

### Overview

Even if you do not believe in global warming, you must admit that the urgency of including principles of sustainability in every aspect of urban development is of paramount actuality.

This includes acting at different geographic scales both locally as well as internationally via green buildings in green neighborhoods, alternative modes of transportation, renewable energy, environmental justice, and healthy and equitable communities.

Through classic and recent thought-provoking readings and explorative hands-on exercises, this course will expose you to the many challenges and possibilities of urban sustainability; preparing you to play a significant role in the world of today and, moreover, of tomorrow.

The importance of being well informed on the many aspects of urban sustainability assumes particular relevance in today's professional world, where corporations and political agendas responsible for much of the traditional global diseconomies are hypocritically denying their past to become paladins of sustainability. This fact should not surprise, thou. In fact, we must remember that, paraphrasing Adam Smith, "It is not from the benevolence of the developer, the industrialist, or the politician that we expect our cities to become sustainable but from their regard to their own interest."

### Format and requirements

- A. Three tests have been scheduled for this course. The last test, scheduled for May 21, will last longer but it will not be comprehensive. Each test will include true/false and m/c questions as well as short essays. Total value: 110 points (30+30+50).
- B. Four exercises have also been scheduled throughout the semester. Information specific to each exercise will be announced in class and made available on Blackboard (Course Documents folder) on a timely manner. Exercises must be completed and returned by the due dates. One point will be taken off the overall grade for each day exercises are overdue. Total value: 70 points (15+20+15+20).
- C. Attendance and Participation. A classroom response system (aka clickers) will be used in this course. Clickers are small handheld devices used to foster interaction, active learning, and quick feedback for faculty and students. All students are required to obtain a clicker as a learning resource (just like a required text). Use of a clicker is part of the course participation requirement. Students must purchase and register the clicker prior to the third class meeting, and bring the clicker each time class meets prepared to participate. For this class, students will register the clicker via Blackboard. More information on the registration process for the clickers can be found by going to <http://clicker.sdsu.edu>. Students may not use other students' clickers; doing so is a violation of academic integrity. Value: 20 points.

### Required Readings and Material

1. Wheeler and Beatley (2009) *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. Second Edition. Routledge.
2. An additional suite of readings is available online (PDF format): <http://ecr.sdsu.edu> - The password to access such material is "sust09" (lowercase only!). Such articles are identified in the Course Outline below with an asterisk (\*).
3. One CPS RF clicker is required for this class. New and used clickers are available for purchase at the Aztec Bookstore.

## Class Policies

Tardiness is not acceptable. Time is just enough to cover the material. I will do my best to be ready to start at 2:00 pm sharp. I ask you to do the same.

Food in class is not allowed. Also, remember to mute cell phones and pagers.

Surfing the web or texting during lectures is very rude and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism. Through the years, I have developed a very keen ability in detecting even very sophisticated forms of plagiarism. Papers containing traces of plagiarism will receive an F.

Students who necessitate accommodation of particular needs should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you need accommodation due to a disability but have not registered with Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

Clickers. Students may not use other students' clickers; doing so is a violation of academic integrity.

Grading. Coursework will be graded according to the following scale:

Grade	%
A	92 to 100
A-	90 to 92
B+	87 to 89
B	83 to 86
B-	80 to 82
C+	77 to 79
C	73 to 76
C-	70 to 72
D+	67 to 69
D	61 to 66
F	60 and below

## Course outline and reading assignments

- Jan 22 Course synopsis introduced by the video *The End of Suburbia*
- Jan 27 - Jan 29 Origins of the sustainability concept (Howard, Mumford, Leopold, Jacobs, McHarg, Frank, Meadows and al., Daly, World Commission, McKibben, United Nations)
- Feb 3 - Feb 5 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Energy and materials use (Girardet, Lyle, and Pacala and Socolow)
- Feb 10 - Feb 12 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Environmental justice and social equity (Bullard, Hayden, Perlman, Larsen and Gilliland\*, and CMHC\*)
- Feb 10 First exercise: Personal ecological footprint
- Feb 17 - Feb 19 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Economic development (Pearce and Barbier, Hawken, Korten, Shuman, and Roseland and Soots)
- Feb 17 First exercise due
- Feb 24 First Test
- Feb 26 - Mar 3 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Land use and urban design (Calthorpe, Gehl, Wheeler, and Arieff\*)
- Mar 5 - Mar 10 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Transportation (Cervero, Newman and Kenworthy, and Pucher and al.)

- Mar 12 - Mar 17 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Urban ecology and restoration (Spirn, Beatley, and Riley)
- Mar 19 - Mar 24 Dimensions of urban sustainability: Green architecture and building (McDonough, Vale and Vale, Eisenberg and Yost, and USGBC). Speaker: Jane Leonard, USGBC
- Mar 26 Second test
- Spring Recess
- Apr 7 - Apr 9 Tools for sustainability planning (Maclaren, Wackernagel and Rees, Jacobs, Lerner, and de Montis)
- Apr 9 Second exercise: Firsthand analysis of two urban environments
- Apr 14 - Apr 16 Tools for sustainability planning, cont. (Maclaren, Wackernagel and Rees, Jacobs, Lerner, and de Montis)
- Apr 16 Second exercise due
- Apr 19 Third exercise: Sustainability issues from the EarthFair, the world's largest annual environmental fair and Earth Day celebration. Balboa Park, San Diego
- Apr 21 - Apr 23 Sustainable urban development locally and internationally (San Diego 2050\*, City of San Diego\*, Rabinovitch and Leitman, Beatley, Hsiao and Liu, Lam, and Honey)  
Movie: *Maquilapolis*
- Apr 28 Third exercise due
- Apr 28 to May 12 Visions of sustainable community: Urban sustainability at the building and site scale, at the neighborhood or district scale, and at the city and regional scale (Wheeler and Beatley, 393-456, Saha\*)
- April 30 Fourth exercise: Developing a proposal for a more sustainable campus
- May 12 Fourth exercise due
- May 21 Third Test (from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

**Come to see me**

Please, take advantage of my office hours or call me to set up an appointment. But do not call if you can use the office hours, just come and knock at the door!

NOTE: The syllabus is not a binding document. I reserve the right to make adjustments to the course design during the semester following notification.