The sheer number of people that now live and work in the suburbs suggests the suburban realm; its form, content, image, benefits and troubles should be studied as a separate entity.

The suburbs are sites of urgent battles over resources and planning practices, and it is important to understand how a suburban way of life shapes the values, political ideals and worldviews of its populations.

While providing a comprehensive historical background of suburban morphology, the primary focus of this course will be on what is occurring in suburbs today and what we might expect to see in the suburban realm of tomorrow.