**Sustainable Cities in a Comparative Perspective**

New York University  
Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
URPL-GP 2613  
Fall 2014  
Wednesday, 4:55-6:35 PM  
Location: 25W4, Room C-20

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: Thursday, 4-6 PM or by appointment.

**Course Description**

According to estimates by the United Nations, between 2000 and 2030 the share of the world's population living in urban areas will increase from 47% to 60%, with the fastest growing cities located in developing countries. This course examines the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability in cities. Policies and programs that try to address the challenges of sustainability from both developed and developing countries are studied and compared. Opportunities for avoiding unsustainable practices in developing countries through the use of modern technologies are also analyzed. Some of the major themes explored in the context of the sustainability of cities are indicators of sustainability, demographic trends, urban poverty and slums, green building, urban sprawl, global climate change, and sustainable energy and transportation policies.

**Course Readings**

Three books are required for the course. They are available at the NYU Bookstore (located at 726 Broadway, New York, NY 10003). The books are:

These books will also be available in the Course Reserves Desk, on Lower Level 2 of Bobst Library, or electronically through the NYU library.

An additional set of required and suggested readings from academic journals, the Internet and various media sources will be listed on blackboard.

**Class Assignments and Grading**

1. Four short assignments (40%)

2. Final Assignment (50%)

The final assignment will consist of a critique of a sustainable city plan.

3. Class attendance and class participation (10%)

**Schedule of Lectures**

1. September 3. Introduction to sustainable urban development and the sustainability framework
2. September 10. Trends in urban population growth and urbanization
3. September 17. Urban areas and global climate change
4. September 24. Urban areas and global climate change
5. October 1. Measuring sustainability and indicators of sustainable urban development
6. October 8. Measuring sustainability and indicators of sustainable urban development
7. October 15. Urban sprawl and smart growth
8. October 22. Environmental justice, social equity and social dimensions of sustainability
9. October 29. Green buildings and green roofs
10. November 5. Urban parks and urban farming
11. November 12. Sustainable transportation
12. November 19. Sustainable energy use