



ENVST-UA 9417-001/SCA- UA 9617-001/ UPADM-GP 9217-001 DC1 Globalizing Social Activism: Sustainable Development in Urban Areas Fall 2018

Instructor Information

- Victoria Kiechel, Architect and LEED AP; Faculty, Global Environmental Politics Program, School of International Service, American University
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 - Telephone: 202-957-5763
- Office hours: before or after class and upon request, in person or by Skype

Course Information and Goals

- Meeting time: Tuesdays, 9 am to 12 noon
- Meeting place: NYU-DC classroom B 109 or Washington, DC field trips

Course Description

Whether pulled by opportunity or pushed by conflict or climate change, by 2050 over 70% of the global population will live in and adjacent to cities. In acknowledging the urgent demands of our urban present and future, this course (1) examines the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of contemporary cities; (2) makes the case for sustainable urban development -- focusing on considerations of social equity and activism -- as a way to mitigate the impacts of population growth, globalization, social exclusion, and the effects of climate change. We will explore what is, and what could be, by discussing many themes, including: urban spatial planning, power, urban environmental activism, housing, slums and slum typology, urban policing, urban economies, urban food systems, new paradigms for energy/water/waste infrastructure, and green building. We will consider how to measure sustainability and discuss the effectiveness of sustainability indicators. We will examine examples of social entrepreneurship and the power of information technology and social networks in political enfranchisement and the diffusion of ideas. We will also highlight the role of art and culture as a pivot for activism and change.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the impact of cities on their regional ecologies and the global ecology;
- Understand the role of activism and power in urban sustainability and sustainable urban design;

- Be able to apply this understanding to the development of solutions to real-world urban social, environmental, and economic problems;
- Be able to quantify or measure progress towards solutions.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Please thoughtfully add your voice to class discussions. In addition to meaningful participation in class, each student, working either singly or in pairs, will be responsible for leading one discussion session on required weekly readings.

Short Assignments 1, 2, 3, and 4

Expect varied short assignments, which may include the following: urban observation and analysis, five-page essays, or individual oral presentations. The instructor will issue assignment prompts two weeks in advance of their due date. See the Course Schedule section, below, for due dates.

Tests & Quizzes

There will be one (midterm) examination.

Collaborative Project Presentation and Report

The instructor will issue guidelines and expectations for the class collaborative project in early October. The collaborative project will culminate in a presentation at the end of the semester to guest reviewers, and the issuance of a report and/or combined presentation.

Weighted Grading of Elements of Course Requirements

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class participation (includes discussion leadership)	20%
Short assignments (4)	40% (10% each assignment)
Mid-term examination	20%
Collaborative project presentation and report	20%

Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
A	4.00	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	65-66
F	.00	Below 65

View Grades

Midterm and final grades will be posted through Albert.

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments: please note that the order of or readings in this schedule may alter

Week/Date	Topic	Readings (either URLs or posted to NYU Classes)	Heads-up!
Session 1 28- Aug-18	Cities, Activism, and Sustainable Development	1.Excerpts from Lewis Mumford, <u>The City in History</u> (1962). 2.Excerpts from Ezio Manzini, <u>Design When Everybody Designs</u> (2015). 3. David Harvey, Online Article, "The Right to the City," New Left Review 53, 2008,.	

Week/Date	Topic	Readings (either URLs or posted to NYU Classes)	Heads-up!
Session 2 4-Sept-18	Understanding Urban Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kevin Lynch, "The City Image and its Elements," from <u>The Image of the City</u> (1960), 4-page excerpt. 2. Jan Gehl and Brigitte Svaree, Chapter 3 excerpts (pp. 21-35 and pp. 106-7) from <u>How to Study Public Life</u> (2013). 3. Excerpts from Alan Jacobs, <u>Great Streets</u> (1993). 	Field trip.
Session 3 11-Sept-18	The Power To Make Urban Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jane Jacobs, "Orthodox Planning and the North End", from the introduction to <u>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</u> (1961), in <u>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</u>, pp. 34-38. 2. Alexander Garvin, excerpt from <u>The Planning Game</u> (2013). 3. Diane E. Davis, "Urban Protest and the Built Environmental Foundations of Insurgency and Citizenship," from <u>Ethics of the Urban: The City and the Spaces of the Political</u>, ed. M. Mostafavi (2017). 	First assignment due.
Session 4 18-Sept-18	The "Just" City	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations," <u>The Atlantic Magazine</u>, June 2014. 2. Richard Florida, Online Article, "The Downsides of the Back-to-the-City Movement," CityLab blog, Sept. 29, 2016. 3. "Everything Is Gentrification Now, But Richard Florida Isn't Sorry," The Guardian, Oct. 26, 2017. 	Field trip.
Session 5 25-Sept-18	Urban Metabolism 1: Energy and Transit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Excerpts from Doug Farr, <u>Sustainable Urbanism</u> (2009). 2.Creutzig, P. et.al., "Typology of urban energy use and potentials for an urbanization mitigation wedge," PNAS vol.112, no. 20, May 19, 2015. 3. Jorge Madrid, "Medellin's Amazing Metro System: Colombia Uses Public Transport to Drive Social Change," ThinkProgress, March 13, 2012. 	Second assignment due.
Session 6 2-Oct-18	Urban Metabolism 2: Water, Food, and Green Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Nathan McClintock et al., "The politics of urban agriculture: Sustainability, governance, and contestation," from <u>The Routledge Handbook on Spaces of Urban Politics</u> (2017). 	

Week/Date	Topic	Readings (either URLs or posted to NYU Classes)	Heads-up!
		2.L.J. Butler et.al., "The Flint, Michigan, Water Crisis: A Case Study in Regulatory Failure and Environmental Injustice," Environmental Justice Vol. 9, No, 4, 2016. 3. Andersson, E. et al. "Reconnecting Cities to the Biosphere: Stewardship of Green Infrastructure and Urban Ecosystem Services," AMBIO (2014) 43: 445.	
9-Oct-18	Fall break - no class		
Session 7 16-Oct-18	Urban Metabolism 3: Sanitation and Waste	1. Frank Snowden, "Sanitary Anxieties," from <u>Naples in the Time of Cholera: 1884-1911</u> (2010). 2. Colin McFarlane et al, "The Poolitical City: 'Seeing Sanitation' and Making the Urban Political in Cape Town," Antipode 49:1 (2017). 3. Peter Hessler, Online Article, " Tales of the Trash: A Neighborhood Garbageman Explains Modern Egypt ," The New Yorker, October 13, 2014.	Third assignment due.
Session 8 23-Oct-18	Mid-term examination.		
Session 9 30-Oct-18	Social Entrepreneurs and the "Wicked" Problems of the Urban Century	1. Ashoka Foundation social entrepreneurs, Ashoka Stories Online Article 2. Excerpt from Mike Davis, <u>Planet of Slums</u> (2006).	Field trip.
Session 10 6-Nov-18	Voice, Identity, Culture	1. Online Article, " How Theaster Gates is Revitalizing Chicago's South Side, One Building at a Time ," Smithsonian Magazine (2015) 2. "Art And Public life: A Conversation Theaster Gates," W.J.T. Mitchell ASAP/Journal, Volume 1, Number 1, January 2016, pp. 51-76. 3. Excerpts from Rafael Schacter, <u>The World Atlas of Street Art and Graffiti</u> (Yale, 2013). 4. Huffington Post 2014 article on the Philadelphia Murals Project.	
Session 11 13-Nov-18	Guerrilla Action: Tactical Urbanism	1. <u>Tactical Urbanism Volume 2</u> (2012) Online Article . 2. Read the 2015 critique of tactical urbanism online article by Neil Brenner (a response to the 2015 MOMA exhibit associated with the	Fourth assignment due.

Week/Date	Topic	Readings (either URLs or posted to NYU Classes)	Heads-up!
		concept of tactical urbanism found on MOMA's Website).	
Session 12 20-Nov-18	Best and Worst Practices in Top-Down and Bottom-Up Urban Development	1.C. P. Pow and Harvey Neo, "Seeing Red Over Green: Contesting Urban Sustainabilities in China," Urban Studies 50 (13), October 2013. 2. Other readings TBD according to class vote on selection of cities as case studies (choices include Copenhagen, Dubai, Tokyo, Mumbai, Rio, New York, Cape Town, Singapore, London, and/or Mexico City)	
Session 13 27-Nov-18	Group work sessions in preparation for next week's collaborative project presentation.		
Session 14 4-Dec-18	Class collaborative project presentation to guest reviewers.		
Session 15, FINALS WEEK, Dec-11	No final examination; final report due December 11.		

Tests and Quizzes

The in-class, mid-term examination will occur on Tuesday, October 23. There is no final examination in this course.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- You will not need to purchase books for this course. Most readings will be available online or in PDF format as posted to our NYU Classes site. Please note that required readings are often only a few pages in length, or else a blog entry. For learning about urban sustainability, we may consult this text, available online through the NYU library: **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader**, 3rd edition (Routledge, 2014), edited by Stephen Wheeler and Timothy Beatley and at [NYU EBook Central](#). It is also available in hard copy in the NYU-DC reading room.
- Urban blogs of interest include two from Atlantic CityLab's [blogs](#). [Second Atlantic CityLab Blog](#). and the New Geography [blog](#). London's Guardian newspaper has published an [interactive of best city blogs around the world](#).

- I reserve the right to substitute readings in advance of class as your own interests and learning styles reveal themselves.

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes Website](#)
 - **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library Website](#)
 - **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center Website](#)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk Website](#)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade (for courses that meet once per week; for courses that meet twice per week, it is a one percent reduction per missed class).

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a doctor's note with that day's date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Staff at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each lecturer to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/ or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

Late Assignments

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- 2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed.
- 3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
- 4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- 5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
- 6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
- 7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

Incomplete Grade Policy

An "incomplete" is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of "incomplete," present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of "incomplete" to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site's academic office. The submitted form must include a deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.