

48795 A3 and 48795 A4 LEED, Green Design and Building Rating in Global Context

Are you interested in how sustainable cities and sustainable buildings may be approached differently around the world? What, for example, is considered sustainable urban density in a country like India compared to the United States, where cities have a fraction of the population per square mile? What is sustainable water use in buildings that do not receive potable water compared to those that do? And how do countries that use little energy per capita define energy effectiveness in their buildings compared to countries that are far more energy intense? And just as importantly to you as a student, how can an understanding of this strengthen your professional capabilities and help to improve our global future?

48795 A3 and A4, LEED, Green Design and Building Rating in Global Context, are graduate level mini-courses that use global rating systems for communities, infrastructure, and buildings as vehicles to gain perspective about the interpretation of sustainable design around the world. The course is organized within the framework of the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating Systems. Within that framework, we explore what LEED considers and addresses, and compare and contrast this with the building characteristics and strategies in the rating systems of other countries. We also discuss emerging issues that may be omitted from rating systems, and the design of the rating system itself, its implementation, and the national context in which the system was created.

Although the course provides a foundation for taking USGBC's LEED Green Associate and/or LEED Accredited Professional exam, it is designed to develop your understanding of, and hone your critical thinking about the sustainability in context, using the definitions and metrics provided for us by rating systems around the world.