



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE

Sustainability 501: Theory & Practice

Thursday, 3:30 – 6:30, Room: PF 128, Winter 2022

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Prerequisite: Sustainability Studies 403 and enrolment in the embedded Certificate in Sustainability Studies.

Description

This course is the final of four required courses for the Embedded Certificate in Sustainability Studies. The aim is to synthesize and integrate knowledge gained from the first three courses SUST 201, SUST 401 and SUST 403, deepen your understanding of the conceptual foundations of sustainability, and examine how these ideas can shape and guide practice.

Objectives

1. To develop foundational knowledge of concepts and theories of sustainability, becoming familiar with key texts, issues, and arguments.
2. To learn how to critically examine sustainability issues from multiple perspectives and disciplines.
3. To develop and refine skills in research, critical reading and discussion, synthesis of ideas, and oral and written communication.
4. To explore your role (professional, personal, citizen) as a sustainability advocate and practitioner

Teaching Approach

The format for this class is seminar style, similar to what will be found in a graduate program offered at any university. Seminar style means that course texts and topics are explored in an interactive, active, collaborative, conversational, engaging, and participatory manner. It requires students to engage in this way with new ideas, or rethink old ideas and assumptions from previous classes in new ways, embracing and struggling with the nuance, complexity, and even the ambiguity that is found. This can be a challenging format, but one with significant rewards.

Class Readings

Sustainability: A Cultural History, 2013, Ulrich Grobner.

Doughnut Economics, 2018 Kate Raworth.

Becoming Animal, An Earthly Cosmology, 2011, David Abram.

Sustainability Matters, 2021, Noel Keough and Geoff Gitter.

2020 State of Our City Report: An Urgent Call for a Just Transition, Sustainable Calgary.

Summary Report of the EAT-Lancet Commission Report.

Course Expectations

Apart from the formal assignments, students are expected to attend and actively participate in each classroom session. In order to do this effectively, students will need to complete the required readings and spend time reflecting on these prior to class. The course evaluation will be based on participation and the assignments completed during the term, which include written assignments, presentation of work and facilitating discussions. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course.

Means of Evaluation

Weekly reflection papers: 20%

Group presentation 30%

Term Paper 35%

Participation (Ongoing throughout semester) 15%

Note: (up to 5% grade reduction for every day late) Total 100%

You must complete and pass all course assignments to successfully pass the course.

Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Point	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding
A	4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	76-79.99	
B	3.00	73-75.99	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete
B-	2.70	70-72.99	
C+	2.30	66-69.99	
C	2.00	63-65.99	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter
C-	1.70	60-62.99	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation (see individual undergraduate faculty regulations)
D+	1.30	56-59.99	
D	1.00	50-55.99	Minimal pass – marginal performance
F	0.00	0-49.99	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Notes:

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>
Students needing 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 (contact information on first page above).

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/student-appeals>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

Student Success

Student Ombuds Office

Student Union (SU) Information

Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Safewalk