

Urban Studies 360: Green Cities: Urban Agriculture, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice

Spring 2021 Syllabus: Online course on Canvas, 3 Credits

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Course Overview

Urbanization, with a pace that is growing ever faster, prompts both opportunities and challenges to satisfy the needs of the ballooning urban population. While this may boost technological innovations, economic growth, as well as more efficient and integrated lifestyles; the fast-paced urbanization leads to predicaments when our urban lifestyles counter resilient environmental stewardship and worsen social equity. Thus, sustainable development, by its very definition, brings hope to the establishment of a thriving and just urban environment, and a remedy to the dire ecological damages and deterioration caused by human beings.

Before desperately embracing sustainability as the panacea-like guidelines to treat the current conditions for humanity, we need to understand the complexity of sustainable development; the challenges and the dynamics at play to establish a sustainable city and transform it into a greener one, and to evaluate sustainable strategic urban plans. This course, therefore, offers the opportunity to review and understand sustainable development through academic readings, book chapters, and case studies, with the integration of the ReFresh Milwaukee Plan (City of Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023).

Theories and practices are presented during the course to explain the complicated relationships between components of sustainable development and urban society through focuses on concepts, policy, justice, production, consumption, infrastructure, transportation, technology, and urban change. The purpose of the course is to support the establishment of critical and analytical thinking of urbanization and sustainability. Urban sustainability, through the observations and topics of the course, may reveal itself as problematic, contradictory, and sometimes seemingly unachievable, but it is nevertheless important for presenting our disagreement of existing urban development and our hopes for the creation of a more resilient and just city.

UW Shared Learning Credit and Social Science Credit

This is a Social Science course that fulfills part of the General Education Requirements (GER). The course will address the following GER Social Science learning objectives through a variety of assignments and assessments detailed below:

1. UW System Shared Learning (SL) Goals Assessed:

Individual, social, and environmental responsibility including civic knowledge and engagement (both local and global), ethical reasoning, and action.

2. GER Social Science (SS) Goals Assessed:

Students will be able to:

A) recognize and analyze intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development;

B) identify and critically evaluate the function, structure and development of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures and interrelationships.

UW System Shared Learning Goals	Social Science Learning Objectives
<p>Students will identify how environmental, cultural, spatial, social, and economic components to urban sustainability efforts influence actors, institutions, and the production of space at both the global and local scale by analyzing different scholarly work, practical cases, and Milwaukee’s sustainability plan.</p>	<p>Students will be exposed to readings drawn from the social sciences, humanities, urban environmental history, and urban planning to better understand how urban sustainability efforts are contested.</p>
	<p>Students will identify connections between the governance of urban sustainability efforts and its effects on the urban landscape, and on populations of varying socioeconomic backgrounds.</p>

Canvas

The current course will function fully online through the Canvas site. Students must have access to the Internet to properly participate and succeed in this course. Inadequate Internet access will not be accepted as an excuse for a late assignment. Assigned readings, lecture materials, and videos will be posted on Canvas under the week in which they are assigned. If you have trouble with Canvas or you have not used it yet, please see the following information on accessing and navigating Canvas. Please contact the UWM Help Desk, as described below, if you have questions about these requirements.

To find and browse the Canvas web site:

1. Go to the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee website: <https://uwm.edu>.
2. Click on the top bar “Current Students”, and then, on the drop-down menu, click on “Canvas”.
3. Click on the button that says “Log Into Canvas” to access Canvas using your UWM ePanther account.
4. On the “Dashboard” page, you will see your active courses. On Canvas, this course is titled **“Urban Studies 360: Green Cities, Urban Agriculture, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice”**.

5. Click on the course title to enter the course and start exploring the content.
6. If you have difficulty getting into the course web site, please close your web browser completely and open it up again. Then, try logging on again using the instructions above. If you do not know your ePanther username or password, please get help as indicated below.

What to do if you have problems with Canvas:

If you have any difficulties with Canvas, including problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can't get on), please contact the UWM Help Desk by doing one of the following:

- Call the UWM Help Desk at (414) 229-4040 or toll-free at 1-877-381-3459
- Call the CETL Learning Technology desk at (414) 229-4319

Course Materials

All the course materials are available online on Canvas.

Most of the current course materials are scholarly articles, book chapters, and chapters from the City of Milwaukee's 2013-2023 Sustainability Plan: "ReFresh MKE" (in PDF). Others include online articles and videos from different urban studies platforms and news sources/media (with accessible links available on Canvas).

Course Structure

All the course content is available online on Canvas. There is required content to complete each week, but we are not required to be online at the same time.

New course content will open each week on **Monday at 12:00 AM**. Due dates will be listed within the assignment, but in general, discussions are due **Thursdays and Sundays at 11:59 PM**. **The midterm and final projects will be due on specific dates and times visible in the syllabus and within the assignment page on Canvas.**

Future weeks' assignments will not open until the previous week has ended (**all materials for this course will be available and accessible from the start of the semester on Canvas**), much like if we were meeting in real-time. The course schedule below represents a complete list of required weekly material that students are expected to read, watch, and/or listen to. The instructor does not accept late submissions. Make sure that you are submitting everything before the due date and hour.

COVID 19 accommodations: late submissions (when the assignment is submitted within a week after the due date) will be accepted with a deduction of 20% of the assignment grade.

Finally, the current schedule and content are subject to slight modifications, but the instructor will notify the class at least two weeks in advance of any major changes.

Course Schedule

1 INTRODUCTION & GREEN CITIES – WEEK 1 01/25/2021

Read

- America's Most (and Least) Sustainable Cities, Ranked.
- Koh et al. (2010) "Eco-Cities" and "Sustainable Cities"—Whither?
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 87-103)

Watch

- Sustainability - Full Documentary (42:14):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjrPilem30g>
- The Sustainable City of the Future: Copenhagen, Denmark (5:48):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUbHGI-kHsU>

2 SUSTAINABILITY: CONCEPTS & INDICATORS – WEEK 2 02/01/2021

Read

- Wheeler, S. (2005). Planning for Sustainability: Creating Livable, Equitable, and Ecological Communities. (Chapter 2)
- Bell, S., & Morse, S. (2008). Sustainability indicators: Measuring the immeasurable? (pp. 41-44)
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 7-11)

Midterm Project Assigned

3 GOVERNANCE & POLICY – WEEK 3 02/08/2021

Read

- While et al. (2010). From sustainable development to carbon control: Eco-state restructuring and the politics of urban and regional development.
- Lorek, S., & Fuchs, D. (2013). Strong sustainable consumption governance – precondition for a degrowth path?
- Villarroel Walker et al. (2017). Identifying key technology and policy strategies for sustainable cities: A case study of London.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – WEEK 4 02/15/2021

Read

- Maantay, J., & Maroko, A. (2018). Brownfields to Greenfields: Environmental Justice Versus Environmental Gentrification.
- Walker, G. (2009). Beyond Distribution and Proximity: Exploring the Multiple Spatialities of Environmental Justice.
- Wolch, J. R., Byrne, J., & Newell, J. P. (2014). Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough.
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 41-47)

5 WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE – WEEK 5 02/22/2021

Read

- Van Oijstaeijen et al. (2020). Urban green infrastructure: A review on valuation toolkits from an urban planning perspective.
- Chini et al. (2017). The Green Experiment: Cities, Green Stormwater Infrastructure, and Sustainability.
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 61-67)

Watch

- Green Infrastructure for Runoff | Elizabeth Fassman-Beck, Ph.D. | TEDxStevensInstituteofTechnology (14:44): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAenu6Vshs8>

Midterm Project Topic Selection & Draft Submission

- Submit selected topic and draft before **03/01/2021**

6 SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL REDEVELOPMENT – WEEK 6 03/01/2021

Read

- Loures & Panagopoulos. (2007) Sustainable reclamation of industrial areas in urban landscapes.
- Chen et al. (2016). Toward Sustainable Brownfield Redevelopment Using Life-Cycle Thinking.
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 61-67)

Watch

- Redevelopment for Resiliency-Transforming Brownfield Sites | Colette Santasieri | TEDxNJIT (12:51): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8OetOf-B50>

7 FOOD SYSTEM & URBAN AGRICULTURE – WEEK 7 03/08/2021

Read

- Nogueira-McRae et al. (2018). The Role of Urban Agriculture in a Secure, Healthy, and Sustainable Food System.
- Corburn, J. (2009). Toward the healthy city: People, places, and the politics of urban planning. (Chapter 5)
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 29-34)

Watch

- Carolyn Steel: How food shapes our cities (15:37): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLWRclarri0>
- Earthrise - Detroit's Urban Farming Revolution (24:23): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFJsXev3eU0>

8 MIDTERM PROJECT DUE – WEEK 8 03/15/2021

No class

- No required readings and posts

Midterm Project Due

- Submit midterm project on Canvas before **03/22/2021**

9 SPRING BREAK – WEEK 9 03/22/2021

No class

- No required readings and posts

10 JUST PLANNING – WEEK 10 03/29/2021

Read

- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 35-40)

Watch

- Susan Feinstein: Alexander von Humboldt Lecture: "Justice in the Neo-liberal City" (1:03:29):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HM5n4gQ_pGk

11 BUILDING & TECHNOLOGY – WEEK 11 04/05/2021

Read

- Jerry Yudelson. (2016). Reinventing green building: Why certification systems aren't working and what we can do about it. (Chapter 2 & 4)
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 13-20)

Watch

- Buildings of the Future: Net Zero Energy | David Shad | TEDxCSUSM (15:55):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi-Zu09vX3o>

Final Project Assigned

12 CONSUMPTION & WASTE – WEEK 12 04/12/2021

Read

- García-de-Frutos et al. (2018). Anti-consumption for Environmental Sustainability: Conceptualization, Review, and Multilevel Research Directions.
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 55-60)

Watch

- Why renewables can't save the planet | Michael Shellenberger | TEDxDanubia (17:32):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-yALPEpV4w>
- Conscious Consumerism: Does it make a difference: (26:12):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lx0i26ptuM>

13 ENERGY & POLLUTION – WEEK 13 04/19/2021

Read

- Mazzucato, M., & Semieniuk, G. (2018). Financing renewable energy: Who is financing what and why it matters.
- Ray, P. (2019). Renewable energy and sustainability.
- Waldrop, M. M. (2019). News Feature: The quest for the sustainable city.
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 21-28)

Final Project Topic Matrix Submission

- Submit selected topic and draft before **04/26/2021**

14 MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION – WEEK 14 04/26/2021

Read

- Golub, A. (2016). Mobility and Sustainability.
- Hinkeldein et al. (2015). Who Would Use Integrated Sustainable Mobility Services – And Why?
- ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan 2013-2023 (pp. 49-54)

Watch

- The Future of Urban Mobility | Oren Shoval | TEDxJaffa (8:54):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcBrchkBSBE>

15 SMART CITIES & THE SHARING ECONOMY – WEEK 15 05/03/2021

Read

- Reimagining cities from the internet up.
- Why we're no longer pursuing the Quayside project – and what's next for Sidewalk Labs.
- Martin, C. J. (2016). The sharing economy: A pathway to sustainability or a nightmarish form of neoliberal capitalism?

Watch

- Where are All the Smart Cities? | Phil James | TEDxNewcastle (14:27):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7fNjH9_5fc

16 FINAL PROJECT DUE – WEEK 16 05/10/2021

No class

- No required readings and posts

Final Presentation Due

- Submit final project on Canvas before **05/14/2021**

Final Peer Review Due

- Submit final project peer review on Canvas before **05/17/2021**

Course Assessment

Here is a brief overview of all assessments. See individual assignment guidelines on Canvas for details. **Important: the instructor does not accept late submissions. Please submit everything before the due date and hour.**

Online Discussions (30% of total grade)

There are 13 discussions in total throughout the course, and **10 required including the Introduction post during Week 1**. The instructor will provide specific prompts or questions to respond to for each week's discussion posts, students are required to cite readings and/or videos for the weekly discussions. **Students are required to respond to at least one post for 10 weekly discussions excluding the Introduction post during Week 1**. Specific instructions and rubrics will be provided.

- Initial Post (150 words, minimum): Due on **Thursdays at 11:59 PM**.
- Comment Post (100 words): Due on **Sundays at 11:59 PM**.

Midterm Project (35% of total grade)

The midterm project consists of a draft paper with topic selection (30%) and the completion of the project (70%). Students are asked to critically review and evaluate the ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan with its 2018 progress report (both available on Canvas) with knowledge acquired through the process of this course.

Students are asked to choose one topic from environmental justice, water & infrastructure, sustainable industrial redevelopment, as well as food system & urban agriculture to assess its

process employing Yin’s case study research method (related book chapters and detailed instructions will be available on Canvas).

The submission should be a well-drafted paper presenting your propositions with relevant and plausible data and projects, a rigorous analysis of the topic you’ve chosen, and a critical summary. The paper should include 7-9 pages of text excluding figures, charts, and bibliography. Specific instructions and rubrics will be provided.

Final Project (35% of total grade)

The final project consists of a matrix submission with topic selection (30%), a peer review (20%), and the presentation of the project (50%). Students are asked to critically review and evaluate the ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan with its 2018 progress report (both available on Canvas) with knowledge acquired through the process of this course.

Students are asked to choose one topic from human capital, building & technology, consumption & waste, energy & pollution, and mobility & transportation to assess its process employing Yin’s case study research method (related book chapters and detailed instructions will be available on Canvas).

The submission should be a well-organized presentation stating your propositions with relevant and plausible projects, a rigorous analysis of the topic you’ve chosen, and a critical summary. The presentation should be 5-7 minutes long. Specific instructions and rubrics will be provided.

Extra credit (10 points – 1% of total grade)

There is a survey developed and assigned after midterm to collect students’ feedback of the course. The survey account for 10 points as extra credit when students complete and submit them before due date.

Credit Hours & Course Workload

Urban Studies 360 is a 3-credit course. Based on federal and university expectations, students should prepare to spend a minimum of 144 hours of class time on preparation and work related to the course. Taking into consideration that the number of hours demanded of students outside of class will fluctuate based on the scheduling of key assessments, students should anticipate investing approximately 10 hours per week on the course.

Course Workload	Hours
Time reading, listening, watching and absorbing required content (includes course overview content, and instructor’s content – text and/or audiovisual)	70 hrs
Time spent preparing, posting, reading and responding to discussion posts (10 posts and 10 responses required)	18 hrs
Time spent preparing, composing & writing midterm project	28 hrs
Time spent preparing, composing & presenting final project	28 hrs
Total	144 hrs

Course Grading & Percentage Distribution

Assessment	Total Points	Percentage
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Posts & Responses	300	30%
Midterm Project: draft with topic selection (30%), project submission (70%)	350	35%
Final Project: a matrix with topic selection (30%), a peer review (20%), presentation (50%)	350	35%
Total	1,000	100%

Grading Scale	
A 3-100%	C 73-75%
A- 90-92%	C- 70-72%
B+ 86-89%	D+ 66-69%
B 83-85%	D 63-65%
B- 80-82%	D- 60-62%
C+ 76-79%	F 59% or below

Academic Conduct

You are expected to do your own work in this class and properly cite any ideas or quotes from other sources. Citations should follow a generally accepted format (APA, MLA, Chicago). Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance to the guidelines of the university. Academic dishonesty includes failing to cite published work or someone else's ideas, purchasing a paper from another student or online, using another student's work as your own, directly copying from a source without quoting the author, submitting your own work from another class, etc. Submitted material may be randomly run through plagiarism detection software. Any student caught engaging in plagiarism will receive a failing grade for this course and will automatically initiate the university's procedure and policy on plagiarism and academic integrity. This can be viewed at:

https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/wpcontent/uploads/sites/263/2019/07/misconduct_flowchart.pdf

University Policies

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

1. **Students with disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following:
<http://uwm.edu/arc/>
2. **Religious observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found here: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>
3. **Students called to active military duty.** Accommodations for absences due to callup of reserves to active military duty are found here:
Students: <http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>
Employees: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/download/policies/ops/bn9.pdf>

4. **Incompletes.** A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf
5. **Discriminatory conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct may be found here: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf
6. **Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. Policies for cheating/plagiarism may be found here: <http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>
7. **Complaint procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf
8. **Grade appeal procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm>
9. **LGBT+ resources.** Resources that support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment may be found here: <http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>
10. **Final examination policy.** The final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, etc. <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm>