URPL 5040: Urban Sustainability

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Course Overview

*Urban Sustainability* introduces the theory and practice of environmental planning and sustainable development. The course examines the complex interactions between natural, social and political systems and how they shape the form and function of cities, towns, and regions. Through assigned readings, lectures, in-class activities, and assignments, you will learn about a wide variety of topics important for planners concerned with urban sustainability and community resilience.

Learning Objectives

If you fully engage in this course, meaning that you 1) read and reflect on assigned materials, 2) actively participate in class discussions and activities, and 3) complete your assignments with care, you should understand:

- The historical and theoretical foundations of environmental planning and urban sustainability
- The tools planners use to achieve sustainability goals and objectives
- The concept of environmental justice and how it informs sustainability planning
- The major federal policies and programs that guide environmental planning
- Some of the natural systems and resources that environmental planners consider in their everyday practice
- Approaches and benefits to green infrastructure
- How communities analyze and plan for environmental risk, whether from natural hazards, contamination, or climate change
- What we can learn about sustainable urbanism from cities in the Global South