about sustainability to understand decision-making and governance

Grade Breakdown

20% for attendance and participation

20% for urban innovations presentation

20% for reflections (4x5%)

40% for City Sustainability & Leadership project including indicators

Attendance & Participation:

Aside from mandatory attendance, your participation grade will consist of the following: 1. Reading preparation & discussion (be prepared to discuss reading, know and understand basic terms and arguments, offer your thoughts on each reading), 2. Reading application (how does this topic apply to your city? This will require research before class.), and 3. Completion of in-class exercises and small group discussions. I will release your Attendance & Participation grade twice during the semester – on February 22 and March 29 – so that we can address any issues or questions as the semester progresses.

Reflections:

Formal reflection and discussion questions are 400-word mini-essays summarizing your reaction to the readings. You will connect the reading to other material, include personal experience if applicable, and discuss interesting questions the reading brought up for you. You have to provide two discussion questions (not a part of the word limit) at the end. All reflections are due at 8 AM on a given due date.

Urban innovations presentation:

For a topic assigned to the specific class discussion, in groups of 2-3 students, you will find a city that has addressed this specific issue. In a 15-minute presentation, you will need to explain the problem, track the history of the development, explain the solution, assess its sustainability using available data (or address the lack of data), assess the generalizability of this solution, and propose improvements.

City Sustainability & Leadership project:

This is a semester long group work project focusing on the intersections of sustainability, resilience, and justice that also includes interviews with city leaders as well as design of sustainability indicators. Your group will pick a city & assess its plans for sustainability & resilience given your chosen set of indicators and propose new solutions. You will interview city leaders about their strategies – past, present & future. What are some of the struggles leadership faces? How do they make decisions? What are some barriers to sustainable & just cities? At the end, you will create a poster out of your portfolio – this poster has to address some aspects of sustainability & justice as well as components from your leadership interviews.

Communication

Please, do not hesitate to contact me – my primary role is to help you learn and to learn from you. I am excited to work with you all this semester! I usually (NOT guaranteed) respond to e-mails within 24 hours; I do not respond after 6 PM and only sparsely during the weekend/holidays. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please email me again to remind me. I hold regular office hours, but feel free to schedule additional meetings or simply drop-by. If you have any questions about an assignment or a reading, it is your responsibility to contact me in a timely manner to allow for a sufficient response time.

The class will use CANVAS for the syllabus, schedule, more detailed versions of all assignments, and all course readings (except the required books – see details below). You will also use it to upload your assignments. I will post grades there and share any course-relevant messages usually 2-3 times a week. It is up to you to check CANVAS often and keep up with all the deadlines.

Special Accommodations

If you need specific accommodations, please contact me early in the semester.

Academic Integrity

Please, do not engage in any behavior that violates the University Honor Code; if you have any questions, contact me. All work must be completed individually and on your own unless otherwise specified (in this class, the only group work allowed is for the infographic and presentation) and all sources must be properly cited. You should refresh your knowledge the Emory Honor Code here: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

All participation assignments are due online as specified in the schedule. Please, let me know if there are any circumstances preventing you from finishing your work prior to the deadline. If we are not in communication about it, late assignments will be marked down by half a letter grade (e.g. A to A-, A- to B+ etc.) every 24 hours after due date and not accepted after 72 hours.

Academic Help

Emory College has numerous programs to support students academically, including academic coaching and the writing center (which also offers ESL support). More information can be found here: <http://college.emory.edu/oue/student-support/>.

Required Readings

There are two required textbooks for this class (see below), all the other materials will be available online. Information about all readings will be posted on Canvas via Announcements a week before a given class period.

Wheeler, S.M. & Beatley, T. (eds.) (2014). *Sustainable Urban Development Reader, 3rd Edition*. Routledge.

Pearson, L., Newton, P.W., & Roberts, P. (2013). *Resilient, Sustainable Cities, 1st Edition*. Routledge.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan 16	NO CLASS... still winter break		
Jan 18	Introductions & Expectations		-
Jan 23	Sustainability & Resilience	RSC: Introduction to the magic (Pearson et al.) Challenges to urban sustainability (Newton & Doherty) Exploring urban sustainability and resilience (Elmquist et al.)	-
Jan 25	Indicators I	SUDR III: What is an ecological footprint? (Wackernagel & Rees) Investigate the doughnut: https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/	-
Jan 30	History of sustainable cities	SUDR I: Introduction The three magnets... (Howard) Cities and the crisis of civilization (Mumford)	1A
Feb 1	Land and form I – Compactness vs Sprawl	SUDR II: Introduction Compactness vs. Sprawl (Ewing et al.) RSC: Re-designing resilient, sustainable precincts (Khor) Kinstler: The ghastly tragedy of suburbia (TedX)	1B
Feb 6	Land and form II – Livability	SUDR II: The next American Metropolis (Calthorpe) Outdoor space & outdoor activities (Gehl) Watch: Greening the ghetto (TedX)	1C
Feb 8	Land and form III – Biophilic cities	RSC: Planning for biophilic cities (Beatley) Wolch et al. (2014): Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice	1D
Feb 13	Land and Form IV – Community	RSC: Social inclusion and cohesion through housing tenure (Arthurson) SUDR II: Domesticating Urban Space (Hayden)	2A
Feb 15	Transportation	SUDR II: Transit and the metropolis (Cervero) Traffic calming (Newman & Kenworthy) Cycling for everyone (Pucher & Buehler)	2B
Feb 20	Architecture	SUDR II: Principles of green architecture (Eisenberg & Yost) The ten commandments of cost-effective... (Sharp) RSC: Resilient & Sustainable buildings (Birkeland)	2C
Feb 22	Urban metabolism	SUDR II: The metabolism of cities (Girardet) TBD	2D
Feb 27	Water	SUDR II: The changing water paradigm (Gleick) RSC: Integrated urban water planning (Wong & Brown)	3A
Mar 1	Energy	SUDR II: Harnessing wind, solar & geothermal (Brown) Towards low carbon urbanism (Bulkeley et al.)	3B
Mar 6	Food	Alkon (2012): Black, White & Green Chapter 3: The taste of place Watch: The Garden	3C

Mar 8	Waste	SUDR II: Waste as a resource (Lyle) RSC: Urban waste (Zapata Campos & Zapata)	3D
Mar 13	SPRING BREAK		
Mar 15	SPRING BREAK		
Mar 20	Justice?	Campbell (1996): Green cities, growing cities, just cities?	4A Research updates
Mar 22	Environmental Justice	SUDR II: Fighting poverty & Environmental injustice (Perlman & Sheehan) TBD	4B
Mar 27	Climate change	SUDR II: The urbanization of climate change (Solecki et al.) Review the 100 resilient cities project www.100resilientcities.org	4C
Mar 29	Homelessness	Read: Evicted – follow one story & read the epilogue (details to follow)	4D
Apr 3	No class	Workspace to work on your final projects, schedule a group meeting with me	
Apr 5	Zoning with <i>Emma Tinsley</i>	TBD	
Apr 10	Change	RSC: Systems design and social change (Birkeland) Priorities for future, sustainable cities (Kvan)	
Apr 12	Economy	SUDR II: Strengthening local economies (Roseland & (Soots) Green jobs (Renner et al.)	
Apr 17	Governance	SUDR III: Multi-level governance... (Svedin et al.) A progressive politics of meaning (Lerner) RSC: Governance for resilient, sustainable cities... (Roberts)	
Apr 19	Indicators II	RSC: Adaptation and transformation... (Pearson & Pearson)	
Apr 24	Poster presentation		
Apr 26	Utopia	SUDR V: Choose your favorite utopia RSC: How to move from talking to doing (Penalosa & Pearson)	
FINALS	NO FINAL		