SYLLABUS Fall 2021 SUSTAINABLE CITIES/URBAN GEOGRAPHY ONLINE Wednesdays, 4:00pm-6:46pm

GEOG 480/GEOS 580, ONLINE: 3 Credit Hours



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Margaret. M. Gripshover ("Dr. G."), Professor

https://www.wku.edu/geoweb/staff/margaret_gripshover

OFFICE: WKU Bowling Green Campus, EST 309. NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person

office hours will be conducted this semester.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COURSE: GEOG 480/GEOS 580 will be offered online for Fall 2021. What this means is that the lectures, assignments, and exams will NOT be "in-person." All the material for this class will be delivered to you online via Blackboard.

- The course is divided into three units. Each unit includes lectures, an individual assignment, and an exam. The lectures consist of a set of PowerPoint (PPT) presentations for each unit. You can view the lecture material for each unit any time prior to the day of each exam.
- We will NOT meet in-person during our scheduled class time (Wednesdays, 4:00pn-6:45pm) for lectures.
- ALL EXAMS (except the final exam) will be administered ONLINE via Blackboard DURING the SCHEDULED CLASS TIME. Tests will begin at 4:00pm and end at 6:00pm (see "Calendar of Events" below).
- If you have schedule conflicts of any kind (e.g., other classes, work, childcare, etc.) and are unable to take the exams during the scheduled time, then you should NOT take this class. If you have a job, make a note of the exam dates for this class and plan accordingly with your employer. No make-up exams will be administered because of your schedule conflicts---no exceptions.
- This is a project-driven class. Most of your time will be devoted to individual research projects that relate to the lecture and reading materials.
- NOTE: During the semester, there is a possibility that we will be able to meet outdoors, in small groups, on campus, and/or in downtown Bowling Green. This is dependent upon the COVID-19 situation and safety protocols, and at the discretion of the professor. If any field experiences are scheduled, they will be announced in advance and will be optional activities. You will not be penalized if you are unable to participate.
- Throughout the semester, you should get into a regular routine and use the time that we would have met in-person on Wednesday afternoons to view the PowerPoint lectures on Blackboard and to work on your research assignments (see "Calendar of Events" below).
- Check the Blackboard Announcements every Wednesday at 4:00pm for the latest updates and news. Dr. G. will post announcements on Blackboard to help keep you on track. It is your responsibility to read the announcements and stay on track for a successful semester.
- All times stated in this syllabus are based on Central Time.

This is a very long and detailed syllabus. It is designed to help you successfully navigate the course from start to finish. If you need any help, email Dr. G. But don't worry---this is a great class and Dr. G. has taught this course online many times. If you need any assistance, the originally scheduled time slot for this class will be set aside for Dr. G.'s virtual office hours. Additional office hour times are available upon request. Dr. G. is always happy to help!

OFFICE HOURS: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. G. will not be holding "in-person" office hours. Virtual "office hours" will be held during our originally scheduled class meeting times on Wednesdays, from 4:00pm through 6:45pm. You can "meet" with Dr. G. via email. Dr. G. will be available during those times to answer questions, address any concerns you might have, or just to chat! Additional office hour times are available upon request. Don't be shy about taking advantage of Dr. G.'s virtual "office hours."

Dr. G. is always happy to help!

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: There is no required textbook that you need to purchase for this course. All reading assignments, including the book-length document called *Pathways to Urban Sustainability*, will be available online via Blackboard under "Course Documents," or from web links embedded in the syllabus and/or the Blackboard "Announcements" page.

REQUIRED WEBSITE: Although there is no traditional textbook (hooray—save that money!), **you are required to subscribe to** *Planetizen*, which will serve as an important source for urban data, research, and news this semester. *Planetizen* is a clearinghouse for news about cities and urban planning and sustainability. It also posts the latest job opportunities in urban-related fields. Just go to the homepage (scroll down to the bottom of the page) and sign up for the free "**Newswire**" service (delivered to your email account).

Planetizen: https://www.planetizen.com/.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course explores the consequences of urban development and the essentials of sustainable urbanism. Topics include the environmental and human costs of urbanization, sustainability principles and their implementation, urban landscape change, mobility, and urban responses to climate change. We will examine the nature and evolution of cities and engage in critical analyses of urbanization and sustainability from a variety of perspectives---environmental, cultural, historical, economic, and social. During the semester we will also consider cities in their geographic contexts, and their relationships to suburban and non-metropolitan areas from local to global scales. One of the main themes this semester is "adaptive reuse"---how cities are constantly reinventing and reshaping their identities, landscapes, and built environments. We will primarily use the city of Bowling Green as our urban geography laboratory and research site. Field experiences and field research are normally a requirement for this course. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, field work will be conducted on an individual basis and will not require that you be in Bowling Green.

Note: This course fulfills a requirement for majors in the Geography and Environmental Studies major, and the Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies program.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED: Your final grade will reflect your performance on three exams and three assignments. Exams typically consist of questions drawn from the online lecture material, videos, readings, assignments, and online discussions. There are 400 possible points that can be earned in the course.

- There are three exams worth 100 points each for a total of 300 points. The exam format typically includes short answer, and essay questions.
- There are three assignments, and, when added together, are worth 100 points, equal to one exam. The assignments are series of three individual research projects, spread throughout the semester.
- **GRADUATE STUDENTS:** Students enrolled in **GEOS 530,** which meets concurrently with GEOG 480, will be evaluated with higher expectations than undergraduates, and will be asked to perform additional work on assignments and exams for graduate credit.

The following is the point scale used to calculate your final grade in the class.

400-360 = A 359-320 = B 319-280 = C 279-240 = D239-0 = F

**** IMPORTANT: READ AND ABIDE BY THE EXAM POLICY! **** EXAM POLICY:

All exams are timed and closed book. You are on your honor to abide by these rules.

- The WKU Code of Conduct will be fully enforced. Failure to adhere to the code will result in an automatic "F" for the course.
- You can take the exam at home or at any location you choose during the scheduled exam time. You do NOT need to go to a testing center to take the exam. But you must take the exam at the scheduled time. No exceptions.

- All three exams will be accessed via Blackboard and emailed to Dr. G. The same goes for all three assignments.
- Be aware of due dates! Enter them in your calendar today!
- Exams include short answer and essay questions.
- Exams will be available online (via Blackboard) only. The first two exams will begin at 4:00pm and end at 6:00pm. After you complete each exam, you will email the test back to Dr. G as a Word (or PDF) document attachment.
- The final exam is Wednesday, December 8, 2021, from 3:45pm until 5:45pm.
- Exams that are returned to Dr. G. via email and time-stamped after the exam has ended, will be subject to **major point deductions.**
- No make-up exams will be granted because you missed the time for the test or could not get internet access to either open or return your exam.
- Make-up exams will be granted only at the discretion of the instructor. No make-up exams will be administered without a WKU-approved excuse. At least 48-prior notice is required, no exceptions. Conflicts with your work schedule/employment obligations are not acceptable excuses for missing an exam. No exceptions.

FINAL EXAM: There is no make-up or rescheduling for the final exam.

• No accommodations will be made for rescheduling the final or submitting late work after the final exam has concluded. No exceptions.

FYI: An "A" requires extra effort and to earn one is a great honor. Doing the bare minimum will not result in an "A"---not even a "B"! Students who earn "A's" are attentive to detail, always keep up with deadlines, score the highest on exams, and put extra effort into their assignments. Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to an online course. You really have to focus on the Blackboard "lectures" and resources. Also, since this is an online class, you need to be honest with yourself—if you know you have conflicting obligations, lack self-discipline, or do not thrive in an online learning environment, this may not be the class for you.

NOTE: Just because you are on the borderline between two letter grades does not mean you will be automatically moved up to the next grade level. The points you earn will determine your grade. Do not expect to receive a grade higher than what you have earned. Do not ask for a grade higher than the grade you have earned; your wish will not be granted.

CLASS DECORUM:

- Although this is an online class, manners and respect for others still matters! Please be respectful of others during online conversations.
- If we have a field experience this semester (unlikely, but a possibility), and even though we will be outdoors, properly worn face masks (following WKU COVID-19 protocols) will be required.
- It is understood that all students have read the WKU student "Code of Conduct" and will abide by these rules: http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php.
- **Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations** and students should familiarize themselves with these issues. http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php. For further information, take a look at this explanation of plagiarism from the Department of English: http://people.wku.edu/jan.garrett/dptengpl.htm.

DEPARTMENT of Earth, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences Policy:

The Department strictly adheres to University policies, procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will the deadline be waived. The Student Schedule Exceptional Appeal Form shall be used to initiate all waivers. This form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, and undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstances.

EXTRA CREDIT: There are NO extra credit options available for individual students to improve their grades. No exceptions.

LATE WORK: Late work will be penalized but it is better to submit something late than not at all.

WKU COVID-19 STATEMENT

All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in Kentucky, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center (SARC): 270-745-5004 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 270-288-0597 (video). All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

ADA ACCOMODATION

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

TITLE IX/DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC). The Center's telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the SARC.

WRITING ASSISTANCE: The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: It may seem odd to have an attendance policy for an online class but this is a policy that is self-enforced. You should discipline yourself to devote to an average of three to four hours per week to this course. There is a large amount of material to absorb so try to spread out your learning experience so you do not become overwhelmed. Your assignments may also take more time than you might think because most of them involve some research and creativity that cannot be done at the last minute. Do not underestimate the amount of time it will take to complete your assignments or prepare for the exam.

NOTE: This syllabus functions like a contract. By remaining enrolled in this class it is understood that it is your responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to the policies herein. The professor will inform you as to any policy or scheduling changes and it is your responsibility to make these adjustments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS* COURSE DATES:

August 25, 2021 (first class) through December 8, 2021 (final exam)

GEOG 480/GEOS 580: SEMESTER AT A GLANCE:

The following list includes important dates for this semester!

To improve your chances for success in this course, enter these important dates in your calendar!

August 25, 2021: First class day for GEOG 480/GEOS 580.

August 30, 2021: Last day to register for a full-time course load. Last day to drop a class without a grade. Last day to change a class from audit to credit. Last day to receive 100% refund for a class.

August 31, 2021: \$50 schedule change fee begins.

September 6, 2021 (Monday): Labor Day Holiday, WKU Closed

September 28, 2021 (Tuesday): Assignment I due. Email to Dr. G. no later than September 28, 2021, 6:00pm Central.

September 29, 2021 (Wednesday): Exam I, online via Blackboard, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. October 14-15, 2021 (Thursday, Friday): Fall Break, No Class Meetings

November 1, 2021: Last day to drop full-semester classes with a "W." Last day to change a class from credit to audit.

November 2, 2021 (Tuesday): Assignment II due. Email to Dr. G. no later than Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 6:00pm Central.

November 3, 2021 (Wednesday): Exam II, online via Blackboard, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

November 24-26, 2021 (Wednesday-Friday): Thanksgiving Holiday, WKU Closed

November 30, 2021 (Tuesday): Assignment III due, email to Dr. G. no later than Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 6:00pm Central.

December 3, 2021 (Friday): Roster freeze date. No late add or withdrawals after this date.

December 8, 2021 (Wednesday): Exam III (Final Exam) online via Blackboard, from 3:45pm to 5:45pm.

UNIT ONE: August 25, 2021—September 29, 2021

WEEK ONE

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Note: What follows is a **suggested pace of work**. Follow the **weekly schedule** below for the completion of each Unit. It is ultimately up to you to decide how fast or slow you wish you to go. But try not to "binge watch" the lectures. **Take your time—there is a lot of material to absorb and consider.**

VIEW: PPT Lecture: "Getting Started"

This PPT includes an introduction to the course, a review of our course objectives, course requirements, exam and grading policies, etc.

DOWNLOAD: Assignment One

Helpful Hints: Download a copy of Assignment One.

Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to your assignments, which involves original research on a real-world problem. Also, many test questions will be based on the assignments. If at any time you have a question, do not hesitate—contact Dr. G.!

SIGN UP: Planetizen News "Newswire"

Go to www.planetizen.com

Sign up for their newsletters to be sent directly to your email address. This website will be important resource that we will use all semester. Take some time to explore *Planetizen*. The website will be helpful to you throughout the semester, plus it includes employment opportunities for urban professionals.

Important: Each week, you should read and take notes on at least one article. On each assignment, you will list the *Planetizen* articles you chose to review, and, on each exam, you will be asked to discuss your reactions to at least one of these articles.

WEEK TWO

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

VIEW: PPT Lecture: "Introduction to Urban Geography and Sustainability"

In this lecture, This discussion should help you to understand how geographers have changed their approaches to studying urban problems since the 1940s, when the first generation of urban geographers started to publish their research. We will also discuss how, beginning in the 1990s, urban geographers started to include sustainability topics in their research.

WEEK THREE

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

READ: Pathways to Urban Sustainability, pp. vii-13 and

"Geographical Leadership, Sustainability, and Urban Education," (Andrew Kirby 2013) Both are available via "Course Documents," on the Blackboard page.

Helpful Hints: When you read the assigned section in the Pathways book, you can skip over the long list of people on pages viii and ix. Skim through the acronym list, but don't worry about memorizing them! They will prove helpful as you read through the book. Pay special attention to the Summary section, especially the "Roadmap" on page 3. For the Kirby article, watch for the terms shown in bold—those are important as we build our urban sustainability vocabulary.

VIEW: PPT Lecture: A Road Map to Urban Sustainability

This lecture focuses on the principles of urban sustainability as outlined in the *Pathways* book.

WEEK FOUR

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

READ: "UN: Sustainable Cities, Why They Matter." (UN 2020) This article is available via "Course Documents," on the Blackboard page.

Helpful Hints: This very brief article raises the issue of sustainability in the age of COVID-19. Think about how the cities with which you are familiar with have been impacted by the pandemic.

VIEW: PPT Lecture: Sustainability: Live Local, Think Global

In this lecture, we will look at examples of how issues such as geographic scale, globalization, environmental degradation, and other factors play a role in the implementation and effectiveness of urban sustainability practices.

WEEK FIVE

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Research Week: Use "Week Five" to get caught up on your readings, the PPT lectures, and to finish your research for Assignment One. If you need any assistance, do not hesitate to ask for help---but don't wait until it is too late!

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

DUE: ASSIGNMENT ONE

Email your completed Assignment One as a Word document (or PDF) attachment to Dr. G. no later than Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 6:00pm Central.

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

EXAM DAY! The first exam will be administered online via Blackboard from 4:00pm until 6:00m. Download a copy of the test at 4:00pm, save your work, and return your completed exam to Dr. G. as a Word document (or PDF) attachment no later than 6:00pm. Late submissions will be heavily penalized!

UNIT TWO: OCTOBER 6, 2021 through NOVEMBER 3, 2021

WEEK SEVEN

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

READ: *Pathways to Urban Sustainability*, "Urban Sustainability Indicators and Metrics," pp. 14-25 and *Adaptive Use Guidelines*, (University of Washington 2005)

Both are in "Course Documents," on Blackboard.

Helpful Hints: As you read the **Pathways** chapter, think about the ways that sustainability outcomes can be measured. Be sure to spend some time on the diagram on page 18. Would you be able to explain the "overlapping sustainability dimensions" on the next exam?

The "Adaptive Use Guidelines," is an example of a real-world application of such principles and roadmaps. It is document that details how one community in the Seattle area developed a sustainability plan. Think of it as more of a recipe, rather than a typical reading assignment. It has all the ingredients and directions that the community needed to bake their sustainability plan! ©

DOWNLOAD: Assignment Two

Helpful Hints: Download a copy of Assignment Two. Read the directions carefully and you can get started! **Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to the assignment,** which involves original research. Also, some questions on the second exam will be based on this assignment. If at any time you have a question, do not hesitate—contact Dr. G.!

VIEW: PPT Lecture: "Urban Sustainability Indicators & Metrics: Green with Measuring"

The second chapter in the Pathways book forms the structure for this lecture. If you haven't read second chapter yet, you should do so before viewing the PPT to maximize your comprehension and retention of the material.

WEEK EIGHT

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

READ: Pathways to Urban Sustainability, "Principles of Urban Sustainability: A Roadmap for Decision Making," pp. 27-39.

Helpful Hints: As you read the assigned pages in **Pathways**, be sure that you understand the five principles for urban sustainability, as well as the concept of an "Urban Sustainability Roadmap."

VIEW: PPT Lecture: "You Can Get There from Here: A Roadmap for Sustainability"

Time to take out the "Roadmap" and explore the four principles of urban sustainability and see how they work in the real world!

WEEK NINE

October 20, 2021

VIEW: PPT Lecture: "Brewing Up Some Adaptive Reuse: How Craft Brewers and Others are Recycling the Built Environment"

Three cheers for this lecture that examines how craft brewers and other businesses have embraced adaptive reuse and are "recycling" the urban landscape. You might even see some examples that are similar to what you have found in your research on adaptive reuse.

WEEK TEN

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

RESEARCH WEEK: Use this time to get caught up on your readings, lecture reviews, and especially your second assignment which is due next week! If you need help with your assignment, Dr. G. is just an email away—but don't wait until the last minute to ask for assistance!

WEEK ELEVEN

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 DUE: ASSIGNMENT TWO

Email your completed Assignment Two as a Word document (or PDF) attachment to Dr. G. no later than Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 6:00pm Central.

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

EXAM DAY! The first exam will be administered online via Blackboard from 4:00pm until 6:00m. Download a copy of the test at 4:00pm, save your work, and return your completed exam to Dr. G. as a Word document (or PDF) attachment no later than 6:00pm. Late submissions will be heavily penalized!

UNIT THREE: NOVEMBER 10, 2021 through DECEMBER 8, 2021

WEEK TWELVE

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

READ: Pathways to Urban Sustainability, "City Profiles," and "A Path Forward," pp. 40-133. **Helpful Hints:** Yes, these seems like a very long reading assignment, but it is the biggest chapter in the book and includes detailed sustainability plans for nine U.S. cities, all the way from Los Angeles to Flint. It is also the only reading assignment for this unit (Hooray!). You don't have to read it all at once. Try to break it up by reading about one city at a time

DOWNLOAD: Assignment Three

Helpful Hints: Download a copy of Assignment Three. Read the directions carefully and you can get started! **Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to your research!** If at any time you have a question, do not hesitate—contact Dr. G. But do not wait until it is too late—time is running out and this assignment requires a lot of work!

VIEW: PPT Lecture: Applied Sustainable Practices: Recycling the Urban Landscape

This lecture explores how cities have implemented sustainable practices and the social, economic, and environmental consequences of these actions.

WEEK THIRTEEN

Wednesday November 17, 2021

VIEW: PPT Lecture: Sustainability and Social Justice

This lecture examines the intersection between sustainability practices and policies and social justice. Unfortunately, cities have not always developed with social justice in mind and not all citizens have been treated equally.

WEEK FOURTEEN

***** 🎾 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, NO CLASESES, WKU CLOSED 💓 *****

WEEK FIFTEEN

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

DUE: Email your Assignment Three PowerPoint slide (as a PDF attachment) to Dr. G. no later than Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 6:00pm Central.

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

VIEW: PICTURE THIS: ADAPTIVE REUSE THROUGH YOUR EYES

This is the last lecture before the final exam and will consist of PPT slides submitted from you and your classmates and include one example of adaptive research from your individual research projects. Helpful Hint: Be sure to review all readings, lectures notes, and your assignment before reviewing the "Study Guide for Exam III," which is on the Blackboard page. A word of caution: Do not rely solely on the study guide! Think of the study guide more as an affirmational tool. It should be the last thing that you look at to be sure that you have a comprehensive understanding of the material. Not all questions on the test are from the study guide.

WEEK SIXTEEN

Wednesday, December 8, 2021: 3:45pm to 5:45pm

FINAL EXAM DAY!

The final exam will be administered online via Blackboard from 3:45pm to 5:45pm. Download a copy of the test at 3:45pm, save your work, and return your completed exam to Dr. G. as a Word document (or PDF) attachment no later than 5:45pm. Late submissions will be heavily penalized! Good luck, happy holidays, and thank you so much for sharing this semester with Dr. G.!