Are you interested in how sustainable building design may be approached differently around the world? Do countries that use little energy or water per capita define sustainable buildings the same way as countries that are far more resource-intense? 48795 A3, LEED, Green Design and Building Rating in Global Context, is a graduate level mini-course that uses global building rating systems to gain perspective about 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 LEED strategies and its credit structure, and compare these with the building characteristics, strategies and credit structure in building rating systems from 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.