

Spring 2026 Syllabus

Learning from the Sustainable Cities in Europe

Christopher Silver, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Email: silver2@ufl.edu February 5 – March 26, Zoom sessions Thursdays 9:30-11:00AM

Suggested text: Timothy Beatley, ed. *Green Cities of Europe: Global Lessons on Green Urbanization*. Island Press, 2012, paperback, ISBN 978-1-59726-975-9

Week 1 February 5

Introduction to Sustainability and Urbanism Concepts - PowerPoint Presentation

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 1 "Introduction: Why Study European Cities?," pp. 1-28

Week 2 February 12

Historical Antecedents of the Modern European City – PowerPoint Presentation

Read: Ian Mell, "Antecedents of Green Infrastructure: Olmsted, Howard and Beyond," pp.17-41; Joseph and Frances Gies, *Life in a Medieval City* - brief excerpt (articles will be emailed to you)

Week 3 February 19

Land Use and Urban Form in European Cities – PowerPoint presentation

Spatial Planning in the Netherlands – PowerPoint presentation

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 2 "Paris, France: A 21st Century Eco City," pp. 29-64

Week 4 February 26

Transportation Systems in European Green Cities

"Urban Transportation in Europe" and "Cars and Bikes in European Cities – PowerPoints

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 4 Copenhagen, Denmark: Green City and Finger Metropolis"

Video: "Is Copenhagen the World's Most Sustainable City?"

Week 5 March 5

“The European Center City: Preservation, Walkability and Innovation”

Center City Character in Europe – PowerPoint presentation

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 3 “Freiburg, Germany: Germany’s Eco-Capital”

Week 6 March 12

Ecology Considerations/Energy Needs and Approaches – PowerPoint presentation

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 6 “Venice, Italy: Balancing Antiquity and Sustainability and

Chpt 7 “Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain: From Urban Greenbelt to Regional Green Infrastructure”

Video: “How Iceland Powers Itself 100% With Renewables”

Week 7 March 19

Green Government and Economic Development – PowerPoint presentation

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 5 “Helsinki, Finland: Greenness and Urban Form”

Video: “The Green Political Economy of Europe

Week 8 March 26

Green Cities of Europe as Global Models

Read: Beatley, Chpt. 8 “London, England: A Global and Sustainable Capital City” and
Chpt. 9 “Conclusion: Green Cities of Europe as Compelling Models”