

**Sustainable and Resilient Cities**

Fall 2013, PF 2165

Wednesday: 6:00-8:50 pm

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Office hours: by appointment

## **Introduction**

The course will examine strategies for sustainable urban development within the context of globalization and climate change. It will examine a variety of conceptualizations of cities - sustainable cities, creative cities, global cities and post-industrial cities. It will engage students in the academic discourse and real-world practice of sustainable development in cities. Planning policies and design concepts will be explored in different economic, institutional and cultural settings. Case studies, drawing on best practices of planning for resilience in European, North American, and Asian cities, will illustrate proactive strategies to promote urban resilience, mitigate social disruption and increase the ability of local communities to cope with stress.

## **Objectives**

Within this overall framework the objectives of the course are:

1. To engage students in the academic discourse and real-world practice of sustainable development in cities.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of good international practices advancing urban resilience and sustainability.
3. To develop research and presentation skills essential for the practical application of these concepts and ideas to a real-world planning project.

## **Teaching Approach**

The course consists of lectures, independent research, seminar presentations, class discussions, a field trip and guest lectures. Students will explore different aspects of urban sustainability through research and evaluation of international planning approaches and design strategies. The course is designed to provide a much-needed exposure to urban experiments promoting green, creative and equitable cities in Europe, North America, Asia and Latin America. The emphasis on international case studies is particularly helpful for EVDS students looking to broaden their knowledge on sustainability and urban resilience in theory and praxis, as well as to develop practical research and policy analysis skills necessary for professional practice. Students advanced in their master's degree project will have the opportunity to apply insights from international experiences to their local project.

*Students have a great freedom in planning their route through the course.*

## Content: Topic Areas

Lectures, seminars and assignments will explore a wide range of topics central to the planning and governance of cities in a more sustainable manner. Some of these thematic clusters include:

- Globalization and World Cities;
- Postindustrial Cities and Urban Transformation;
- Planning and Sustainable Cities;
- Sustainable Neighborhoods;
- Resilient Cities.

## Evaluation

Student evaluation will be based on the following assignments:

City exploration/field-based	25%
Seminar (presentation+paper)	30%
Research paper (case study)	35%
Class participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Independent research, seminar discussions and presentations are the key elements providing a mechanism for student learning. Reflective learning whereby students apply critical and creative thinking to the topics in the course will be encouraged. A seminar format will be used to promote discussion of weekly readings and allow students the opportunity to present and lead discussion on their own research. A field research assignment will provide hands-on and experiential element to the course.

Evaluation is based on three assignments that might be carried out independently or as a team depending on student interests. The first assignment is a reflective observation of several communities in Calgary. The second one will require a strategic analysis and evaluation of a sustainable initiative in a city of your choice. The third assignment is a creative, in-depth study of a planning/development problem and its possible solutions with an emphasis on innovative approaches to achieve residence at the local level. Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance, engagement in class discussions and review of assigned readings.

## Classes

The course commitment will be 2.0 hours of formal meeting time per week (lectures, discussions, seminars), plus 1.0 hours studio/tutorial. A list of alternative sessions/meeting times will be confirmed on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 to accommodate different schedules for field trips and guest seminars.

## Readings

Articles, reports and papers relevant to specific topics in the class will be posted on Blackboard. The following books are suggested supplementary readings for the course:

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

UN-HABITAT (2013) *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013 Prosperity of Cities*. New York: Routledge.

UN-HABITAT (2010) [The Global Report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities](#). London: Earthscan Ltd.

World Bank (2010) [World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change](#). Washington DC, The World Bank.

## Grading Scale

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Assignments will be evaluated by percentage grades, with their letter grade equivalents as shown in the table below.

Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	76-79.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	73-75.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-72.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	66-69.99	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	63-65.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	60-62.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	56-59.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	50-55.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-49.99	

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.

**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.
2. 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. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) 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.
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/su-structure/contact-info>); 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>).