

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts

Urban Studies 591
Integrative Seminar
Winter 2013

T/Th 3:30-4:45 SB105

Instructor: Dr. Geoff Ghitter
Office: EEEL 449c
email: gghitter@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Course Description

This is the capstone course for Urban Studies majors and minors, dealing with sustainability and what it means in an urban context. The “key to sustainability,” according to Gwendolyn Hallsmith, is to understand the city “as a whole system... one that is composed of numerous subsystems.” The variety of subsystems that shape cities do not operate independently, rather are mutually interactive, modifying each other over time. These subsystems—economic, social, environmental, cultural, political—operate at a variety of scales, reverberating back upon the city. Understanding cities as systems and subsystems has critical implications for planning sustainable cities. Planning interventions cannot be conceived as discrete actions, rather they must be considered in terms of system-wide implications. The system drivers, as well as opportunities for intervention, must be considered as well.

The course comprises two components. The first questions the notion of sustainability by unraveling the complex discourse surrounding the concept. The second introduces “systems thinking” as a new way to approach city development. System properties – such as complexity, evolution and path dependence – define the search for “resilience” as a fundamental goal for urban development/redevelopment.

The second focuses on a group planning project that emphasizes the theoretical material from the first half of the class to a community development project chosen in collaboration with the Federation of Calgary Communities (FCC). In this project students, drawing on their individual research, will collaborate to produce a vision for community development (contingent on the details of the project chosen by the course instructor and the FCC).

Required reading

Meadows, Donella (2009) **Thinking in Systems: A Primer**. Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, Vermont.

Condon, Patrick (2010) **Seven Rules for Sustainable Communities**. Island Press, Washington DC

Optional Reading

Foran, Max (2009) **Expansive Discourses: Urban Sprawl in Calgary 1945-1978**, University of Athabasca Press; Edmonton;

Newman, P., T. Beatley and H. Boyer (2009) **Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change**. Island Press, Washington DC.

Additional required readings may be posted to Blackboard. Readings are to be completed by the date indicated in the lecture schedule. Reading assigned material before lectures will prepare you to ask relevant questions and helps facilitate intelligent discussion. Part of your final grade is based on your prepared participation.

Assignments and Grading

All assignments must be completed. Late assignments will be penalized 5%/day late. Presentation grade includes writing competency, organization, grammar, spelling, word choice, etc. and counts for 20%. Attendance is a primary consideration in the "Participation" grade.

	<u>Grading Scale</u>
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Grades will be based on:

Midterm exam 15%

Individual project 30%

- Abstract 10%
- Presentation 20%
- Content 70%

Small Group project 20% (shared grade)

Group project 30% (shared grade)

- Presentation 20%
- Content 80%

Peer assessment 5%

100%

Lecture and reading schedule

Last revised: October 21, 2012

<u>January</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Tue. 8	Course introduction: Tour of previous group projects; Individual project introduction	Blue text: Reading posted to Blackboard
Thur. 10	Visit from Alderman, community association, Federation of Calgary Communities	Sustainable Community planning (Tomalty and Marbek Resource Consultants Ltd. 2008)
Tue. 15	Seminar: Systems, cities and sustainability	Vallance, Suzanne and Perkins, Harvey (2010) 'Is another city possible? Towards an urbanised sustainability', City, 14: 4, 448-456 Perry Pei-ju Yang, Questioning urban sustainability, Journal of Urbanism Vol. 2, No. 3, November 2009, 187-189
Thur. 17	TBA	
Tue. 22	Seminar: Systems, cities and sustainability	Meadows Chapters 1, 2 (skim), 3
Thur. 24	Seminar: Systems, cities and sustainability	Meadows Chapters 4, 5
Tue. 29	Seminar: Systems, cities and sustainability	Meadows Chapters 6, 7
Thur. 31	TBA	
<u>February</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Saturday 2	Community Visioning Session	
Tue. 5	Seminar: Resilience and cities	Condon Chapters 1, 2
Thur. 7	Seminar: Resilience and cities Abstracts Due	Condon Chapters 3, 4, 5
Saturday 9	Community Visioning Session (if needed)	
Tue. 12	Seminar: Resilience and cities	Condon Chapters 6, 7, 8
Thur. 14	In-class mid-term exam	
Tue. 19	Reading Week No Lectures	
Thur. 21	Reading Week No Lectures	
Tue. 26	Group projects Individual project due	
Thur. 28	Seminar: Resilience and cities	
<u>March</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Tue. 5	Group projects	
Thur. 7	Group projects	

Tue. 12	Group projects Small group project presentations	
Thur. 14	Group projects Small group project presentations	
Tue. 19	Group projects	
Thur. 21	Group Projects	
Tue. 26	Group projects	
Thur. 28	Group projects	
<u>April</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Tue. 2	Presentation practice session	
Thurs. 4	Presentation practice session	
Tue. 9	Finalizing group work	
Thur. 11	Finalizing group work	
Tue. 16	Finalizing group work	
Saturday 20	Community Presentation	
Wed. 24	Group Project Report Due	

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult the instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

Another source of information that you may wish to use is your student representative. All faculties elect students to represent them on the Students Union. Please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of TFDL.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.