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"Sustainable cities: a comparative European analysis"

The majority of the world's population lives in urban areas today. As a result, cities around the globe are increasingly facing challenges due to the provision of adequate infrastructure (energy, water, transportation), the delivery of public services (education, health care, public safety), and the management of environmental quality (air, water, natural habitat). Sustainability has become a much needed target with this rapid urban sprawl and the subsequent exacerbation of social, environmental and economic issues.

This course is designed for students interested in the fields of sustainable development and local public policy. It assumes that cities are often the political unit that can act.

Many studies have been conducted to define the sustainable city, but many of those definitions suggest contradictions and imply that sustainability is somewhat unattainable. Hence various models of city have emerged and been labeled as sustainable cities like the "zero-carbon city", the "smart city" or the "Ubiquitous Ecocity" (U-Ecocity).

In this seminar, students will explore the fundamentals of urban environmental management and sustainability, with a special focus on European Cities. Topics will include air quality, water and wastewater, land use, transportation, energy, and waste management.

Through readings and discussion, you will gain an understanding of the many environmental challenges that cities face nowadays, and you will explore how those challenges can be addressed.