

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
Faculty of Environmental Design

**EVDS 683.91**  
**Sustainable Design**  
Winter 2012, TBA  
Wednesday Evenings 6 - 9 pm  
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## COURSE OUTLINE

### Introduction

Sustainable Design invites students to consider the broadest contexts of how we might design for more healthy, caring and vibrant communities. Our discussion, debate and investigation of the concept of sustainability and its evolution and practice will be woven through many scales – global, national, regional, the city, community, our buildings, the products we use and the ecosystems we inhabit. At each of these scales of investigation the recurring themes of ‘systems’, ‘complexity’, and ‘ethics’ will be prominent in the readings and discussions.

This course is for graduate students who would like to improve their understanding of the context within which they will practice their own chosen profession. It will provide students with an opportunity to continue to craft their own holistic approach to their professional practice. The course challenge for each student will be to come to a better understanding of 1) what it is we want to sustain and 2) how should we act in the world (design) to do so.

The course will examine practical application of the theories and concepts in the context of a long-term vision for the transformation of Calgary’s Manchester District to a Next generation Sustainable Urban Community.

### Objectives

The specific objectives of the course are:

- The course will introduce students to a broad range of thinking about the concept of sustainability.
- At the end of the course student should be able to articulate the evolution of the concept of sustainability, and the major contemporary critiques and debates surrounding the concept.
- Student will learn to apply sustainability theories, frameworks, concepts, and tools to a real place.
- Students will develop an understanding of the relevance of sustainability to their research and careers.

### Teaching Approach

The course incorporates a variety of teaching and learning approaches and includes lectures, seminars, studios, field-trips and project-based learning. The course will use experiential and participatory methods, and dialogue to allow everyone the opportunity to participate. The readings will include theoretical and analytical material as well as case studies and explorations of sustainable design in practice.

### Content: Topic Areas

What is Sustainable Design – Concepts and Principles.  
Nature’s Designs - Systems theory, complexity theory and sustainable ecosystem  
Globalization and Sustainable Governance  
Sustainable Products, Consumerism and Design  
Complex Adaptive Systems in Nature  
Competing Frameworks of Sustainability  
Models and Techniques for Sustainable Design

## Means of Evaluation

Assignment 1: Product Ecological Footprint Analysis	25%
Assignment 2: Manchester District Diagnostic	35%
Assignment 3: Manchester District Strategic Planning/Design Policy Paper	40%

## Readings

Daly, Herman (1996) *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development*. Beacon Press, Boston.

Davidson, Debra and Kierstin Hatt (eds) (2005) *Consuming Sustainability: Critical Social Analysis of Ecological Change*. Fernwood Publishing, Halifax.

Davison, Aidan (2001) *Technology and the Contested Meanings of Sustainability*. State University of New York Press, Albany, NY.

Ehrenfeld, John (2009) *Sustainability By Design: A Subversive Strategy for Transforming Our Consumer Culture*. Yale University Press.

Jackson, Tim (2006) *The Earthscan Reader on Sustainable Consumption*, Earthscan, London.

Korten, David (2006) *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. Kumerian Press, Bloomfield . CT.

McDonough, William and Michael Braungart (2002) *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking The Way We Make Things*. North Point Press, New York.

Raskin, Paul; Christi Electris and Richard Rosen (2010) *The Century Ahead: Searching for Sustainability*. *Sustainability*, 2, p. 2626-2651

Sustainable Calgary Society (2004) 2011 *State of Our City Report*. Calgary: Sustainable Calgary Society.

Other articles, reports and papers relevant to specific topics in the class will be posted on Blackboard.

## Notes:

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor.
2. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to

the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
6. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
7. Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>); Graduate Student representative( <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).

## **Distribution of Grades**

A+ 4.0 Outstanding

A 4.0 Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter

A- 3.7 Very good performance

B+ 3.3 Good performance

B 3.0 Satisfactory performance

B- 2.7 Minimum passing performance

C+ 2.3 Unsatisfactory performance

The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.

A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.

All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.