

Development and Sustainability in the Americas

Professor Agustin Leon-Moreta, PhD

Fall 2017

Class Sessions: Dane Smith Hall (DSH) 224, Thursday 4:00-6:30 pm

Office Hours: Friday, 3:30-5:30 pm. Alternative times available by appointment.

Address: Social Sciences 3010

Phone: (505) 277 1092

E-mail: apleonmoreta@unm.edu

RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

PADM 500 Public Management & Policy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economic development and sustainability are major policy challenges across Latin America and the United States. In this course, we study urban development and sustainability, and public policies to deal with both. Urban development, coupled with inadequate urban planning, is creating a variety of challenges, including the deterioration of the natural environment and agricultural land, limited water infrastructure, and pollution of rivers and coastal aquifers in many cities of the Americas. Urban sustainability has therefore become a central issue for research and policy. Americas' populations, today, live mostly in cities rather than in rural areas. So the most intractable policy problems relate to urban issues of pollution, deterioration of the natural environment around cities, and other consequences derived from increasing urbanization. In this class, students will conduct a case study in which they will analyze a Latin American or American city of their choice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this class, we study the trade-off between economic development and sustainability in cities of Latin America and the United States. 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. In this course, we then examine the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability in Latin American and American cities. Policies and programs that try to address the challenges of development and sustainability are compared. Opportunities for avoiding unsustainable practices 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, poverty, income inequality, residential segregation, urban sprawl, green development, air and water quality, global climate change, and sustainable energy and transportation policies.

In sum, main objectives include:

- Reviewing basic principles of economic development and sustainability, comparing cities of Latin America and the United States.
- Examining the principles and practices of sustainable economic development in the context of cities and metropolitan areas.

- Comparing urban development and sustainability practices between Latin American and US cities.
- Exploring thematic issues in urban development and sustainability, including socioeconomic inequality, housing and residential segregation, issues of water and sanitation, waste management, climate change and disaster management, and energy and transport issues, and biodiversity.

POLICIES

Punctual Attendance Required: Beginning the first day, attendance will be recorded at 4:00 pm. Per the UNM Student Handbook, a student may be dropped from the course as a consequence of absences from class.

No Late/Makeup Assignments: Late or makeup assignments won't be accepted. Under extraordinary circumstances, I may consider a late submission for partial credit.

Time/Workload Commitment: This course is a graduate seminar that emphasizes **independent study and research**. To successfully learn the course material, graduate students **should commit at least 10 hours** per week to the course outside of class.

Electronic Devices: In class, **turn off your cell phone**. A laptop is permissible only for class-related work, such as taking notes. Don't use laptops for other purposes.

Academic Integrity: The UNM Student Handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Student Code of Conduct and for upholding the highest standards of integrity in this class. Violation of the Code carries penalties discussed in the Code. Students' work may be checked for originality through the UNM Turnitin system <http://turnitin.unm.edu/>

Accommodation for Disabilities: Students with disabilities needing accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the UNM Accessibility Resource Center, and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information regarding resources available to students with disabilities, please contact Accessibility Services at Mesa Vista Hall 2021; phone: (850) 277-3506; or <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-services/services-students-disabilities.html>

Email Communication: Per SPA policy, students should use their UNM email for electronic communication with the instructor.

Student Feedback: Your feedback on the course will be welcome and appreciated. We'll ask for your feedback through various channels, formal and informal, throughout the semester.

Syllabus Changes: **This syllabus will be updated as needed.** The instructor reserves the right to change any content of the syllabus, including grade weights allocated to course assignments.

Assignments may be added or changed during the semester. If syllabus changes are made, I'll announce them in class or by email.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required

1. Rodgers, D., et al. 2012. *Latin American Urban Development into the 21st Century*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
2. Portney, K. 2013. *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Economic Development, the Environment, and Quality of Life*, 2nd edition. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

GRADING

Participation	10
Oral presentation	15
Tests	20
Reaction questions	20
<u>Case Study</u>	<u>35</u>
Total grade	100 points

Participation: This will be worth 10 points out of 100 course points. **Punctual attendance is required for every class** meeting of the semester. Active participation in class is expected. In class, please feel free to interrupt me with questions or comments. Please thoroughly study the weekly material in preparation for class participation. Participation includes asking questions, commenting on the class material, answering instructor's questions, collaborating in group activities, and citizenship behavior in class.

Oral presentation: This will be worth 15 points out of 100 course points. In this oral presentation, you will present a brief overview of the city proposed for your case study. Your presentation should connect with topics from the readings. That is, you should not only present basic information about your city, but also discuss which topics of the class readings are particularly relevant for your case. One student presentation will be scheduled for each week of the semester. Oral presentation assignments will be scheduled during the first class meeting.

Tests: These will be worth 20 points out of 100 course points. They will assess weekly reading assignments. **Readings must be completed prior to class** sessions, when those readings will be discussed. Weekly readings will be based on the textbooks, but additional readings may be assigned in the semester. Weekly tests will be open on *Learn* after class and due on Wednesday 8:00 PM—a day before the next class meets. Tests may include a variety of questions. Tests are a very important component of this course because they give you opportunities for knowledge application and analysis.

Reaction questions: These will be worth 20 points out of 100 total points. Every week, you will turn in a one-page document outlining a set of reaction questions on the readings. As you outline your reaction questions, please briefly justify your reasons or rationale for proposing those questions for class discussion. Your questions should, for example, examine central issues of the readings, discuss their implications to your case study, raise unresolved issues, or critique them.

Reaction questions will be graded on the basis of their quality and your justification for them. Reaction questions must be submitted on *Learn* by Wednesday 8:00 PM.

Case study: This will be worth 35 points out of 100 total points. The research paper will be about a city chosen for analysis, addressing its challenges in the area of economic development and sustainability. The case study should be written in the format of the PADM553 professional paper (pro-paper). You'll present, in class, reports on your case study over the semester. Papers may be checked for originality through the UNM Safe Assign system. See the appendix for research paper guidelines. I will also provide, in class or by email, additional information regarding this research study.

CALENDAR & REQUIRED READINGS

Week I:

- 1) Rethinking the Latin American City
- 1) The Conceptual Foundations of Sustainable Cities

Week II:

- 2) Urban Violence, Quality of Life, and the Future of Latin American Cities
- 2) Measuring the Seriousness of Sustainable Cities

Week III:

- 3) Cocaine Cities: Exploring Urban Dynamics and the Drug Trade
- 3) The Environment, Energy, and Sustainability in Cities

Week IV:

- 4) Mobility Challenges in Santiago de Chile: From Enclaves to Gradients
- 4) The Economic Development Side o Sustainability: Smart Growth

Week V:

- 5) The Vecino as Citizen: Neighborhood Organizations in El Alto
- 5) Communitarian and Participatory Foundations of Sustainable Cities: Solutions to the Tragedy of the Commons, the NIMBY Syndrome, and Transboundary Impacts?

Week VI:

- 6) Separate but Equal Democratization? Participation and Segregation
- 6) Is a Sustainable City a More Egalitarian Place: Environmental Equity

Week VII:

- 7) Irregular Urbanization as a Catalyst for Radical Social Mobilization
- 7) The Implementation of City Sustainability Policies

FALL BREAK on October 12

Week VIII:

- 8) On-Street Upgrading? Regulation in Santiago de Chile's Ferias Libres

8) Sustainability in the "Big Five" US Cities: A Story of Rapid Change

Week IX:

- 10) Public-Private Cooperation for Gas Provision in Buenos Aires
- 9) The Medium-Sized Cities That Take Sustainability Seriously

Prof. attending APPAM Conference on November 2

Week X:

- 11) A New Way of Monitoring the Quality of Urban Life in Latin America
- 11) Why Some Cities Take Sustainability More Seriously Than Others

Week XI:

- 12) A Research Agenda for 21st Century Latin American Development
- 12) Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Summary and Conclusions

THANKSGIVING on November 23

Week XII:

In-class presentation of case studies

Note:

- a) There is no class on October 12, November 2, and November 23.
- b) The last class meeting is scheduled for a class picture and in-class presentation of case studies.

APPENDIX Case Study Expectations

I. Introduction (1 page)

In this case, you will introduce the city you will study over the semester. Introduce the challenges in urban development and sustainability studied through the course that are relevant for your chosen city. Your city should have over a 500,000 population.

II. Social, Political and Economic Characteristics (about 2 pages)

In this section, you will describe the social, political, and economic characteristics of your city. In social terms, describe demographic characteristics and composition of your city. This may include, for example, issues of population growth, sprawl, income inequality, racial or ethnic segregation. In political terms, describe the municipal form of government and the political preferences of the city residents. In economic terms, describe the structure of employment and economic activities in your city.

III. Development and Sustainability Assessment (about 4 pages)

In this section, you will analyze the challenges of development and sustainability studied through the course that are relevant for your city. You will analyze the opportunities for avoiding unsustainable practices in urban and economic development. Some of the major themes you will discuss in the context of the sustainability of cities are indicators of sustainability, demographic trends, poverty and income distribution, green building, urban sprawl, air and water quality, global climate change, and sustainable energy and transportation policies.

IV. Development and Sustainability Policy Options (about 4 pages)

In this section, you will propose alternative policies and programs that your city may undertake to address issues of urban growth, economic development, and sustainability. Assess your proposed policy options in terms of political, economic, and administrative feasibility. Based on that assessment, discuss which policies and programs you recommend for possible adoption and implementation by your city.

V. Conclusion (1 page)

In this concluding section, briefly summarize your findings concerning to the challenges found and policies and programs proposed by your city in the areas of urban growth, economic development, and sustainability. May suggest major sustainable practices programs for potential implementation. Discuss: How would your conclusions apply to a general range of cities in Latin America and the US?

Format of the Paper

Length: Write at least 12 double-spaced pages, besides any appendices
Appendices: Place references, graphs, or tables in appendices (not within the text)
Font: Use Times New Roman, 12 pt.
Margins: Set 1 inch

Deadline

The assignment on your term paper must be submitted by the last week of the semester.

Suggestions

You may incorporate preliminary ideas and analyses on your cities from the weekly reaction questions and in-class discussions. You may use and cite additional bibliography for your case study.