Course Syllabus

APPLIED STUDIES IN MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SUMMER 2018 - 8 credits
Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University

Phase 1: Prior to July 6 (TBA) Logistical meeting, TBA, and Canvas (Pre-Departure Course Preparation)
Phase 2: July 6 - July 23, 2018 (Field Research Phase);
Phase 3: August 11 - August 22, 2018 (Final Reports)

COURSE SYLLABUS

ESTU 437P GREECE: APPLIED STUDIES IN MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (8 CREDITS)

Instructor
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Professor, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Western Washington University

Overview
The program involves analysis of urban spaces in Athens neighborhoods and in traditional medieval villages (Horas) of Aegean and Ionian Island communities. The course emphasizes studies in sustainable development in both urban and traditional Mediterranean Island communities. The course entails field investigations emphasizing sustainable community development principles, the study of sustainable village form and heritage design, as well as current issues facing Greece. Students will have an opportunity to explore transitional neighborhoods as well as ancient sites in Athens and will undertake a series of applied studies, including: comparative assessment of village form as forms of traditional development using sustainability metrics; urban renewal policies; and the architecture of urban spaces. Our residency stay in Ithaca’s Kioni Village will focus on sustainable design alternatives as part of our ongoing research of sustainable development practices in Ithaca.

Course Highlights:
Explore Mediterranean architecture, urban planning, historic development, and culture while performing fieldwork in urban and village community settings. The program involves 3 distinct parts: Part 1: Our exploration begins and ends exploring urban Athens, emphasizing urban design, the city’s historic development, plans to pedestrianize the central city, and exploring the current impacts of mass migration in Athens. Part 2: involves island hopping across the Aegean islands for comparative studies of traditional settlement villages in the Cycladic chain of Islands. Part 3 includes a week of residency study in the island of Ithaca. In addition to Ithaca Island, Aegean Islands are expected to include Syros, Folengandros, Serifos, and Santorini).

Readings (tentative. Readings will be posted on Canvas)
- Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development, UNEP/MAP
- Traditional Mediterranean Architecture, MEDA, EUROMED HERITAGE
- The Living Community Challenge
- Blueprint for a Living Village, Kioni, Ithaca. Western Washington University
- Sustainable Tourism Development in the Greek Islands and the Role of Tourism research and Education, G. Zaharatos, P. Tsartas
- Social and Spatial Impact of the Crisis in Athens: From Clientelist Regulation to Sovereign Dept Crisis. Thomas Maloutas
- Other readings on Canvas
**Student Learning Objectives:**

- ENVS 1: Ethically evaluate social priorities and their risks in the context of environmental problem solving.
- ENVS 2: Apply an integrative approach towards understanding human-environment interactions.
- ENVS 4: Transfer academic learning to a real-world context of constraints and opportunities.
- UP 1: Produce, interpret and apply research in a solution-oriented context.
- UP 4: Apply sustainable development methods to achieve greater balance in human and environmental interaction
- UP 5: Demonstrate an ability to work in collaboratively and in situations involving uncertainty, diversity, and risk

**2018 Project Emphasis**

Study Projects undertaken in the 2018 Program emphasize sustainable community development, urban morphology studies of medieval towns, pedestrian planning, heritage town design and sustainable design projects.

**Study Focus:**

Comparative assessment of town morphology as traditional sustainable development; traditional and contemporary town design, pedestrian urbanization, and civil expressions, public spaces, and social impact of economic austerity.

**Final Projects**

Students will develop illustrated site drawings depicting elements of village sustainability; a journal of impressions experienced; and sustainable development alternatives for Kioni Village.

**Schedule**

The summer course involves pre-departure preparation, onsite investigation and field study, and post field project development. The typical field day consists of combined lecture, fieldwork, and seminar discussions. Each morning we will convene for daily instruction regarding research objectives, methods, and sustainability objectives, and daily team assignments and to coordinate field logistic. Students work in teams to conduct research tasks. Evening sessions consists of reflection, discussion, and critiques.

**Credit Hours**

Pre departure meetings, research, and assignment of readings (1 credit)
3 weeks site research (6 credits);
Research compilation, analysis, final essays and reports (1 credit)

**Methodology**

Study teams will visit the village sites daily to identify village form characteristics and relationship between social space and physical design. Students learn how to apply metrics to evaluate sustainability of space. Digital photography, field sketches, and field notes of observations are emphasized in daily assignments.

**Evaluation**

Final grades will be based on the following: formulation of village site design concepts (in field studies) (20 points); journal of diary observations (10 points); reflection essay (20 points); and a final report consist of narrative and Illustrated design of a sustainable design problem (50 points).

**500 Level:**

Students enrolled in graduate programs are required to conduct independent research related to the curriculum and subject to instructor approval, submit the research design for instructor approval, and formulate the research paper.