

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT / URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. General information about the course

Course title: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT / URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Course code: UME 2431 (CDUP program) and UME 2254 (Science and technology program)

ECTS (number of credits): 6 and respectively 5

Year and Semester: 2nd year, 2nd semester and 1st year, 2nd semester

2. General information about the instructor

Instructor's name: Bogdana Neamtu, PhD

Contact information (tel./fax and email): 0040-264-431361; neamtu@fspac.ro

Office hours: by appointment (0728-883573)

3. Course description

a. Course description:

This course examines the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability in cities. Thus, it explores different definitions to the concept of sustainability and it explores how the concept applies to cities and urban local communities. Policies and programs that try to address the challenges of sustainability from both developed and developing countries are studied and compared. The focus is on discussing smart growth strategies and tools as a means for addressing the challenges of unsustainable development. Some of the major themes explored in the context of the sustainability of cities are indicators of sustainability, demographic trends and migration, income distribution, crime and security, green building, urban sprawl, air and water quality, global climate change, and sustainable energy and transportation policies.

b. Course objectives:

- To familiarize students with the concepts of sustainability and sustainable cities and to develop their ability to recognize and critically assess policies and strategies implemented by local urban governments from the perspective of sustainability.

c. Skills acquired by students:

- To be able to identify and to discuss various definitions and approaches to sustainability and how they apply to cities (urban ecosystems);
- To develop a framework for assessing the sustainability of a city or community they are familiar with.
- To draft a redevelopment plan for a community based on the notion of sustainability.

4. Required bibliography (no more than 10 titles)

Please see the course page on Moodle. Students will be required to read one or two mandatory readings for each class. These materials will be given to them in advance.

5. Required materials (computers, access to internet, access to specific data bases)

Access to internet for accessing online materials and collecting some data for the final paper; The reader for this class; all the readings will be handed to students at least one week in advance.

6. Schedule of course activities:

1. The concept of sustainability. Sustainable cities
2. Sustainable urban planning
3. Urban sprawl or unsustainable development patterns. Us versus Europe
4. Smart growth. Land use and compact design as antidotes for sprawl
5. Brownfield redevelopment
6. Green buildings
7. Sustainable transportation and urban mobility
8. Climate change and climate adaptation
9. Livability, quality of life and well-being
10. Sustainable development and governance

11. Assessing sustainability. Indicators used

12. Wrap up class

ADDITIONAL 2 CLASSES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

13. Technology and sustainable urban development

14. Innovation and sustainable development

7. Evaluation

The final grade is composed of:

30% - presentation of a case study; each student will have to prepare a presentation of a city / community / neighborhood with an outstanding performance in one area of sustainability – transportation, built environment, livability, etc.

30% - home-take exam: Students will receive at the beginning of the exam period a list of essay questions based on the readings assigned for the class. From that list they have to select two questions and to prepare essay type responses (no more than 2 pages for each question). The essays will be turned in via Moodle 72 hours after the questions were handed out.

40% - final paper

For the group assignments all group members will receive the same grade. In the event of situations when one or more members of the group do not complete their tasks, individual grades will be assigned.

Note: Due to the coronavirus epidemic and switch to online learning, the presentation of a case study in urban sustainability may have to be transformed into a written paper. This will be shared with your classmates so that at the end of the class everybody has access to a collection of case studies in urban sustainability.

Aspects which are important for in-class presentations – the quality of the material – handout or power point presentation, the clarity of the summary, the connection with past materials or theories, etc.

Details regarding the final paper

The final paper for this class is a joint paper with another class you have this semester (Applied methods for urban planning). A more detailed structure for the paper will be handed out in class – week 3 together with Bianca Radu. This applies to the students in the Community Development and Urban Planning Track.

For students in the Science and Technology program, your group paper will examine the role of technology in sustainable urban planning. A more detailed structure for the paper will be handed out in class – week 3.

8. Organizational details and rules for exceptional circumstances. Plagiarism

You have to properly reference every idea that is not your own. If you do not know how to properly reference/cite a book or other material used, please ask the instructor for guidance. Plagiarism is usually sanctioned with 1 and the student must retake the course.

9. Optional bibliography

Please see Moodle

10. Attendance

Students are required to attend 75% of the face to face classes. Because of the exceptional circumstances with the coronavirus epidemic, attendance will be replaced with online attendance and/or completion of small assignments for classes where there is no online session. **We will need to be flexible regarding this aspect because at this moment it is difficult to predict how long we will have only online teaching.**