

URBP 260 – Environmental Planning Topics

Spring 2008, Tuesdays 4:00-6:45PM, Clark 131

urbp260.pbwiki.com

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-3:30PM and Thursdays, 8:30-10:30AM; other times by appointment

Best Contact Method: E-mail

Course Catalog Description:

Selected environmental planning topics introduced in URBP 240 examined in depth.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides a unique opportunity for students to obtain hands-on, real-world experience in environmental planning. The City of San José is currently updating its General Plan. A key component of that plan will relate to sustainability. Students enrolled in this course will work with their fellow students, the faculty instructor and with City of San José staff to prepare a report that provides recommendations as to how the City could incorporate sustainability into the General Plan.

Key learning objectives for this course include:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues related to sustainability in a general plan
- Identify aspects of sustainability that can effectively be incorporated into a city's general plan update
- Work closely as a team to conduct research on diverse topics
- Better link theory, as it relates to sustainability, to practice
- Understand and relate the history of sustainability to actions currently being taken by local jurisdictions
- Strengthen collaborative learning skills
- Foster the development of key professional/career-building skills including:
 - Verbal and written communication
 - Time management
 - Independent and collaborative learning
 - Problem solving

Course Assignments and Expectations:

Your grade for the course will be based primarily on the following assignments:

Assignment Title	Brief Description	Percent of Total Grade
Discussion Questions	Each week (for which we have assigned readings), students will be asked to submit two relevant, high quality questions based on the readings. Students should bring their questions on a single sheet of paper to class.	5
Group Discussion	Students will work in small teams to lead class discussions on assigned course readings. Teams will prepare a short lecture (approx. 20 minutes) on the week's topic and will facilitate the class discussion.	10
Sustainable City Policies Report	Students will research sustainability policies in a specific city, prepare a brief report, and be prepared to talk about their city in class.	20
Case Study in San José	Students will work in small teams to research and prepare a report providing recommendations to develop a "sustainable village" in one of San José's existing neighborhoods.	30
Final Report and Presentation	Based on the work completed in the Sustainable Cities Policies Report and Case Study in San José assignments, the class will work together to prepare a final report and presentation for the City of San José that provides recommendations regarding how the City can incorporate sustainability into the current General Plan Update.	20
Individual Learning Log	Throughout the semester, students will periodically be asked to complete entries in an individual learning log. These entries will be related to specific course topics or to the overall experience of working on a real-world project in a classroom setting.	15

Student participation in class discussions is a vital component of this course. There is no formal course credit for participation, however, students should make every attempt to attend all classes and actively participate in discussions. In rare cases where a student misses a significant number of lectures or does not actively participate in discussions, this will impact the final course grade.

Other grading/assignment issues

Due to the nature of this course, *no late assignments will be allowed*. If life begins to overtake you such that you expect you will not be able to complete an assignment on time it will be important for you to contact me and, if appropriate, the other students in

your group (for group project work). A project-based course such as this one depends on the reliability of all students.

Course Textbook and Readings:

The required course textbook is *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader* by Stephen M. Wheeler and Timothy Beatley, 2004, Routledge (ISBN 0-415-31187-X). This book is available through the Spartan Bookshop and is also available online through a variety of sources. Additional course readings will be distributed directly to students in class or electronically (via e-mail or posted online). Students are *strongly* encouraged to consider purchasing *Sustainability by Design: A Vision for A Region of 4 Million* published by the Design Centre for Sustainability at the University of British Columbia (ISBN 978-0-9780966-2-5). It was recently listed at amazon.com for \$15.56 (although you may be able to find it for a different price at other book sellers). Later in the semester, when students are working in groups on their vision for a sustainable neighborhood, this book may be quite useful and groups may want to go in together to purchase a copy. A request has been made to the SJSU Library to obtain both of these books are place them on reserve for students.

Academic integrity statement, plagiarism, and citing sources properly

"Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development" (Academic Senate Policy S07-2). The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense both in the university and in your professional work. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. It may also result in your failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in written work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- If you use a sentence (or even part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and don't reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you paraphrase somebody else's theory or idea and don't reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you use a picture or table from a webpage or book and don't reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

- If your work incorporates data someone else has collected and you don't reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

San Jose State University has created a website tutorial on how to identify and avoid plagiarism that you are encouraged to visit. The site is available at <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm>. In addition, the "Academic Dishonesty Procedures" are available in any SJSU Schedule of Classes.

If you still have questions after reading these pages, feel free to talk to me personally. There is nothing wrong with asking for help, whereas even unintentional plagiarism is a serious offense.

Citation style

It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning uses Kate Turabian's "A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition" (University of Chicago Press, 2007, ISBN-10: 0-226-82336-9). Copies are available in the SJSU King Library. Additionally, the book is relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy (\$11.56 recently listed at amazon.com). Please note that Turabian's book describe two systems for referencing materials: (1) footnotes or endnotes, plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. Either system is fine, but you need to be consistent with your referencing style.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (408-924-6000).

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended as a class guide and is designed to be as accurate as possible. It is possible, however, that this syllabus may change during the semester as class needs change. Any changes will be discussed in class with as much notice as possible. Since our course only meets once per week, e-mail will be used as the primary form of communication. Please ensure that I have your correct e-mail address (and one that you check regularly). If you have difficulty with e-mail, or limited access, please let me know so that we can arrange an alternative means of communication. All course-related information will also be posted to the class website/wiki.

Tentative Course Schedule

The assigned readings cover topics relevant to sustainable development, with a particularly emphasis on cities and urban areas. Additional readings may also be assigned and will be distributed to students directly. The course schedule listed below is

18	<p>use and urban design (1 hr)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of Urban Sustainability: Urban ecology and restoration (1 hr) 	<p>Calthorpe, p. 73-80</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Outdoor Space and Outdoor Activities" by Jan Gehl, p. 81-86 • "City and Nature" by Anne Spirn, p. 113-115 • "Land Development and Endangered Species: Emerging Conflicts" by Tim Beatley, p. 116-119 • "What is Restoration" by Ann Riley, p. 120-122
Mar. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break ☺
Apr. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of Urban Sustainability: Transportation (1 hr) • Dimensions of Urban Sustainability: Energy and materials use (1 hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Transit and the Metropolis: Finding Harmony" by Robert Cervero, p. 89-96 • "Traffic Calming" by Newman and Kenworthy, p. 97-103 • "Bicycling Renaissance in North America" by Purcher et al., p. 104-110 • "The Metabolism of Cities" by Girardet, p. 125-132 • "Waste as a Resource" by John Lyle, p. 133-140
Apr. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of Urban Sustainability: Environmental justice and social equity (1 hr) • Dimensions of Urban Sustainability: Green architecture and building (1 hr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "People-of-Color Environmentalism" by Robert Bullard, p. 143-149 • "Domesticating Urban Space" by Dolores Hayden, p. 150-156 • "Design, Ecology, Ethics, and the Making of Things" by McDonough, p. 181-187 • "Principles of Green Architecture" by Vale and Vale, p. 188-192 • "Sustainability and Building Codes" by Eisenberg and Yost, p. 193-198
Apr. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions of Urban Sustainability: Economic development (1 hr) • Working Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Economic System and Natural Environments" by Pearce and Barbier, p. 159-161 • "Natural Capitalism" by Paul Hawken, p. 162-170 • "Import Replacement" by Michael Shuman, p. 171-178
Apr. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations – Case study research project • Discussion: Application to San José (extending the neighborhood to the city) 	
Apr. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Session 	
May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Session • Practice Presentation 	
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentation 	