DEPARTMENT: Environmental Health
COURSE NUMBER: CP 6850C/EH 584
CREDIT HOURS: 2  SEMESTER: Fall 2018
COURSE TITLE: Public Health and Built Environment
CLASS TIME: Thursdays, 1:00-2:45pm
CLASS LOCATION*: GaTech- DM Smith, Room 15  
Emory- Claudia Nance Rollins (CNR), Room 1051  
* Class meeting locations vary throughout the semester. Pay close attention to the course schedule.

INSTRUCTOR NAME: ARTHI RAO, PHD, MS-GIST, MSLA

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION
EMAIL: arthir@gatech.edu
PHONE: 404-385-5123
SCHOOL ADDRESS: 760 Spring Street, Atlanta, 30332
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY, 1-3 PM AT GEORGIA TECH AND BY APPOINTMENT ON THURSDAYS AT EMORY

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This interdisciplinary course, examines how cities and neighborhoods can have both positive and adverse effects on human health, and produces recommendations to improve these outcomes. Seminar is an elective planning and public health course that explores the interconnections between these fields and equips students with skills and experiences to plan healthy communities. This course covers planning and public health foundations, natural and built environments, vulnerable populations and health equity, and health policy and global impacts. This course is cross-listed with the Georgia Tech City and Regional Planning program and is an elective course offered through the Emory Environmental Health department.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing at Georgia Institute of Technology or Emory University, or with permission of instructors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
At the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Understand public health and planning history, evolution and significant movements to the present, and historical and current theories on the relationship between the built environment and public health. (Foundational Knowledge)
- Identify contemporary features of the built environment such as patterns of development, parks, public works projects, houses, and transportation systems that reflect past efforts to influence health, and use methods developed by architects, urban planners, public health professionals, sociologists and anthropologists to address current health impacts of the built environment. (Application)
- Learn about oneself and the context in which others operate to better integrate that understanding when evaluating differing built environments, socioeconomic positions, social and cultural backgrounds, and health status. (Human Dimensions)
• Adopt new perspectives, interests or values based on issues addressed throughout the semester. (Caring)
• Develop skills to identify studies and engage communities, critique methods and findings, and apply lessons from planning and public health research to current and future problems. (Learning How to Learn)
• Integrate current evidence regarding the impacts of the built environment on health with information and perspectives from other courses and/or personal experiences. (Integration)

**MPH/MSPH FOUNDATIONAL COMPETENCIES:**

• Use analytic reasoning and quantitative methods to address questions in public health and population-based research
• Describe environmental conditions, including biological, physical and chemical factors, that affect the health of individuals, communities and populations
• Describe behavioral, social and cultural factors that contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, communities and populations

**EVALUATION**

Your grade in the course will be determined based on the following assignments and respective weightages:

1. Article Critique (15%)
2. Leadership of a Class Discussion (15%)
3. Built Environment and Public Health Scavenger Hunt (15%)
4. Healthy Communities Plan (45%)
5. Participation (10%)

Assignments are graded using the Rollins School of Public Health standards of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C and F. The following numerical thresholds are used to determine the letter equivalents (to be confirmed shortly):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Letter Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 and above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 to 92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 to 89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 to 86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 79.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.99 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"A" (90-100): exemplifies excellence: including clear reasoning, sound methods, forceful exposition, and stimulating ideas in comparison with others at the same stage of career. Independent and creative thinking utilizing a thorough understanding of course concepts is evidenced. Language usage, calculation, attribution, and formatting are essentially free of error.

"B" (80-89): allowing for growth in performance between now and graduation, the work would be considered satisfactory professional planning work given the time and resources allocated to it. Assertions are correct; arguments are persuasive. Mastery of course concepts is evidenced. Errors in language usage, attribution, calculation and/or formatting are minimal.

"C" (70-79): the work does not meet expectations for graduate students. The core prompts in the assignment may not be followed; arguments may be hard to understand or may ignore key lessons understood broadly in our profession and/or developed in the course; language usage, attribution, calculation and/or formatting may have serious flaws or widespread errors.

"F" (<69.9): the work does not address the assignment, fails to meet ordinary expectations for English language exposition, or appears to have been completed in a manner violating the Institute Honor Code.
Any assignment received electronically by 11:59pm on the announced due date will be considered on time. Please take precautions to make multiple copies of files related to your coursework; we have sympathy for problems related to computer malfunctions or lost materials, but can offer no grading concessions. Late submissions will only be permitted under extenuating circumstances and with prior permission of the instructor. Assignments due for presentation during particular class sessions must be handed in during that meeting.

Those with bona fide illness or serious family problems should make this known and seek suitable arrangements at the earliest possible date. Such personal crises are the only acceptable justifications for the Incomplete grade.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

The course involves academic and topical readings, mini-lectures, student presentations and both in-class and homework assignments. Readings are assigned and discussed during class sessions, coupled with experiential learning exercises. Students are expected to think critically and to incorporate their unique perspectives into the classroom discussions and semester assignments. The course is designed to enhance students' (1) awareness of how planning impacts health, (2) understanding of public health influences on the built environment, and (3) ability to create healthy communities. For their end of semester assessment students complete a healthy communities plan on a community of particular interest, applying current evidence and best practices studied throughout the semester.

**Assignments:**

*Article Critique* (15% of course grade) Student teams will complete a written article critique on two articles of the set posted on Canvas. The critique should compare and contrast the selected articles relevant to the session's focus. The 5-page written critique will include the following components:
1. Introduction: provides an overview of the articles' purpose and main argument and offers the writers' thesis regarding the articles' strengths and weaknesses.
2. Summary paragraph: briefly reviews the articles' strengths and weaknesses regarding framework, research question, methods, use of evidence and or conclusions.
3. Comparison of the papers
4. Critique of noteworthy dimensions of the papers, especially relevant to promoting healthy places.
5. Conclusion: presents commentary on the articles' overall usefulness in replicating or informing built environment and health research and application.
6. References

The article critique must be handed in to the professors at the beginning of the assigned class and integrate highlights from this forum.

*Leadership of a Class Discussion* (15% of course grade) Students who completed the article critique for the assigned week are expected to lead the class discussion, connecting their comments and questions to speaker and explanation to their peers to the assigned chapters and articles for the specified class. In general, all students are expected to participate in the weekly discussions by commenting and asking questions, but students assigned to specified weeks for article critiques will have a higher level of responsibility and their references to the readings are expected to be elevated beyond a cursory review.

*Built Environment and Public Health Scavenger Hunt* (15% of course grade) The built environment— the roads, homes, schools, parks, businesses, places of worship and other man-made elements occupying the human environment— holds an important influence in our lives. How we design our communities affects our health by shaping whether we choose to walk or drive to destinations; time spent commuting; and ultimately how much physical activity we get. It affects the number of injuries from automobiles or pedestrian accidents and our access to food from a garden versus a fast-food drive through. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the relationship between design and building healthy communities.

Teams of approximately five students will each complete an exercise adapted from the CDC's Healthy Community Design Initiative that involves the completion of six daily tasks in two different environments in the Atlanta area: Chamblee and Decatur. Additional information on this assignment is available in the handout that will be provided prior to the activity.

Course: CP 6850C/EH 584
The scavenger hunt is scheduled during class time in Decatur ending with a debrief session at the courthouse steps, weather permitting.

In addition to participating in the debrief session, students are expected to submit 500-word reflection on the Chamblee and Decatur portions of the scavenger hunt, the different methods (Google Earth vs. on-the-ground) applied to complete the tasks. Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of both and their applicability to other built environment and health assessments. Include pictures as relevant to the text. Submit this assignment to Canvas under assignments.

Students who are unable to attend this session during the assigned time are asked to do so prior to the next class meeting so as to participate in the group discussion.

**Healthy Communities Plan** (45% of course grade) In interdisciplinary teams, students will select a local neighborhood of interest and develop a report guiding a planning and/or public health agency on ways to create, retrofit or maintain a healthy community in the selected area. Read Making Healthy Places Chapters 22 and 24 for some ideas on research topics of interest at this intersection as a way to guide your topic selection. Your report should include the following: (1) a history of the area, (2) a critique of the current state of the area’s built environment and health with relevant data, (3) recommended approaches (policies, interventions, stakeholders, etc.) toward improvements measured against the targets set forth in Healthy People 2020, The Community Guide, and other evidence-based strategies. The report should be formatted as a professional product, single-spaced, 15 pages including tables, charts. References should begin after page 15.

- Midterm Presentation and Report (5% oral, 10% written of course grade) Student teams will give brief presentations of their selected area, topic and data analysis on the current state of the area’s built environment and health. Students are also expected to submit a 5-page paper documenting their progress as presented in the class with an outline per the assignment guidelines.
- Final Presentation and Report (10% oral, 20% written of course grade) Student teams will present their healthy community plan and submit their professional reports. Presentations will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes with 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Presentations will be held on the last scheduled meeting day. Final Reports are due to Canvas on 11/30.

**Participation** (10% of course grade) Students are expected to actively engage throughout the semester through the on-line discussions, guest lectures, and policy and place panels. Participation for the guest lectures and panels is measured by engagement in the discussion period of those classes.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Texts**: We have one required textbook, available from the Georgia Tech bookstore on Spring Street (or from various online vendors):
Additional materials will be made available through the Canvas site (https://canvas.emory.edu).

**Procedures**: Classes will combine lectures, discussions, exercises, fieldwork, and student presentations. Informed participation in discussions is essential, so your first responsibility is to do required reading and other homework on time. Fieldwork may take place at times that do not correspond to the assigned class period. In such cases every effort will be made to accommodate other obligations you may have. Written assignments should be prepared according to a standard social science format. Those not familiar with the conventions of social science writing should obtain and use any of the style manuals designed to present these (e.g. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 5th ed. Washington DC: 2001). Effective communication is the primary goal, but clarity as to originality of ideas is vital. Ideas stimulated by others should be cited appropriately as, of course, should be quotes and facts taken from other sources. Timely submission of written assignments is important; late submissions will be penalized. In general, unless instructed otherwise, I believe it is useful to imagine that you are writing for a general national professional urban planning or public health audience. This requires that you not assume the reader will be familiar with the context, laws, and institutions of the plans or programs you are writing about, but it does suggest that you can use the language of planning and public health theory and
methods efficiently without the need to explain fundamental concepts which are widely understood by the educated professional community.

**Communicating with the instructor:** Office hours and contact information provided above.

Please use the course Canvas site to submit assignments and hand-in hard copies in class. Do not send assignments by e-mail or fax. Name your files with identifiers that are unique (eg StakeholderAnalysis.Jones.6Feb08.pdf), combine all graphics, spreadsheets and text into one file, and submit in a standard software format (.doc or.pdf). Certain course materials and readings are available from the Canvas site.

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Equity and Inclusion, 404-727-9877.

**Logistics:**

**Transportation**
- Emory/GT Shuttle: The Emory Shuttle provides convenient transportation from Georgia Tech to Emory University’s Woodruff Circle. The Emory Shuttle operates Monday through Friday during fall and spring semesters. During the summer term, the Emory shuttle is not in operation; however, Emory's Cliff Shuttle is available. The Emory Cliff Shuttle provides service between the main campus and Emory's Midtown Hospital, which is close to Georgia Tech's main campus. The latest departure scheduled is 7:41pm. Please check the schedule to plan your trip http://pts.gatech.edu/ride/Pages/EmoryShuttle.aspx.
- MARTA
  - GT: Georgia Tech is serviced by two MARTA rail stations: Midtown and North Avenue Station. These stations can be accessed by the red and gold metro lines. The Tech Trolley provides service to and from the Midtown MARTA Station. https://pts.gatech.edu/campus-transit The North Avenue MARTA Station is only a brief walk to east campus. http://www.itsmarta.com/Midtown.aspx
  - Emory: The Rollins School of Public Health is most accessible by the #6 bus that runs between the Lindbergh and Inman Park train stations. http://www.itsmarta.com/6.aspx

**Parking**
- GT: Students without a GT parking permit will need to park in one of the 'pay parking' or 'pay by cell' spaces on campus. Area 1 and Area 2 are the closest 'pay parking' lots to D M Smith. http://pts.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/map_20_visitor_cs6.pdf. We encourage students to carpool and/or use alternative modes of transportation.
- Emory: Students without an Emory parking pass will need to park in the visitors lot adjacent to the Michael Street Parking Deck next door Rollins. https://www.sph.emory.edu/about/directions-maps/index.html. This is a paid lot, so we encourage you to carpool and/or use alternative modes of transportation.

**Wireless**
- @ GT: Wireless is not provided unless students pay for a guest account.
- @ Emory: Emory students will login as they normally do. GT students will login through the guest login interface.

**Entering the Building**
- GT: The D M Smith building will be open for the duration of the class session. The main entrance (685 Cherry St NW) and the side entrance on Bobby Dodd Way are publicly accessible between 8 and 5 pm. https://pwp.gatech.edu/lesieross/map-of-dm-smith/. Access after 5 can be arranged with special permission but students will need a Ga Tech ID.
- Emory: The Claudia Nance Rollins Building will be open for the duration of the class session. If you plan on working with Emory students at this facility outside of scheduled class time, please note that the doors lock at 5pm and can only be accessed with an Emory ID.

Course: CP 6850C/EH 584
ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Accessibility Services works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). It is the responsibility of the student to register with OAS. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed.

Students who registered with OAS and have a letter outlining their academic accommodations are strongly encouraged to coordinate a meeting time with me to discuss a protocol to implement the accommodations as needed throughout the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the semester as possible.

Contact Accessibility Services for more information at (404) 727-9877 or accessibility@emory.edu. Additional information is available at the OAS website at http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html

HONOR CODE

You are bound by Emory University’s Student Honor and Conduct Code. RSPH requires that all material submitted by a student fulfilling his or her academic course of study must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or a lack of integrity in academic ethics. Academic dishonesty refers to cheating, plagiarizing, assisting other students without authorization, lying, tampering, or stealing in performing any academic work, and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The RSPH Honor Code states: “Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one’s own work the expression, words, or ideas of another person whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer’s work should be regarded as his/her own property.” (http://www.sph.emory.edu/cms/current_students/enrollment_services/honor_code.html)

STUDENTS LEAVING CLASS EARLY

For students who have class conflicts and have to travel across campuses, I will permit you to leave class 15 minutes early. This will be a more realistic commute time for you. Please send me an email that you need to leave early and the class that you have the conflict with.

Considering that this will happen in almost half of your classes, I will require you to attend one activity that would serve as a class meeting substitute. The easiest option would be to attend a Healthy Places Research Group (HPRG) meeting. The HPRG meetings occur one Tuesday a month between 7:30 - 9 am. The first meeting happens on September 25th with others yet to be scheduled. I will post the event details and opportunities on Canvas as I become aware of them. Alternatively, if there are other events/seminars that you are aware of and are applicable to this class, please let me know so I can approve it and share the information with the class.

Deliverable

Write a single-spaced, 1-2 page reflection on the presentation and it's applicability to the class. Your reflection should include the following: Introduction, Summary, Strengths, Weaknesses, Takeaways for Practice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
<th>Supplementary Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>GT</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Speaker/Chair</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9/13 | 4    | GT | Air Quality | Guest Speaker: **David D’Onofrio** | 1. Textbook Chapter 4  
| 9/20 | 5    | GT | Physical Activity and Walkability Assessments | Guest Lecture: **Jimmy Dills** | 1. Textbook Chapter 2  
3. Textbook Chapter 10  
| 9/27 | 6    | GT | Food Access and Health | Guest Speaker: **Dr. Lakeisha Tate** | 1. Textbook Chapter 3  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/04</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Decatur Marta Station</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10/11  | 8       | Emory    | Social & Therapeutic Dimensions of Greenspace | 1. Textbook Chapter 15  
| 10/18  | 9       | Emory    | Spatial Access to Healthcare | Scavenger hunt reflection due  
| 10/25  | 10      |          | Work Session | Textbook Chapter 18                                                                                                                      |
| 11/01  | 11      | GT       | Healthy Community Plan Midterm Presentations; Midterm reports due          | Student team presentations                                                                                                                  | Midterm presentations |

Course: CP 6850C/EH 584
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Guest Speaker:</th>
<th>Textbook Chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Emory</td>
<td>Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Christopher Kochtitzky</td>
<td>1. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>GT</td>
<td>Healthy Sites (Schools, Homes, Workplaces and Healthcare Settings)</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Jennifer DuBose</td>
<td>11, 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Emory</td>
<td>Healthy Community Plan Final Presentations; Final Reports due</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>