

## **GEOGRAPHY 394/395** (graduate versions: 697.94 and 697.95)

Sustainability and the City: Learning from Europe I (Geog 394) (or 697.94)

Sustainability and the City: Learning from Europe II (Geog 395) (or 697.95)

**Timetable:** Spring Session 2008

### **Instructors:**

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### **Texts (suggested/optional):**

Ostergren, R. and J. Rice (2004) The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture, and Environment, New York: Guilford Press.

Beatley, T. (1999) Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities, Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Turner, C. (2007) The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need, Random House Canada.

Required readings will be posted to Blackboard.

### **Course Content**

Geography 394.XX and 395.XX will be offered during the Overseas Field School, Spring Session, 2008; an extensive, mandatory pre-session will be held during the Winter Session, 2008.

These two linked half courses focus on issues of urban sustainability. The first part of the course, GEOG 394, will be held during the Winter 2008 semester (one evening per week). The first part of this course will focus on the historical geography of urban systems in Europe, emphasizing economic, cultural, and political processes. This introduction to European urban systems will lay the groundwork for addressing contemporary debates surrounding urban sustainability issues and policies in Europe. Economic, political, and cultural aspects of sustainability will be considered with respect to urban form, social geography, and mobility systems. Theoretical and practical links between urban, national, and European Union policies, on the one hand, and global sustainability discourses, on the other, will be made.

Understandings gained in GEOG 394 will undergird the second half course, GEOG 395, in which theoretical and practical conceptions of urban sustainability will be illustrated and challenged through field observations and interviews with a diverse array of local experts in European cities. Students will be introduced to examples of sustainable urbanism exemplified by select European cities and neighbourhoods. Best practices in subjects such as urban planning, transportation, energy systems, sanitation, recycling, residential and industrial design and many other social and political aspects of European cities will be addressed. The array of political structures, legal frameworks, and social forces that influence European urban sustainability practices will also be addressed so that students will understand the differences between European and Canadian sustainability policies and practices in context. Students will consider the potential transferability of European sustainability policies and practices to Canadian cities.

While overseas, students must complete one oral presentation, three field study assignments, an

extensive field notebook, and a final examination. **Note:** Group travel study is interspersed with numerous opportunities for small group and individual instructor-approved studies. The following components are included: pre-session assignments, group project, on-site lectures; field notes and assignments and a final essay exam.

**The final course grade for Geog 394/395 includes these components:**

one pre-session assignment .....	20%
one pre-session group project .....	15%
an on-site individual presentation(from group work).....	10%
two on-site assignments.....	30%
a final exam (essay question based on field notes).....	25%

It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course. The Registrar will **not** schedule the Final Exam; it will be scheduled on the last day of the Field School.

**Tentative Itinerary:**

Paris, Strassbourg, Freiburg, Munich, Prague, Dresden, Berlin, Hannover, Copenhagen, Malmö, Stockholm, over approximately five weeks.

**Expectations:**

By the conclusion of the program, a successful student will have acquired:

- **an in-depth introduction to the economic, political, social, and environmental context of European cities with specific relation to policy debates and initiatives**
- **a theoretical and practical understanding of sustainable development in general and urban sustainability in particular**
- **insights into social and economic processes in European cities, the organization of human activities in European cities, and environmental impacts of various forms of human action in European cities**
- **a well rounded understanding of the relationships between urban form, mobility, and the potential to function sustainably**
- **a broad context within which to discuss the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability with specific reference to the City of Calgary**

**Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Disability Resource Centre Accommodations**

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. 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.

### **Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

### **Campus Safewalk**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.

