

ENVR370 URBS370 **Urban Sustainability: Theory and Case Studies in Greece**

Course Instructor: Evangelia Chatzikonstantinou

No prerequisites required. Fieldtrips and educational visits are important part of the course.

Course Description



Ten years since the beginning of the great recession of 2008 and as the discourse of sustainability is entering its fourth decade there is a need to rethink urban sustainability critically and in context. Drawing on interdisciplinary work in urban studies, this course examines the sustainability debate from a variety of perspectives and analyzes the, often conflicting, social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable urban development. In order to problematize the relevant discussion and connect it with the production of urban space we will focus on specific case studies in Athens and attempt to unpack the contradictions that are connected with urban development and the use of natural resources. The course is organized into three parts.

During Part I (Intro) we will trace the roots of urban sustainability as a concept and policy agenda, the evolution of the term over time, and the methods that have been used to define it. We will discuss the transfer of the relevant discourse in different contexts in the global North and South and its appropriation in Greece, taking into account the history and the particularities of the European and Greek city, the environmental and planning policies and practices, and the local administrative structures.

During Part II (Socio-natural entanglements) we will discuss about urban environment, smart cities, sustainable mobility and landscape design and we will study the complex city-nature nexus in Athens, focusing on the relationship between the city and the sea. In order to gain a better understanding of the notion of 'urban metabolism' we will visit Athens waste water treatment plant on Psyttalia island and organize the main field trip and semester project of the course at the coastal zone of Attica.

Finally, during Part III (Politics of space) we will focus on the 'urban', a crucial but often missing part for understanding social transformations, analyze urban regeneration, green and tourist-led gentrification, short-term rentals and other processes that are particularly intense in Athens in the post-crisis period of austerity, and evaluate environmental and urban policies and projects using the perspectives covered in the course.

The aim of the course is to provide a framework for understanding current environmental and planning debates, while engaging in a critical discussion of the idea and practices of sustainable development. Through studying Athens, we investigate sustainability issues and challenges that apply to other cities and through a continuous comparison method we learn that sustainability is experienced and practiced in a variety of ways. In this context, most of the questions we will discuss force us to think comparatively, study social and ecological relations across spatial scales, and from the point of view of different social actors and stakeholders.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify the key concepts of sustainability and connect them with the current urban debates
- Reflect on the contradictions inherent in urban sustainability theory and 'best practices'
- Discuss and interpret urban plans and policies using the theoretical framework of sustainability
- Analyze the characteristics and the particularities of the European and Greek cities
- Compare environmental practices in different contexts. Identify commonalities and differences
- Examine the urban and environmental challenges in Athens in the post crisis period of austerity
- Evaluate the access to environmental 'goods' and exposure to environmental 'bads' in Athens

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory and an important aspect of the class. Students are expected to attend each class and arrive on time. Unexcused absences will be reflected in the final grades. In case of illness please inform the instructor and the Student Affairs Office. If you miss a class or arrive late, you are responsible for getting lecture notes from your classmates.

Participation in class and teamwork is crucial. Students are required to engage with the course materials in creative and critical ways. This is a discussion driven course. All questions, thoughts, arguments are welcome as long as they are thoughtful and mindful. Please turn-off cell-phones. Laptops are allowed for note-taking and referencing materials.

In-class activities: In addition to lectures, classes may include activities that supplement the course objectives, such as quick writes, group discussions, and role playing exercises.

Discussion Questions & Facilitation: Before the class, everyone is responsible for crafting one or more comments, questions or other brief responses related to each one of the assigned readings. You will need to post them to Moodle by 06.00pm the day before the class, so others have the chance to read over them before class. These comments will be also used by the discussion leaders to keep the discussion active. Everyone will be required to lead the course discussion at least once. All the readings, assignments, and handouts will be uploaded on the course's Moodle page.

2. Semester project:

The semester project will be introduced at the second part of the course. Its subject will be the study of the coastal zone of Attica. It will be organized in three parts:

- **Main Fieldtrip:** We will visit coastal areas with different characteristics. Students will be encouraged to understand the social and spatial characteristics of Attica coastal zone through direct observation or with the help of the secondary sources. The information collected will be used to assemble the Field Lab Project, the Poster and the short Essay.
- **Field Lab Project:** The class will break into groups to analyze and present what was found on the ground and propose ideas for the management / planning of the coastal zone of Attica based on experiences and practices implemented in coastal cities you have lived in and travelled to in the US or in cities you have visited in Europe and Greece (Nafplio, Kalamata, Thessaloniki).
- **Poster & short Essay:** In the short Essay (1000 words) you will describe the public space and the local particularities of the coastal zone of Attica and highlight the challenges and conflicts that should be considered in order to implement urban sustainability practices. The poster will include the main points of the short Essay as well as sketches, photos, maps and other visual material from the Attica coastal zone and from other coastal cities.

3. Essay Paper

on a topic of interest related to urban sustainability (2500 words). Note: All ideas and quotes that are not your own need to be properly cited. We will use the Chicago Manual of Style notes and bibliography documentation system.

4. Mid-term & Final Quiz

with short questions deriving from readings that we have discussed in class. At the end of the semester the lowest Quiz grade will be dropped and only the other one will be counted.

Grading

Grading will be used as recognition of work, engagement, capacity to communicate thoughts and work collectively. Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

1. Attendance & Participation	10%
Discussion Questions & Facilitation	15%
2. Semester Project	30%
3. Essay Paper	30%
4. Mid-term & Final Quiz	15%

General Grading Rubrics *

1. Attendance & Participation
 - A range participation requires the student to attend class and always contribute to the discussion with questions and comments that synthesize across readings and discussions.
 - B range participation requires the student to attend class, prepare the readings in advance and sometimes contributes to the discussion with the aforementioned ways.
 - C range indicates that the student attends class but fails to complete readings before class and participate in collective thinking.
 - D range happens when the student has excessive absences, is frequently late, and cannot participate in thoughtful discussions.

Discussion Questions & Facilitation

You will only be graded for writing your questions and comments on time. You will get an A if you post them all on time and you are well prepared to lead the discussion the assigned days and a D if there are more than two questions and responses missing and you lead the course discussion in such a manner as to convey that the reading was not actually done.

2. Semester Project

The Field Lab Project will be graded according to the ability to collect information, combine it with your experiences and work together in a way that enhances creativity and critical thinking. The short Essay will be graded on clear expression of ideas and use of correct bibliographic form. I will take into consideration in the Poster grade the different data collected and the way they are organized and displayed together in order to communicate your ideas.
3. Essay Paper
 - A range papers are very well organized, with a strong, clearly expressed point of view written and presented in a way that exceeds the parameters of the assignment.
 - B range papers will have a good argument, are clearly written and organized, and meet the parameters of the assignment.
 - C range papers show effort to complete the assignment, however, present organizational and argumentation problems and do not address some aspects of the assignment.
 - D range papers demonstrate very little effort, are shorter or extremely longer than anticipated, with serious organizational and argumentation problems.

All assignments submitted during the semester should be the original work of the student. Any excerpts from the work of others must be identified as a quotation, and a proper citation should be provided.

* Separate and detailed rubrics will be given in class

Class Schedule

* Note: Schedule will likely change to adapt to class needs. Time and location of the fieldtrips and the days that the guest speakers will visit us may need to change. Also, the reading list will be subject to change to benefit student learning. The latest version of the reading list will be uploaded on the course's Moodle page.

Date	Daily schedule/ Readings / Assignments
Part I – Intro	
1 Tue Jan 29 (Week I)	<p>What is urban sustainability? (INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION)</p> <p>Spirn, Anne Whiston. "City and Nature". In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i>, New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 113-115</p> <p>Vos, Robert O. "Defining sustainability: a conceptual orientation." <i>Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology</i> 82, no. 4 (2004): 334-339</p> <p style="color: orange;">*In-class Assignment</p>
2 Thu Jan 31 (Week I)	<p>Urban Sustainability (DOCUMENTARY & DISCUSSION)</p> <p>Rabinovitch, Jonas and Josef Leitman. "Urban Planning in Curitiba." In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i>, New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 237-248</p> <p>Beatley, Timothy. "Planning for Sustainability in European Cities: A review of Practice in Leading Cities." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 446-457</p> <p>Vale, Brenda and Robert Vale. "Principles of Green Architecture." In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 318-322</p>
3 Tue Feb 5 (Week II)	<p>The European city in history & the origins of sustainable planning (LECTURE)</p> <p>Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i>, New York: Routledge, 2004. (Ebenezer Howard, Lewis Mumford, Jane Jacobs, pp. 11-14, 15-19, 30-34)</p> <p>Olmsted, Frederic Law. "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 321-327</p> <p>Wheeler, M. Stephen. "Infill Development." In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 138-145</p>
4 Thu Feb 7 (Week II)	<p>The Greek city in history: Athens as a case study (LECTURE)</p> <p>Aureli, Pier Vittorio, Maria S. Giudici and Platon Issaias. "From Dom-ino to Polykatoikia." <i>Domus</i> 962 (2012).</p> <p>Lozano, Eduardo. "Density in Communities, or the Most Important Factor in Building Urbanity." In Larice, Michael and Elizabeth, Macdonald, eds. <i>The Urban Design Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2013. pp. 399-414</p> <p>Maloutas, Thomas and Spyros Spyrellis. Vertical social segregation in Athenian apartment building. In Maloutas Thomas and Spyros Spyrellis (eds). <i>Athens Social Atlas. Digital compendium of texts and visual material</i>. Available at: http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/en/article/vertical-segregation/</p> <p>Theocharopoulou, Ioanna. <i>Builders, Housewives and the Construction of Modern Athens</i>, London: Artifice Books on Architecture, 2017. pp. 9-18</p> <p style="color: orange;">*Essay topics</p>
Part II - Socio-natural entanglements	
5 Tue Feb 12	<p>Dimensions of Urban Sustainability (LECTURE)</p> <p>Hiroaki Suzuki, Arish Dastur, Sebastian Moffatt, Nanae Yabuki and Hinako Maruyama. "Cities and Transport." In <i>Eco2Cities. Ecological Cities as Economic Cities</i>. Washington DC: The World Bank, 2010. pp. 267-279</p> <p>Reid Ewing, Keith Bartholomew, and Arthur C. Nelson. Compactness vs. Sprawl. In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 130-137</p> <p>Lyle, John Tillman. "Waste as a recourse." In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley,</p>

		eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i> , New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 133-140
		Vale, Lawrence. "Resilient Cities: Clarifying Concept or Catch-all Cliché." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i> . New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 618-628
6	Thu Feb 14 (Week III)	Urban transport & sustainable mobility (INVITED SPEAKER: THANOS VLASTOS PROFESSOR OF URBAN & TRANSPORT PLANNING AT NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS) John Pucher and Ralph Buehler. "Cycling for Everyone: Lessons from Europe." In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i> . New York: Routledge, 2004. pp.168-178
7	Tue Feb 19 (Week IV)	Smart City Planning: the case of Trikala (INVITED SPEAKER, MUNICIPALITY OF TRIKALA) Sassen, Saskia. "The Impact of New Technologies and Globalization in Cities. In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i> . New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 554-562 Picon, Antoine. <i>Smart Cities. A Spatialized Intelligence</i> . Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2015. pp. 9-30 Morozov, Evgeny and Francesca Bria. <i>Rethinking the Smart City. Democratizing Urban Technology</i> . New York: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung New York Office, 2018.
8.	Thu Feb 21 (Week IV)	The Waste water treatment plant of Athens, Psyttalia Island (VISIT) Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Planning Works. <i>Waste water treatment plant – Psyttalia</i> . Athens: 2004 Roseland, Mark. <i>Toward Sustainable Communities. Resources for Citizens and their Governments</i> . Stony Creek, CT: New Society Publishers, 2012. pp. 60-73
9	Tue Feb 26 (Week V)	Designing urban nature and landscape: the Lycabettus program (INVITED SPEAKER: MARIA KALTSI, ARCHITECT-URBAN DESIGN CONSULTANT TO THE MAYOR OF ATHENS) Madanipour, Ali. "Introduction," "The Changing Nature of Public Space in City Centres," and "Whose Public Space?" In Larice, Michael and Elizabeth, Macdonald, eds. <i>The Urban Design Reader</i> . New York: Routledge, 2013. pp. 443-458 Steiner, Frederick. "Landscape Ecological Urbanism." In Wheeler, M. Stephen and Timothy Beatley, eds. <i>The Sustainable Urban Development Reader</i> . New York: Routledge, 2004. pp. 190-194 Iles, Jeremy. "The Social Role of Community Farms and Gardens in the City" & Giradet, Herbert. "Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Urban Development" In Viljoen, André, Katrin Bohn, and Joe Howe, eds. <i>Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes: Designing Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities</i> . Oxford: Architectural Press, 2005. pp. 32-39, 83-88
		*Essay structure and main sources
10	Thu Feb 28 (Week V)	Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (VISIT) 2017 Sustainability Report, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre, https://www.snfcc.org/sites/default/files/sitefiles_2018-08/snfcc_sustainability_report_2017_b.pdf
11	Tue Mar 05 (Week VI)	The coastal zone of Attica (LECTURE) & Midterms Gehl, Jan. "Three Types of Outdoor Activities," "Living Between Buildings," and "Outdoor Activities and the Quality of Outdoor Space." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i> . New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 530-540
12	Thu Mar 07 (Week VI)	The coastal zone of Attica: Urban projects, public space and everyday life (SEMESTER PROJECT FIELDTRIP) Markou Maria. "Renovation projects at Faliro Bay." In Maloutas Thomas and Spyros Spyrellis (eds). <i>Athens Social Atlas. Digital compendium of texts and visual material</i> . Available at: http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/en/article/faliro-bay/ Jonas, E. J. Andrew and Aidan While. "Greening the Entrepreneurial City? Looking for Spaces of Sustainability Politics in the Competitive City". In the Krueger, Rob and David Gibbs (eds). <i>The Sustainable Development Paradox. Urban Political Economy in the United States and Europe</i> . New York, London: The Guilford Press, 2007. pp. 123-159

	Tue Mar 12	Peloponnese fieldtrip
	Tue Mar 14	Peloponnese fieldtrip
13	Tue Mar 19 (Week VII)	<p>Environmental politics and the Greek cities (INVITED SPEAKER: NIKOS CHRYSOGELOS, POLITICIAN - GREENS: SOLIDARITY, DEVELOPMENT, ECOLOGY. We will meet at the WELCOMMON HOSTEL, a hostel run by the social cooperative <i>Wind of Renewal: Social Cooperative Enterprise for Social and Green Economy, Innovation and Culture</i>)</p> <p>Lekakis, N. Joseph and Kousis Maria. "Economic Crisis, Troika and the Environment in Greece." <i>South European Society and Politics</i> 18, no. 3 (2013): 305-33</p>
14	Thu Mar 21 (Week VII)	<p>Field Lab Project: Public space and everyday life at the coastal zone of Attica</p> <p>Cook, Ian R. and Erik Swyngedouw. "Cities, Nature and Sustainability." In Paddison, Ronan and Eugene McCann, eds. <i>Cities & Social Change. Encounters with Contemporary Urbanism</i>. Singapore: Sage, 2014. pp. 211-225</p> <p>* Essay progress</p>
Part III - Politics of Space		
15	Tue Mar 26 (Week VIII)	<p>Challenges in contemporary urban planning: the case of Athens (LECTURE)</p> <p>Klosterman, Richard E. "Arguments For and Against Planning." In Susan Fainstein and James Defilippis, eds. <i>Readings in Planning Theory</i>. Malden, Oxford, Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2016. Available at: http://www.urban-is.de/Annex/HTML/Kap1/F%FCr&Wider-Planung/Klosterman-for&against_planning.pdf</p> <p>Phokaidis, Petros, Polyzou Iris, and Loukas Triantis. "Reconsidering the Greater Urbanism Agenda: Crisis, Planning and Architecture in Metropolitan Athens." <i>Monu</i> 19 (2013).</p> <p>Pagonis, Athanasios. "The evolution of metropolitan planning policy in Athens over the last three decades: Linking shifts in the planning discourse with institutional changes and spatial transformation." Proceedings of the international conference on Changing Cities. Volos: University of Thessaly, 2013</p> <p>Alexandri, Georgia. "Gentrification in the neighbourhoods of the Athenian centre". In Maloutas Thomas and Spyros Spirellis (eds). <i>Athens Social Atlas, Digital compendium of texts and visual material</i>. Available at: http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/en/article/gentrification/</p>
16	Thu Mar 28 (Week VIII)	<p>Integrated planning tools: the case of Greek Cities (INVITED SPEAKER: PASCHALIS SAMARINIS: ARCHITECT & URBAN PLANNER, PHD IN URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES)</p> <p>* Essay and Poster progress</p>
17	Tue Apr 2 (Week IX)	<p>Athens in Crisis: Socio and environmental transformations and conflicts (LECTURE)</p> <p>Chatzikonstantinou, Evangelia and Fereniki Vatavali. "Energy Deprivation and Emerging Geographies of Crisis in Athens: Challenges and Conflicts in Apartment Buildings." In Katrin Großmann and André Schaffrin, eds. <i>Energie und soziale Ungleichheit: Zur Gesellschaftlichen Dimension der Energiewende in Deutschland und Europa</i>. Wiesbaden: Springer Vs, 2017. pp. 185-207</p> <p>Chatzikonstantinou, Evangelia and Fereniki Vatavali. "Mapping Energy Poverty in Athens during the Crisis." In Maloutas Thomas and Spyros Spirellis (eds) <i>Athens Social Atlas, Digital compendium of texts and visual material</i>. Available at: http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/en/article/energy-poverty/</p> <p>Dalakoglou, Dimitris and Yannis Kallianos. "Infrastructural Flows, Interruptions and Stasis in Athens of the Crisis." In Brekke, Jaya Klara, Dimitris Dalakoglou, Christos Filippidis and Antonis Vradis (eds). <i>Crisis-Scapes Athens and beyond</i>. Athens: Synthesi print, 2014. pp. 23-31</p> <p>Maloutas, Thomas. "The archaeology of the Decline of the City Center: Residential Location Choices of Affluent Groups." In Walsh Aylwyn and Myrto Tsilimpounidi, eds. <i>Remapping 'Crisis': A Guide to Athens</i>. Alresford Zero Books. pp. 26-42</p> <p>Siatitsa, Dimitra. "Changes in Housing and Property under the Austerity Regime in Greece." In Schöning Barbara and Sebastian Schipper (eds). <i>Urban Austerity. Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on Cities in Europe</i>. Berlin: Theater der Zeit, 2016. pp. 145-160</p>
18	Thu Apr 4 (Week IX)	<p>Spaces of crisis in Athens. An everyday life perspective (INVITED SPEAKER: NTINA VAIYOU, PROFESSOR OF URBAN ANALYSIS & GENDER STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING, NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS)</p>

		<p>Vaiou, Dina. "Is the crisis in Athens(also) gendered? Facets of access and (in)visibility in everyday public spaces. <i>City: analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, Action</i> 18, no.4-5 (2014), 533-537</p> <p>Harvey, David. "Alienation and Urban Life." In Brekke, Jaya Klara, Dimitris Dalakoglou, Christos Filippidis and Antonis Vradis (eds). <i>Crisis-Scapes Athens and beyond</i>. Athens: Synthesi print, 2014. pp. 195-204</p> <p>Madanipour Ali. "Social Exclusion and Space." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 203-211</p>
	Tue Apr 9	Northern Greece I Thessaloniki
	Tue Apr 11	Northern Greece I Thessaloniki
19	Tue Apr 16 (Week X)	<p>Current urban transformations, gentrification and displacement (LECTURE)</p> <p>Atkinson Rowland and Gary Bridge. <i>Gentrification in a Global Context: The New Urban Colonialism</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2005</p> <p>Forester, John. "Planning in the Face of Conflict." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2011. Pp 421-434</p> <p>Harvey, David. "Contested Cities: Social Processes and Spatial Form." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2011. pp. 230-237</p> <p>Florida, Richard. "The Creative Class." In LeGates, T. Richard and Frederic Stout, eds. <i>The City Reader</i>. New York: Routledge, 2016. pp.163-169</p> <p><i>* Essay and Poster progress</i></p>
20	Thu Apr 18 (Week XI)	<p>Gentrification research, methods and case studies (INVITED SPEAKER: ARES KALANTIDES, PROFESSOR OF PLACE MANAGEMENT, MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY)</p>
	Tue Apr 23	Spring Recess
	Tue Apr 25	Spring Recess
21	Tue Apr 30 (Week X)	<p>Gentrification processes in Athens: The area of Metaxourgeio (VISIT)</p> <p>Giannakopoulos, Kostas. "Metaxourgio / Keramikos and Gazi: Gentrification and multiculturalism in new residents' discourse." In Maloutas Thomas and Spyros Spirellis (eds). <i>Athens Social Atlas, Digital compendium of texts and visual material</i>. Available at: https://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/en/article/gentrification-discourse/</p> <p>Alexandri, Georgia. "Reading between the Lines; Gentrification Tendencies and Issues of Urban Fear in the midst of Athens' Crisis." <i>Urban Studies</i> 52 (2015): 1631-1646</p>
	Thu May 2	Student Conference
22	Tue May 7 (Week XII)	<p>Poster Presentation and discussion</p> <p><i>* Essay and poster submission</i></p>
23	Thu May 9 (Week XII)	Touristification in Athens: everyday life and housing markets (VISIT)
24	Tue May 14	Final Quiz