

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

UF Quest 1, Trial 3: Nature + Culture

General Education – Humanities

Semester: Spring 2023

Credits: 3

Day / Time / Location: Tues P5-6 (11:45am - 1:40pm) in Little Hall (LIT) 113

Thurs P5 (11:45am - 12:35pm) Computer Science &
Engineering Building (CSEE) 119

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 necessary

Graduate Teaching Assistant Camila Moreno

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

Email communication: Canvas Email preferred, morenocamila@ufl.edu as necessary

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 life and design for 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, and others to expose students to a range of contexts, societies, landscapes, perspectives, and variables that impact the development of urban environments and how lives are shaped by them – and vice versa.

The course will spark curiosity about the spaces and places present within the city, as we look to study their morphology and impact on our way of life, including daily routine, behavior, finances, 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 climate crisis and its impact on urban inhabitants. This course bridges multiple built environment disciplines, perspectives, cultures, and continents to take a wholistic look at cities around the world and contemporary life within them.

Course Format

Assigned readings and media provide background information and context for in-class lectures, exercises, and discussion. In-class lectures are visual in nature, including photographs, drawings, video, and other media, to communicate key principles and examples. In-class exercises will spur discussion and the exploration of course topics.

Each week, assigned students will prepare short videos and questions in response to the week's assigned readings / media for viewing by the class. Each week, students will reflect on the week's course content through writing and/or other forms of visual exploration. Periodically, 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 course content through on-the-ground experience and observation, for example: the crosswalk adjacent to Turlington Hall, the architecture of the Law School, and/or the use of Plaza of the Americas. You will be asked to reflect upon these experiences in your Weekly Reflection assignments. The completion of these visits will be assessed through the 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 Reflection

- Description: Prepare a writing response and/or visual exploration (photos, sketching, etc) in response to a provided prompt. 12 total assignments.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4

Paper

- Description: Further develop a Weekly Reflection assignment into a 1,000 to 1,500-word paper.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4

Reading/Media Presentation

- Description: Prepare a short video in response to the reading/media assigned to each student to share with 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 will be assigned to each student.
- Course SLOs: 1, 2, 4

Reading/Media Questions

- Description: Prepare questions in response to the reading/media assigned to each student to share with the class. Date 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 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

All assigned readings and links to other media 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: Course overview; the definition of city / urban vs. rural, suburban, and tribal; national and global trends and pressing issues around urban living

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 bodies and 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: Definition of quality of life; review of variables (affordability, mobility, stability, etc); Daily life for those experiencing poverty, homelessness, injustice, etc; health and its relationship to 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: What guides how cities physically take shape? How can I be involved in the shaping of the physical environment?

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

SPRING BREAK

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: What types of housing are present in the city? How does housing impact daily life, affordability, and more?

Lecture Topics: Housing typologies (single family, duplex, multi-family, low-rise, mid-rise, high-rise); the economics of housing (market rate, affordable housing, etc); composition of communities and neighborhoods

Week 12: Parks and Public Spaces

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

Lecture Topics: The importance of shared public space; public space and park typologies; design trends

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; historic preservation; public art

Week 14: Resiliency + The Future of Cities

Framing Questions: How is the climate crisis impacting urban environments? How can we design cities to be more resilient in the future?

Lecture Topics: Concept of resiliency vs. sustainability; current and future impacts to global urban environments; opportunities for environmental education and increased resiliency

Week 15: Final Exam

The final exam will be administered during the last class meeting of this course on Tuesday, April 25th.

Assigned Readings and Other Media

All readings and media are available through Canvas (e-learning) and organized by week.

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 Presentation + 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

Research

As part of this course, students will complete assignments that are also part of an ongoing research study (# 202200946) led by your instructor titled *Walking within the Design Process*. After final grades for the course have been submitted, students can elect or decline to participate in the research study. If they elect to participate, the already completed course assignments will contribute to the ongoing research and future publications. Students can also elect to remain anonymous or have their name associated with their work.

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 assignments and 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 and/or answer there, please post your question in one of the established sections. The GTA will check the discussion threads once each day and 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, contact the GTA and/or Professor privately by Canvas message.

Contacting the Professor + GTA

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 general 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 be delayed.

Class 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'. The assignment opens up on the 'available' date and students will be able to access the assignment and submit. Assignments submitted past the 'due' date will receive an automatic 10% deduction per day (24 hour period). This deduction is set up automatically 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 for their submission, 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, which is 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 that 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 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.

In-class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Distance Learning Privacy Policy

While this course is offered in a face-to-face, in-person format, there may be circumstances that necessitate the use of Zoom in class sessions. In this case, our class sessions may be audio visually recorded. 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 recommendations 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 and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. 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 to be evaluated.
- As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

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