

What Is a City?: Exploring Life and Design for Urban Environments

UF Quest 1, Trial 3: Nature + Culture

General Education – Humanities

Semester: Spring 2022

Day / Time: Tuesday P5-6 (11:45am to 1:40pm), Thursday P5 (11:45 to 12:35)

Location: Tuesday Little Hall (LIT) 113, Thursday Larsen Hall (LAR) 310

Credits: 3

Assistant Professor Sarah Gamble

Physical Office: 250 Architecture Building

Office Hours: Tuesday P7-8 (1:55 to 3:30pm) and by appointment; meetings can be arranged in-person or by Zoom

Email communication: Canvas Email preferred, sarah.gamble@ufl.edu as needed

Graduate Teaching Assistant Kaci Seitzinger

Office Hours: By appointment; meetings can be arranged in-person or by Zoom

Email communication: Canvas Email preferred, kseitzinger@ufl.edu as needed

Course Description

Exploring the most popular setting for contemporary life, this course investigates urbanity, asking engaging, open-ended questions about culture, values, priorities, and quality of life and their connections to the built environment. With the global population exponentially rising, cities continue to grow and evolve to accommodate life in the 21st century. This semester we will explore the composition of a city and the design of and life within urban environments, asking questions about the origin of cities, how they are designed and lived in today, and our vision for the future. The course incorporates perspectives and knowledge from a range of disciplines, including architecture, urban planning, urban design, history, and others to expose students to a range of contexts, societies, landscapes, perspectives, and variables that impact urban environments and life within them.

The course will spark curiosity about the spaces and places present within the city, as we look to understand their morphology and how they impact our way of life, including daily routine, behavior, spending, and relationships. We will consider why individuals and families are drawn to a range of urban environments, tied to relational networks, employment, mobility, and affordability. Throughout the course, resiliency and sustainability will be investigated, asking questions about the implications of our climate crisis on urban inhabitants. This course will bridge disciplines, perspectives, cultures, and continents to take a wholistic look at cities around the world and contemporary life within them.

Course Format

In-class lectures will be populated with photographs, drawings, video, and other media to communicate key principles and examples. In-class exercises will spur discussion and exploration of course topics. Assigned readings and other media will provide a broader context to the subject matter and support content discussed in class.

Each week, a small group of students will prepare brief videos in response to the week's assigned readings / media with other students asking questions. At the conclusion of each week, students will reflect on the week's course content and share personal thoughts / conclusions through writing and/or other forms of visual documentation. Students will be tested on course content in the form of pop quizzes, mid-term exam, and final exam.

Course Credit Policies

General Education Objectives and Learning Outcomes: Humanities (H)

This course is a Humanities (H) subject area course in the UF General Education Program. Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

Humanities Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used in the course (Content).
- Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives (Critical Thinking).
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively (Communication).

UF Quest 1 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is a UF Quest 1 subject area course in the UF Quest Program. Grounded in the modes of inquiry and expression characteristic of the arts and humanities, Quest 1 courses invite students to explore essential questions that transcend the boundaries of any one discipline—the kinds of complex and open-ended questions they will face as critical, creative, and thoughtful adults navigating a complex and interconnected world.

Quest 1 courses are multidisciplinary explorations of essential questions about the human condition that are not easy to answer, but also not easy to ignore: What makes life worth living? What makes a society a fair one? How do we manage conflicts? Who are we in relation to other people or to the natural world? To grapple with the kinds of open-ended and complex intellectual challenges they will face as critical, creative, and self-reflective adults navigating a complex and interconnected world, Quest 1 students apply approaches from the humanities to mine works for evidence, create arguments, and articulate ideas.

UF Quest 1 Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to examine essential questions about the human condition within and across the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Content).
- Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition using established practices appropriate for the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Critical Thinking).
- Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (Connection).
- Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written forms as appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Communication).

Course Student Learning Outcomes

Reflecting the curricular structures of Quest 1 and these Humanities General Education designations, students will be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to develop urban environments and how these environments are designed in relationship to and impact culture, lifestyle, landscape, history, values, and community (Content for Gen Ed H and Q1)

2. Analyze, evaluate, and critically reflect on the design of urban environments and their impact on urban life, including community, quality of life, daily routine, behavior, spending, relationships, and the natural environment (Critical Thinking for Gen Ed H and Q1)
3. Connect course content on urban environments with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond, ie. housing, affordability, mobility, employment, quality of life, etc. (Connection for Q1)
4. Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written formats about life and design for urban environments and other relevant subject matter engaged in the course. (Communication for Gen Ed H and Q1)

Experiential Learning

As part of the course, you are expected to take part in experiential learning. At many points in the semester, you will be asked to visit spaces and places on campus to further engage and explore content covered in class, for example: the crosswalk adjacent to Turlington Hall, the architecture of the Law School, and/or the landscape design of the (former) Natural History Museum. You will be asked to reflect upon these experiences in your weekly reflection assignments. The completion of these visits will be assessed as part of your weekly reflections and questions may appear on the mid-term and final exams.

If a student is unable to visit these on-campus locations, please talk with the instructor to make special accommodations at least 48 hours before the associated assignment is due.

Assignments

Weekly Reflections

- Description: Prepare a writing response and/or other forms of visual expression / documentation (photography, sketching, etc) in response to a provided prompt. Reflections due each Monday by 12 noon submitted via Canvas.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4

Paper

- Description: Develop one (or combine a series of) Weekly Reflections into a 1,000 to 1,500-word paper in response to the provided prompt.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4

Reading / Media Presentation

- Description: Prepare an overview in the form of a short video on an assigned reading / other media to present to the class. Be prepared to answer questions from other students. Each student will be assigned two to three presentations, based on the total number of students enrolled in the course. Date(s) will be assigned to each student.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 4

Reading Questions

- Description: Prepare questions on the assigned reading / other media to ask after the Reading / Media Presentations. Date(s) will be assigned to each student.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 4

Pop Quizzes

- Description: 5 unannounced, pop quizzes will test your knowledge of course content taken from in-class discussions and lectures, and assigned readings / media.

- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 4

Mid-term

- Description: An assessment at the mid-point in the semester composed of multiple choice, visual / image identification, and essay.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 4

Final Examination

- Description: An assessment at the end of the course composed of multiple choice, image identification, short answer, and essay.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4

Weekly Class Schedule

Readings and links to other media for each will be posted on Canvas.

Week 1: The City

Framing Questions: What is a City? What is life like in an urban environment?

Lecture Topics: The definition of city / urban vs. rural, suburban, and tribal; National and global trends toward urban living; advantages and disadvantages of an urban way of life

Week 2: Origins and Physical Development

Framing Question: How have urban environments been established and developed? What are the elements that compose a city?

Lecture Topics: brief history of urban development; the elements that compose a city; density and sprawl

Week 3: Culture and Community

Framing Question(s): How do the inhabitants of a city shape the physical environment, relationships, and living?

Lecture Topics: Culture's impact on the built environment; the built environment's impact on community, relationships, interaction; involvement in public life and collective decision-making

Week 4: Environment and Our Senses

Framing Question(s): How do our senses impact our experience and perception of space and place?

Lecture Topics: The five senses and our perception of space; space vs. place

Week 5: Living and Moving

Framing Question(s): How does our movement within the city shape our perception, daily routine, and way of life?

Lecture Topics: the mode and speed by which we move impacts our everyday and perception of the city; types of transportation based on culture and environment; walking as a fundamental right; the concept of accessibility and ADA.

Week 6: Quality of Life

Framing Question: How does our physical environment impact our quality of life?

Lecture Topics: Variables impacting quality of life: affordability, mobility, stability, etc; Daily life for those experiencing poverty, homelessness, injustice, etc; Public health and the physical environment

Week 7: Visionaries

Framing Question: How have others envisioned ideal cities for living?

Lecture Topics: Contrasting views of the city of future / ideal city: Le Corbusier, Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, Designers of China's Traditional Walled Cities, the New Urbanist

Week 8: Reflection / Review / Mid-term

Lecture Topics: Review of Weeks 1 – 7, Mid-term
(no readings)

Week 9: City-Making

Framing Question: How are cities made? How can I be involved in the shaping of my living environment?

Lecture Topics: Overview of land use principles, zoning, and code; Built environment professionals', government's, and the community's role in city-making

Week 10: Streetscapes

Framing Question: What is the role of the street in urban life?

Lecture Topics: Elements of the street; relationships between the streetscape and architecture, transportation, public space, and quality of life

Week 11: Housing

Framing Questions: How does housing impact daily life? How are economics involved?

Lecture Topics: Housing Typologies: single family, duplex, multi-family, low-rise, mid-rise, high-rise; The economics of housing: market rate, affordable housing, etc; housing communities and neighborhoods.

Week 12: Parks and Public Spaces

Framing Questions: How do cultures and communities use public / park spaces? Why are public / park spaces an essential amenity for urban life?

Lecture Topics: The importance of shared public space; Public space and park typologies; Trends in the current design.

Week 13: The Composition of Uniqueness

Framing Questions: What are the elements and characteristics which make an urban place unique?

Lecture Topics: Local character and feel of a city; In-between space; historical preservation; public art

Week 14: Resiliency + Sustainability

Framing Questions: How is climate change impacting urban environments? How can we make them more resilient?

Lecture Topics: Concepts of resiliency and sustainability; current and upcoming impacts to global urban environments; opportunities for environmental education and increased resiliency

Week 15: The Future of Cities

Framing Questions: How do we participate in shaping the city of the future?

Lecture Topics: Trends and opportunities in shaping the city of the future; Review for final exam.
(no readings)

Assigned Readings and Other Media

All texts and other media will be available through Canvas (e-learning).

UF Grading Policy

Information on UF's grading policy can be found at the following location:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Grading Criteria

30% Weekly Reflections = 300 points
10% Paper = 100 points
10% Reading presentations and questions = 100 points
10% Pop Quizzes = 100 points
15% Mid-term Exam = 150 points
15% Final Exam = 150 points
10% Attendance = 100 points
100% Total = 1000 points

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric	93-	90-	87-	83-	80-	77-	73-	70-	67-	63-	60-	0-
Grade	100	92	89	86	82	79	76	72	69	66	62	59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Canvas + Communication

Canvas will serve as the hub of communication for the course. All assigned readings, assignments, announcements, etc will be distributed / collected through the site. It is your responsibility to actively review the Canvas page and remain updated about the course.

Students should regularly check the 'Announcements' section of Canvas for important information from the Professor and GTA, such as reminders, changes to assignment due dates, and new course information. *Students are solely responsible for reading all 'Announcements' and staying up to date with information posted on Canvas, including Assignments.*

In Canvas, you have the ability to set notifications that will alert you when a new announcement, discussion post, or Canvas mail is posted. Students should set these up on the first day of class to not miss important course information.

Discussion Boards

If you have a question about the course, please reference the course discussion boards, labeled in Canvas as 'Discussions'. If you do not find your question / answer there, please post your question in the appropriate section. The GTA will check the discussion threads once each day to respond to questions. Students can also comment and/or add to questions posted by other students.

Remember, other students likely have the same question as you! Using the discussion boards ensures your question will be answered quickly and avoids a large number of repetitive emails to the teaching team. If you contact the GTA or Professor by Canvas by email with a question that would be worthwhile for the entirety of the class, you'll likely be asked to post the question to the discussion boards for answering.

If your question is private in nature or concerning an individual grade, you should contact the GTA and/or Professor privately by Canvas message.

Contacting the Instructor + Graduate Assistants

If you need to contact the teaching team outside of class time, please use the Canvas Messaging function. Students can send an email through Canvas by going to the "Inbox" in the left-hand, blue

bar in Canvas. The teaching team will check Canvas email once per day. Before sending questions, please refer to the Canvas discussion boards to see if the question has already been asked / answered.

It is important messages are sent through Canvas messaging for security / student privacy and tracking of student messages. Responses to messages sent via individual email addresses will likely be delayed.

Attendance

Attendance is expected and will be taken at each class. Each student will have 2 discretionary, unexcused absences from class. After 2 absences, each additional absence will subtract 20 points from the 100 total points allocated to attendance in the overall grade. Upon the 8th absence, students will be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade. For excused absences aligned with the University's policies (illness, religious holidays, etc), students should inform the instructor as soon as possible and provide documentation.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Assignment Submissions + Late Work Policy

All assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Each assignment has a unique date / time that the assignment is 'available', 'due', and open 'until'. Students will be able to access the assignment and submit after the 'available' date. Assignments submitted past the 'due' date will receive an automatic 10% deduction per day. This deduction is automatic within Canvas, which rounds up to the nearest day. For example: If a submission worth 10 points is submitted 2 days after the 'due' date, and the student is awarded full points, their final grade on the assignment would be 8 points (2 days late x 1 point deduction per day = 2 point Late Penalty). The same deduction would apply to an assignment submitted 1.3 days after the 'due' date, because Canvas rounds up to the next day.

It is entirely the responsibility of the student to verify due dates to ensure on-time submission. Assignments will not be accepted once the assignment has closed / after the 'until' date. This policy will be strictly enforced. Check and double check that your submission is satisfactory and has been submitted in the correct place within Canvas. Be sure to provide ample time to get assignments properly submitted, keeping in mind technological glitches and problems often arise at the most inconvenient times.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Electronic devices should be turned off and placed in closed bags. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be kept to a minimum.

Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no materials or supply fees for this course.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during

the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that 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 Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities (which in this context would include students managing a mental health and/or physical health experience) requesting accommodations should first register with the University of Florida Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be provided to the Professor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Accommodation letters can be sent to the Professor at sarah.gamble@ufl.edu.

Distance Learning Privacy Policy

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

COVID-19 Practices

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/health-guidance/> to stay up to date on UF's COVID related Policies

Resources

Academic Resources

- UF Computing Help Desk (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>): 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center (<https://career.ufl.edu>): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Ask a Librarian (<https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>): receive library assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- The Teaching Center (<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu>): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- The Writing Studio (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>)
- UF Distance Learning (<https://distance.ufl.edu>)

Counseling + Emergency Contacts

- Police / Fire / Medical Emergency – 911
- U Matter, We Care, 294-2273; <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>
- Sexual Violence: 392-5648 or 392-1111 after hours, confidential reporting
- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575; <https://counseling.ufl.edu>
- University of Florida Student Health Care Center, 392-1161; <https://shcc.ufl.edu>
- University of Florida Dean of Students, 392-1261, after hours: 392-1111 (ask for on-call staff); <https://dso.ufl.edu>
- Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center (24hrs/day); 264-6760
- Alachua County Crisis Center (24 hrs/day), 264-6789