



**URBAN STUDIES 591
H(3S-0)**

Integrative Seminar

Section	Days	Times	Location
SEM 01	TuTh	15:30-16:45	MS 217

Instructor: Geoff Ghitler	Office: ES 446
Telephone: 220 6200	Email: gghitter@ucalgary.ca

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in math Sciences is Social Science Food Court.

Official 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, and political—operate at a variety of scales, reverberating back upon each other and 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).

Prerequisite:

Fourth year standing as an Urban Studies Major or Minor.

Text(s)/Readings:

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

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.

Grading

There is no final examination for this course. It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

Grades will be based on:

Midterm exam	10%
Individual project	30%
- Composition	25%
- Critical thinking	45%
- Research skills	30%
Small Group project	20% (shared grade)
Group project	30% (shared grade)
- Presentation and written report	
Peer assessment	10%
Total	100%

Grading System:

96-100	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

Writing across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Principles of Conduct

The University of Calgary Calendar includes a statement on the Principles of conduct expected of all members of the University community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors and volunteers) whether on or off the University's property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html>

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. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism>

Student Accessibility Services Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

FOIP: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handled through Blackboard or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suypaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: arts1@ucalgary.ca

The students ombudsman office information can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

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.

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 SS110, 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 in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca