

CP 4020 Syllabus

Introduction to City and Regional Planning, 3 Credits

Summer 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. L. Katie OConnell

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General Course Information

Description

The course introduces the history, theory and practice of urban planning (we will focus mostly, but not exclusively, on the US). The class will begin with an overview of the history of planning and of urbanization in the United States and the development of the profession of urban planning. We will then consider historic and contemporary planning theory and practice, and the various challenges and issues faced by urban planners. The emphasis will be on the practice of urban planning in the public realm.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to understand:

- Origins and causes of urbanization in the United States
- Historical challenges posed by urbanization
- Emergence of measures to regulate urban development
- Concepts, tools and techniques employed by urban planners

Required Course Materials

All required materials will be made available on our Canvas site. There are no textbooks that you must purchase. All readings and assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Grading Policy:

A>90; B>80; C>70; D>60

Assignments

- Module 1, 5%
- Module 2, 5%
- Module 3, 5%
- Module 4, 5%
- Module 5, 5%
- Module 6, 5%
- Module 7, 5%
- Module 8, 5%
- Module 9, 5%
- Module 10, 5%
- Module 11, 5%
- Module 12, 5%
- Module 13, 5%
- Module 14, 5%
- Final Assignment, 30%

Description of Graded Components

Each module includes a quiz, assignment related to the module's theme, and a reflection. All components of the course will be online.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

This course does not include scheduled class meetings.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment

to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.