

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Environmental Design

EVDS 723.02
Thematic Elective - Sustainable Futures & Planning Scenarios

Winter 2012, PF 4140
Tuesday and Thursday – January 11 to April 14 – 9:30-12:20 pm

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COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

This course will examine a variety of conceptualizations of cities - sustainable cities, creative cities, global cities and post-industrial cities. Cities can be thought of as composed of a variety of systems including transportation, land use, social development, housing, energy, open spaces and water and waste management. These systems and their interrelationships will be the focus of several course sessions. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the city in two assignments – one will be a field observation and the other - a neighbourhood study. The course will also facilitate research into students own particular research interests. Finally, students will be challenged with a group design project focusing on sustainable community planning.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the course are:

- To introduce the students to conceptual frameworks defining the discourse on sustainable cities;
- To provide an introduction to the planning process and essential planning policies defining different urban systems;
- To provide an opportunity to apply sustainable planning and design approaches to the redevelopment of existing communities;
- To enhance learning through a framework for efficient collaboration among student teams dealing with sector specific issues – housing, employment, transportation, community facilities, infrastructure.

Teaching Approach

The course incorporates a variety of teaching and learning approaches and includes lectures, seminars, studios, field-trips and project-based learning. The course is designed to facilitate diverse learning styles. 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. Field and project-based assignments will provide a hands-on and experiential element to 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:

- Cities and Urban Transformation: Globalization and World Cities
- Postindustrial Cities and Urban Transformation
- Urban and Regional Planning and Sustainable Cities
- Governance, Politics and Sustainability
- Urban Systems – Housing, Neighbourhoods and Equity
- Urban Systems – Transportation and Land Use
- Urban Systems – Downtown Redevelopment

- Urban Systems - Water, Parks and Public Spaces

Means of Evaluation

The course evaluation will be based on the assignments completed during the term, which includes written assignments, presentation of work, facilitating discussions and team planning and design project. There will be no final examination. Students must achieve a passing grade in all assignments to complete the course successfully. The EVDS standard grading scale will be used in all evaluations for this course.

Field Assignment - Reflective Observation	20%
Neighbourhood Study	20%
Final Design and Planning Project	50%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance, engagement in class discussions and review of assigned readings.

Readings

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

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

UN-HABITAT (2008) *State of the World Cities 2010/2011. Bridging the Urban Divide*. London: Earthscan Ltd.

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>).

Grading Scale

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	

Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade. A grade point value of 3.0 on the 4-Point Scale is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.