

## USP 569: Sustainable Cities and Regions

### Course Syllabus

Spring 2023

**Professor:** Dr. Aaron Golub; Office: URBN 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor USP suite; Email: [agolub@pdx.edu](mailto:agolub@pdx.edu)

**Class date and time:** Wednesdays, 6:40 to 9:20pm, April 5 to June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Note – hybrid course, **does not meet every week** - specific meeting calendar:

5-Apr	In-Person Introduction and kick-off
12-Apr	NO MEETING: Individual study
19-Apr	Online Synchronous Class: Review, Discussion, Group Work
26-Apr	In-Person Class: Presentation 1
3-May	NO MEETING: Individual study
10-May	Online Synchronous Class: Review, Discussion, Group Work
17-May	In-Person Class: Presentation 2
24-May	NO MEETING: Individual study
31-May	Online Synchronous Class: Review, Discussion, Group Work
7-Jun	In-Person Class: Presentation 3

**Classroom:** Vanport Building 265 (one block east of KMC)

**Modality:** Hybrid (4 in-person sessions, 3 remote synchronous sessions, 3 weeks no meetings) – see above.

**Office Hours:** Office Hours: Remote only via Google Meets -Various days and times arranged directly through my appointment scheduler – click and reserve a spot - no need to email me. <https://tinyurl.com/Golub-Appts>

### Course Description:

This course explores the questions of whether and how cities can be sustainable -- and how they can continue as places that sustain individuals, families, communities, cultures, economics, and nature. Basic technological and theoretical models of human-nature interaction will be considered, along with visionary possibilities for the future of cities and urban regions, globally and in Portland. Particular attention will be given to global-local interactions and to the strategies, programs, policies, and tools that can deliver sustainable and equitable development.

### **Course Materials:**

There is a no textbook for the course. A Canvas website is set up for the class. The site contains all assignments, required and optional readings outside of the textbook, and is where your completed assignments and discussion posts should be uploaded.

### **Software:**

For this course, you need access to some office productivity software for writing, web browsing and developing class presentation, graphics etc. This could be either web-based (e.g. Google) or computer-based (e.g. MS Office).

### **Objectives of the Course:**

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Define urban and regional sustainability according to the 3E's or P's and other definitions and frameworks of sustainability;
- Articulate why we focus on cities and regions as a scale, and particular salient practices for municipal actors like planning agencies, in terms of sustainability and equity;
- Reflect upon the cumulative impact of individual real estate projects, and the role of real estate developers, on urban and regional sustainability & justice;
- Understand the meaning of "critical sustainability and "greenwashing" and similar lenses, be able to critically assess real estate development and urban development projects from those lenses;
- Examine the connections between sustainability and equity, particularly through analyses of regional equity, residential segregation, environmental justice, environmental racism, eco-gentrification, and climate gentrification; and
- Articulate specific strategies for urban planning and real estate development (in the areas of land use and transportation, urban infill and suburban retrofit, climate action, water and green infrastructure, materials and waste, food systems, and urban nature) to contribute to more sustainable and equitable cities and regions.

In addition to mastering the course content, The School of Business expects all students to attain several key attributes, which will provide graduates with a better foundation for working in businesses of the future. While all learning goals are equally important, Equity and Sustainability Thinking, will be emphasized in this course, with teamwork and communication skills as secondary learning goals.

### **MRED Learning Goals:**

- 1. Teamwork and Leadership:** Graduates will demonstrate effective leadership and teamwork competencies, supported by high levels of emotional intelligence (e.g., self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and social management).
- 2. Critical Thinking:** Graduates will critically evaluate real estate development problems and opportunities, analyze those problems with appropriate quantitative and qualitative data analytic techniques, and prescribe and defend subsequent solutions.
- 3. Equity and Sustainability Thinking:** Graduates will have an equity and sustainability perspective (e.g., environmental stewardship, intergenerational resources, equitable opportunities, and access).

4. **Communication:** Graduates will effectively communicate complex information with a variety of stakeholders to increase knowledge and achieve objectives.

**Method of Instruction:**

This course is structured around in-person lectures, online readings and materials, personal reflections, discussions and student presentations. You are assigned readings and assignments through the CANVAS site. The instructor is expected to be prepared for class and the students should be prepared as well.

A lively discussion of various topics in class is encouraged. Your experiences and opinions are highly valued and add to the learning experience. Guest speakers will be invited to lectures to provide you with an exposure to the local real estate industry and real-life perspective. Real world examples and current real estate industry trends will be discussed in class so that you can gain deeper insights into the practical application of theoretical concepts.

As was already mentioned, this is a hybrid course taught with reduced scheduled in-person class meetings: there will be **four required in-person meetings with no remote option** and **three synchronous remote meetings**. Additional solo activities will be required each week during the term. Enrollment in this class serves as acknowledgement that you will need to be able to access the University's online delivery platform Canvas and any assigned supplemental web-based platforms (e.g. YouTube) and may be required to participate in live video conferences, collaborate digitally with classmates, and/or be remotely proctored during exams. These components are essential for creating an online learning environment that works with students' schedules while maintaining high academic rigor.

*Attendance in-person is required on the first day of class and then for three other lecture/presentation meetings. There will also be three required synchronous on-line meetings.* If you are not able to attend these sessions in person/synchronously, please contact the instructor before the start of the quarter. Absences are excused in case of personal emergency or illness – please make arrangements to catch-up on missed work with the professor as soon as possible.

**Grading Criteria:**

<i>Attendance at seven synchronous sessions</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Essays and discussion board posts</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>Presentation 1:</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Presentation 2:</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Presentation 3:</i>	<i>15%</i>

More detailed information and grading rubric will be included with each assignment.

**Grading Scale:**

Students will be graded on a relative performance basis. I use the following scale:

A-Grade	A	94 to 100%	C-Grade	C+	78 to 79.9%
	A-	90 to 93.9%		C	72 to 77.9%
B-Grade	B+	88 to 89.9%		C-	70 to 71.9%
	B	82 to 87.9%	D-Grade	D+	68 to 69.9%
	B-	80 to 81.9%		D	62 to 67.9%
				D-	60 to 61.9%
			F-Grade	F	Below 60%

**STUDENT RESOURCES AND POLICIES**

[Academic Misconduct](#)

[Accommodations/DRC](#)

[Attendance Policy](#)

[Basic Needs at Portland State](#)

[Diversity & Inclusion](#)

[Emergency Preparedness](#)

[How to Cite and Writing Guides](#)

[Lecture Recordings and Technology](#)

[Other Student Resources](#)

[Research Guides and Tutorials \(Library\)](#)

[Sexual Harassment](#)

[Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Title IX](#)

## SCHEDULE

Week	Unit	Date	Topic	Assignments
1		5-Apr	In-Person Introduction and kick-off	
2	Local environment, materials and climate	12-Apr	Individual study (no meeting)	
3		19-Apr	Online Synchronous Review, Discussion, Group Work	Discussion board posts and essay 1
4		26-Apr	In-Person Presentation 1	Presentation 1
5	Equity, inclusion, health and food systems	3-May	Individual study (no meeting)	
6		10-May	Online Synchronous Review, Discussion, Group Work	Discussion board posts and essay 2
7		17-May	In-Person Presentation 2 -	Presentation 2
8	Sustainable development	24-May	Individual study (no meeting)	
9		31-May	Online Synchronous Review, Discussion, Group Work	Discussion board posts and essay 3
10		7-Jun	In-Person Presentation 3	Presentation 3

## **STUDENT RESOURCES AND POLICIES OVERVIEW**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

You are expected to attend class regularly, either in person or remotely. However, all lectures will be recorded, so you can watch them if you had to miss class. I do not take attendance. Veterans must comply with attendance standards set by the VA. Athletes must provide their list of class conflicts before their first absence.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students are expected to be ethical not only in the classroom, but also out of the classroom. It is in all students' interest to avoid committing acts of academic dishonesty and to discourage others from committing such acts. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: engages in any form of academic deceit; refers to materials or sources or uses devices not authorized by the instructor for use during any quiz or assignment; provides inappropriate aid to another person in connection with any quiz or assignment; engages in Plagiarism.

Any academic misconduct, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aiding and abetting academic misconduct, falsification of records and documents, communication with fellow students during examination and quizzes and/or using the work of another student will immediately result in a failing grade for the course. Furthermore, students are not allowed to discuss the content of any test, quiz, or homework with anyone. Additional sanctions by The School of Business may also be imposed if it deems necessary.

Plagiarism is the act of claiming someone's work as your own through copying it without giving the creator of the work credit. Plagiarism can also include using another person's theories, ideas, or phrases without proper attribution. The simplest way to avoid plagiarizing is to always cite the sources from which you gather information or develop arguments – just cite anything you use from someone else (it actually makes your work stronger!). Plagiarism is a serious issue and is a violation of the PSU Student Conduct of Code. University policy requires instructors to report all instances of plagiarism and penalize the perpetrator(s) according to guidelines set. Please use the resources provided by the [PSU library](#) if you have any questions on how to cite.

### **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

**[Back to Overview](#)**

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu), <https://www.pdx.edu/drc>.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage (<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety>) for information.

## **TITLE IX**

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available. PSU has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and on-housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the Office of Equity and Compliance or the Office of the Dean of Student Life.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

As faculty, one of our responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that faculty have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals here: <https://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help>.

**[Back to Overview](#)**

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage(<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety>) for information.

### **STUDENT HEALTH AND COUNSELING (SHAC):**

The Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) is a community-based health care organization that provides high quality, accessible mental health, physical health, dental, and testing services targeted to the needs of the PSU student population. To make an appointment with SHAC, please call SHAC at 503.725.2800 or go directly to the clinic (1880 SW 6th Ave. UCB, Suite 200). Email address: [askshac@pdx.edu](mailto:askshac@pdx.edu)

### **BASIC NEEDS AT PORTLAND STATE:**

It can be challenging to do your best in class if you have trouble meeting basic needs like safe shelter, sleep, and nutrition. Resource centers across campus are here to provide assistance, referrals, and support. Please contact anyone on this list for assistance:

**Basic Needs Hub:** [basicneedshub@pdx.edu](mailto:basicneedshub@pdx.edu)

**Portland State Food Pantry:** [psufp.com](http://psufp.com); [pantry@pdx.edu](mailto:pantry@pdx.edu)

**C.A.R.E. Team:** [askdos@pdx.edu](mailto:askdos@pdx.edu); (503) 725-4422

### **OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES:**

- The Writing Center: <https://www.pdx.edu/writing-center/>
- Center for Student Health and Counseling: <https://www.pdx.edu/shac/>
- Diversity and Multicultural Student Services: <https://www.pdx.edu/dmss/>
- Financial Wellness Center: <https://www.pdx.edu/student-financial/financial-wellness-center>
- For information on food assistance and other resources: <https://www.pdx.edu/student-access-center/>

**[Back to Overview](#)**



## **LECTURE RECORDINGS**

We may use technology for lecture recordings in this course. Our use of such technology is governed by FERPA, the Acceptable Use Policy and PSU's Student Code of Conduct. A record of all meetings and recordings is kept and stored by PSU, in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy and FERPA.

All class recordings will be deleted at the end of the quarter.

Your instructor will not share recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, TAs/GAs/Mentors, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners that we may engage with.

You may not share recordings or edits or clips of the recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

### **Technology Requirements**

There are several moving parts in this attend remote courses. The following list of tools encompasses every type of technology you will encounter in this course when you are joining remotely. It is your responsibility to obtain access to these in advance of your first assignment or let me know of your limitations by the end of week 1.

- Functional webcam
- Microphone (internal or USB)
- Google Chrome browser
- Reliable internet connection

If you have technical questions/problems related to using D2L or obtaining an Odin account, contact the OIT Help Desk at [help@pdx.edu](mailto:help@pdx.edu) or by calling (503) 725-4357.

**[Back to Overview](#)**