UC San Diego

USP 171GS: International Sustainable Development
Global Seminar Summer 2022
Session I

Instructor Information
Dr. Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell, Department of Urban Studies & Planning
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Office Hours: By appointment
Course Time: Monday – Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Course Overview and Objectives
This course examines the historic evolution and current policy and practice of sustainable planning, development and design in an international, comparative context. We will focus on the core issues of just and equitable sustainability for human and natural systems including: transportation, housing, energy, infrastructure and finance, habitat and ecological function, public health, food systems and climate mitigation. We will frame our investigation through the broader lens of the United Nations' *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* which was adopted by all 193 UN Member States in 2015. The Agenda includes 17 goals and a 15-year plan to achieve these goals. Among the Agenda's 17 goals, Goal 11 will be our focus in this course. *Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Development* acknowledges that half of our global population current inhabits cities and models forecast continued urbanization. As such, the UN calls for efficient and equitable urban planning to respond to these challenges. This summer we will explore these challenges and innovative responses using the Netherlands as our main case study. We will incorporate other international examples including the United States, but the Netherlands will be our main focus.
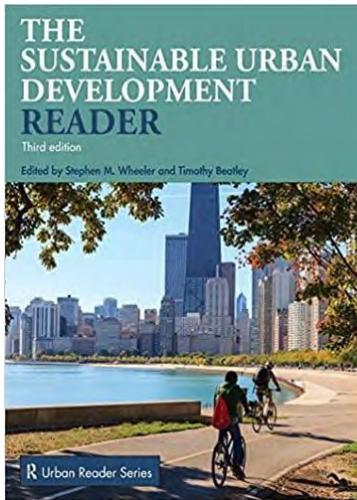
Course Learning Objectives
By the end of the course you will:
1. Understand and articulate how the principles of sustainability are addressed in the contemporary practice of urban planning and urban development in a comparative global context;
2. Critically evaluate the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
3. Apply systems thinking and frameworks to sustainable planning and development issues
4. Identify exemplars and innovative best policies and practices from the Netherlands
5. Contextualize the course content by visiting and critically exploring several Dutch cities;
6. Communicate research findings in written, visual, and oral formats;
7. Design an effective research plan for investigating innovative best policies and practices in sustainable planning and development in the Netherlands;
8. Prepare and present a professional-caliber group oral and visual presentation.
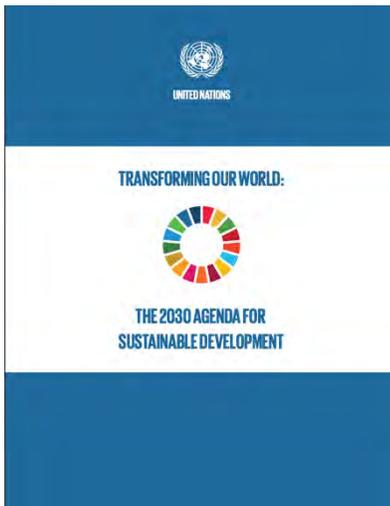
Course Texts and Readings

Required Books

The Sustainable Urban Development Reader
Wheeler, S. & Beatley, T. (Eds.)
Routledge (2014)
ISBN: 978-0415707763

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
United Nations (2015)
PDF available here:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf

Additional readings will be available on Canvas

Course Requirements and Grading

Students enrolled in the class are expected to attend all classes and complete all of the required readings. Late assignments will be marked down five points for each day they are late up to a maximum deduction of 20 points per assignment. Make-up quizzes will not be offered. Plagiarism is against UC San Diego policy and will be dealt with severely.

Course Format

The subject matter for the course is strongly visual in nature. As such, I will incorporate a considerable number of images into each lecture. This will lend itself to class discussion. Weekly study guides will be posted to the class website at the end of each week. In addition, all slides presented in class will be posted to the class website at the end of each week.

Course Assignments

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	MAXIMUM VALUE
In-Class Group Quizzes (4 total, 15 points each)	TBD	60 points
Reading Summary Presentation (To be announced in class)	Varies	20 points
Excursions, Guest Lectures, & Site Visit Reflections	Varies	20 points
Policy Memo	TBD	75 points
Case Study and Final Presentation	TBD	100 points

University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship

The *UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship* aims to encourage and maintain the highest ethical standards in research. The policy reaffirms the University's commitment to integrity in research. The University policy is available online and everyone in class is expected to read it: http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf.

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the USP Department (Erica Kirk via the VAC) in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. For further information contact OSD at: 858.534.4382 (phone); osd@ucsd.edu (email); http://disabilities.ucsd.edu (website)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW

Assignments will be evaluated using the following criteria:
1) *Presentation*: grammar, syntax, spelling, composition
2) *Form*: structure and format
3) *Content*: quality of research, depth of analysis, coverage of the topic, adherence to assignment requirements
4) *Relevance*: applicability and relevance to course topic
5) *Timeliness*: late assignments will be marked down five points for each day they are late up to a maximum 20-point deduction.

In-Class Weekly Quizzes (July 4, 11, 18 & 25)

Each quiz will be worth 15 points. The quizzes will be closed book and will be completed in small groups of no more than four students. The quizzes will be a combination of short answers and image identifications and analysis.

Reading Summary Presentations (July 6, 13, 20 and 27)

Each student in the class will be assigned a small group and prepare a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation summary of one of the chapters from Wheeler and Beatley's *Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. The summary must identify the main focus of reading, the supporting evidence presented by the author(s), a short personal evaluation regarding your own opinions about the piece, and one discussion question to present to the class. The presentations will be scheduled to correspond with the week for which the specific reading is assigned.

Policy Memo (July 13)

Read the UN's *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and prepare a 2-page critical policy memo that identifies the key challenges, proposed solutions, and your own evaluation of the feasibility of the proposed solutions.

Case Study Website/StoryMap

This is the main assignment for the quarter. Groups consisting of four to five students will create websites or StoryMaps that provide a detailed case study of a Dutch example of sustainable planning, development and/or design. You may focus on a particular city or neighborhood, or a particular component of sustainability (affordable housing, green infrastructure, multi-modal transportation, etc.). The websites will combine written analysis along photographs, illustrations, and other visuals that enhance the narrative. Each group will give a 15-minute oral presentation of their website.

Weekly Reflections

Each student in the class will prepare a short, weekly reflection based on course readings, lectures, excursions and/or other special events. These will be submitted to Canvas.