

# Sustainable Urbanism

During this century, we have crossed a threshold where more than half of the world's population lives in urbanized areas. At the same time, sustainability concerns have only intensified with increases in energy use, the acceleration of climate change, and the destruction of natural habitat. If we are to address issues of sustainability, we must look critically at our patterns of urbanization and the design of our urban and suburban environments. Addressing sustainability at the level of urbanism includes looking at issues of urban design, land use, transportation systems, water, ecosystems and habitats, and social equity.

This research based seminar will investigate contemporary trends and thinking about 'Sustainable Urbanism' and will evaluate these trends in light of their applicability to current design and development projects. We will be discussing a sustainable urban design framework, specific approaches/techniques of implement this, the barriers that limit this implementation at a wider scale, as well as case studies and strategies for overcoming those barriers. The seminar will be a combination of lectures, student led presentations and discussions, and a site visit/walking tour to projects in Portland.

Each student in the seminar will choose a sub-topic in the area of sustainable urbanism and will research publications and case studies to become resident experts on that topic. The end goal will be to develop a class-wide understanding on sustainable urbanism that can be a guide for project framing as well as specific design work.

The seminar will be primarily based in Portland (in person), with some students joining remotely from Eugene. A few sessions will be led (in person) in Eugene with remote participation from students from Portland. The course is open to (and encourages) any discipline interested in sustainable urbanism.

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