

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

This course explores the connections and interactions between people in community, and the built environments and bioregions in which they live. Students will examine how these connections and relationships shape and influence their relationships with others, their sense of identity, their ethical frameworks, and their lifestyles.

The course will introduce students to the rich body of place-focused work from a host of disciplines, including design, social work, geography, anthropology and eco-psychology. In the light of emerging and critical issues such as climate change, and social and economic injustice, citizens in cities and towns around the world are coming together to create exciting new processes to chart a transition to more sustainable communities, economies, and lifestyles.

Students will be exposed to a number of theoretical, experiential and practice-oriented approaches that facilitate their understanding of the relationships between people and place, including sustainability, complexity, social economy, biophilia or “love of life”, bioregionalism, generational environmental amnesia, and social economy.

Overarching Themes of the course are:

Our Place in Nature
Sense of Place and the Built Environment
Advocacy and Action for the Places we Want

Objectives

- Students will learn to deepen their understanding of place and sharpen their skills in becoming a more reflective citizen and professional through writing, reading, sharing in reflection groups, experiential practices, field exposures, and class exercises.
- The course will facilitate students’ exploration of the connections between their own personal narrative, their community relationships, and the natural world.
- Students will also explore how these ideas may be helpful in developing approaches to their specific area of practice, whether it is environmental management, architecture, industrial design, community planning and design, clinical or organizational social work and leadership.

Teaching Approach

The course incorporates a variety of teaching and learning approaches and includes lectures, group and individual reflection, case studies and field-trips. The course is co-taught by EVDS and Social Work instructors. Sessions will be lead by one faculty member and normally the other faculty member will participate in each session. The course is designed to facilitate diverse learning styles. Reflective learning whereby students apply critical and creative thinking to the topics in the course will be encouraged. Field assignments will provide a hands-on and experiential element to the course.

Daily Schedule

MONDAY

Introduction to course
Overview of Place

Portland: A model of urban sustainability

TUESDAY

Place theory: the crisis of our time and what place has to offer

Curitiba, Brazil; Medellin, Columbia and Cuba –Latin American experiences of Place-making

WEDNESDAY

Economic Democracy and The Social Economy: Place-based economic futures
Case Study: The Mondragon Model

Field Trip: Making Calgary: Inglewood and East Village

THURSDAY

The Politics of Place – Advocacy Strategies

Our Place in Nature, Biophilia

FRIDAY

The Shifting Energy of Place: The transition to a post-carbon world
The German Transition
Alberta Futures: Placemaking, Energy and Economy

Spirituality and Place

Place & Personal Identity: Reflecting Processes
Learning Moments & Course Evaluation

Means of Evaluation

The course evaluation will be based on three written assignments. Assignment 1 and 2 are reviews of assigned books. Assignment 3 is a reflective paper whereby students make a personal and professional commitment to Place.

Students must achieve a passing grade in all assignments to complete the course successfully.¹ The EVDS standard grading scale will be used in all evaluations for this course.

Book Discussion 1: Becoming Animal	30%
Book Discussion 2: Oil and Honey	30%
My Commitment to Place	30%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

Assignment 1: Becoming Animal: Reflective Essay (1000 words)

Assignment 2: Oil and Honey: Reflective Essay (1000 words)

Assignment 3: My Commitment To Place: Personal and Professional (1000 words)

OPTION: One essay (3000 words, integrating Assignments 1, 2 and 3)

Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance, engagement in class discussions and review of assigned readings.

Readings

McKibben, Bill (2014) Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist. St. Martin Griffen

Abram, David (2011) Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology. Vintage Publishing

Other articles, reports, papers presentations and supplementary readings lists relevant to specific topics in the class will be posted on D2L.

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. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
2. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
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/contact>); 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

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Notes:

- A student who receives a "C" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.