Dynamics of Human Habitation  SCD 205
Session: 5/16-6/24
Instructor: Euripedes De Oliveira (euri@larp.umass.edu)
This course discusses the built environment from the urbanization-urban development perspective. It examines the built-natural environmental relations shaping the cities from both the north and south hemispheres, yet with emphasis in the latter. Throughout the course we will engage in a variety of activities concerning numerous urban themes that result from the interactive social, economic, political, and cultural forces factoring in the built environment. (4 Credits)

Sustainable Cities  SCD 591B
Session: 5/16-6/24
Instructor: Marielos Arlen Marin (marielosmari@larp.umass.edu)
Although the consideration of sustainable cities could be perceived as paradoxical due to the “unsustainable” ways that cities have developed, sustainability has become part of a common language in urban planning and land management. The global approach toward more ‘greener’ and ‘environmentally responsible’ cities has been more prevalent during the last decades in different cities around the world. This course aims to explore and discuss the principles and practices that involve sustainable development and cities, considering different topics related with ecology, economy, energy, waste, water, climate change, food security, transportation, green design, architecture and equity. We will address all these themes through a pedagogy that will include readings, videos and discussions over the course of the six weeks of classes. (3 Credits)

Climate Adaptation for Urban Areas  RP 591LC
Session: 7/11 - 8/19
Instructor: Ana Mesquita Emlinger (amesquit@larp.umass.edu)
Communities of the 21st century need to be different than communities of the later 20th century, and it is time to plan for what those differences are. A key factor impacting our cities, among others, will be climate change. This course introduces students to implications of these coming conditions for built form both now and in the future, with a goal of developing an understanding of what municipal, regional, and state planners and policy makers need to know now about these conditions to provide leadership to communities. What would a city that is really adapted to its future climate look like? How can we identify now what the risks are likely to be in the future, and communicate that to decision-makers? What are the biggest barriers faced by planners and other city officials that hinder the adaptation process at the municipal level? And how can we start now to implement the physical and social practices that will assure a resilient built form? (3 Credits)