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UNIV 207 (Section 1)

Exploring Sustainability: Pursuing Understanding, Integration, Responsibility and a Better World

Instructors: **Dr. Brian R Sinclair FRAIC (Manager) + Dr. Noel G. Keough**

Teaching Assistants: Fikile Mtshiya + Meghan Coslovich

Day & Time: Thursdays 14:00-16:50

Location: EDC 057

Introduction:

Sustainable development has historically been defined (Brundtland, 1987) as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Since the publishing of “Our Common Future” several decades back, governments, corporations, organizations and citizens have been struggling to understand the implications of industrialization, population growth, resource depletion, information technology and other factors on our health, happiness and quality of life. Given the issues at play and the global scale of activity, the idea of sustainability has been allusive and complex, yet increasingly demanding and urgent. This course, which encourages students to think creatively, critically and holistically, examines a spectrum of problems, principles, practices and opportunities pertaining to sustainability.

Course Objectives

- To begin to understand the breadth of aspects regarding sustainability
- To gain exposure to theories, principles and practices focused on sustainability (environmental, social, financial, cultural, political, spiritual, etc.)
- To be aware of, examine and critic various perspectives and approaches taken on the matter of sustainability
- To begin to formulate personal and professional positions concerning sustainability,
- Examine sustainability through Environmental Design.

Approach

Sustainability as a concept and practice proves complex, challenging and vital. This course is structured to present a wide array of viewpoints on key ideas and areas. The class will meet once a week for 3 hours to explore timely issues regarding sustainability. Classes will include guest lectures, films, discussions, panels, and individual & group projects aimed at gaining a wide & rich understanding of this increasingly complicated concept. Lectures will be delivered by a series of prominent thinkers in the realm of sustainability. Students are expected to critically consider the range of approaches being discussed by our guest speakers and to begin to formulate their own positions.

Content: Selected Topic Areas

Topics anticipated to be covered (subject to modification) within the course include:

- Sustainability {especially considering Architecture & Environmental Design}
- Ecology | Landscapes
- People & Place | Sustainability Reporting
- Integration & Holism
- Environmental Quality | Energy | Resources
- Building Performance | Design Innovation
- City Planning | Urban Design | Community
- Development Ethos & Regulatory Systems
- International, Legal & Cultural Dimensions
- Ethics | Values | Priorities

Means of Evaluation

The course evaluation will be based on the following assignments completed during the term, which includes a project, presentation, paper & journal. There will be no final examination.

Position Statement (Essay Letter)	20%
Student Project Presentations	30%
Research Paper	30%
Journal Participation	20%

Required Textbooks

1. Steffen, Alex (Editor). World Changing: A User's Guide for the 21st Century. (Revised & Updated Edition) New York: Harry R. Abrams. 2011.
2. Turner, Chris. The Leap: How to Survive and Thrive in the Sustainable Economy. Toronto: Random House Canada. 2011.

Recommended Textbooks

1. Williams, Daniel E. Sustainable Design: Ecology, Architecture and Planning. New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons. 2007.
2. Berry, Wendell. What Matters: Economics for a Renewed Commonwealth. Berkeley: Counterpoint. 2010

Important 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>).

Contact & Office Information

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*Please contact instructors and teaching assistants with any questions or concerns.
Meetings by appointment.*