Description & Objectives
This course will be an investigation into sustainability in North America that intends to give a broad overview of the meaning of sustainability, sustainable places, and the future of making memorable, livable, urban places. We will analyze “community” as a concept and as organizing system for promoting sustainability. Current environmental, social, and economic problems facing North American communities will be examined within the context of sustainability. We will incorporate readings, videos, and careful, innovative projects of how to create sustainable communities. Global sustainable issues emphasizing on developing countries will be covered.

Course Requirements
- Thorough engagement with assigned readings prior to class.
- Active participation in class discussions.

Examinations
To give you an opportunity to synthesize the many concepts, issues, and debates covered in the course, there will be a mid-semester examination and final examination on These exams will cover lectures, class discussions, class assignments, readings and videos.

Required Texts: (Available at MSU Bookstore)

Classroom Policies
Entering class late is strongly discouraged. However, if you have a scheduling or work related-problem, please talk to the Instructor. Leaving class early, except under special circumstances, or upon completion of an exam, or under a previously approved arrangement with the instructor is against classroom policy. All students are expected to ask questions and actively engage in classroom discussions. Frivolous conversations between students however will not be tolerated.
**Grading:**
Course grades will be based on the following:
- Reaction papers: 10 points
- Class exercises: 50 points
- Mid Semester Examination: 20 points
- Final Examination: 20 points
- Attendance & Participation: 10 points
**Total:** 102 points

**Grading Scale:**
- A+: 97-100
- A: 93-96
- A-: 90-92
- B+: 87-89
- B: 83-86
- B-: 80-82
- C+: 77-79
- C: 73-76
- C-: 70-72
- D+: 67-69
- D: 63-66
- D-: 60-62

All assignments are due on the assigned date. Please note that late papers will be accepted, but a partial credit will be applied to any papers turned in after the due date. The late penalty for the assignments can be waived only with a written note from a medical professional.

MSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services, located in 0132 Memorial Library, telephone 389-2825, TDD 711 and then contact me as soon as possible.

**READINGS AND LECTURE THEMES**

**Week 1: Introduction**
*Monday: August 24*

- Course introduction:
- Grading, readings, and requirements.

**Class exercise (5 points)**
- Future Visions
- Definition of sustainable development
- Review of the concept of sustainable developments
Readings: Ch.1: Ecology of Place

Week 2: Sustainable Places
  Monday: August 31
  • Envisioning sustainable places
  • Ecological Footprint
  Class exercise on Ch. 1 of Ecology of Place (8 points)
Readings: Ch. 2: Ecology of Place

Week 3: Labor Day (No Class)
  Monday: September 7

Week 4: Municipal Solid Waste Management
  Monday: September 14
  • Solid waste management
  • Landfill mining
  • Sustainable solid waste management practices
  • Mankato Integrated SWM

Week 5: Municipal Solid Waste Management cont’d
  Monday: September 21
  • Video: Global Dumping Grounds
  • Discussion of video and current cases of hazardous waste dumping in Africa
Readings: Trans-boundary dumping of hazardous waste@ http://www.eoearth.org/article/Transboundary_dumping_of_hazardous_waste

Week 6: Energy
  Monday: September 28
  • Conventional energy sources
  • Sustainable energy forms
  • Video: The Three Gorges
  • Reaction paper (5 points)

Week 7: Greening the City
  Monday: October 5
  • Urban Green Spaces
  • Urban Agriculture in North America
  Class exercise: Based on Ch. 4 of Ecology of Place and Benefits of Urban trees (8 points)
Readings: Ch. 4: Ecology of Place, The Benefits of Urban trees
Week 8: Urban Sprawl & Growth Management  
*Monday: October 12*
- Urban sprawl
- Growth management
- Video: *Subdivide and Conquer*

*Readings: Ten things wrong with sprawl*

Week 9: Mid-semester examinations  
*Monday: October 5*
- Mid-semester examinations

Week 10: Planning and designing sustainable Communities  
*Monday*
- Low impact development (LID)
- Planned Unit Development (PUD)
- Class exercise: Ahwannee principles (5 points)

Week 11: Sensitive environments  
*Monday*
- Wetlands
- Flood plains
- Video: *Vanishing wetlands*
- Reaction paper (5 points)

Week 12: War and Sustainability  
*Monday*
- Video: Spoils of war
- Discussion of video

Week 13: Urban Form and Sustainability  
*Monday*
- Sustainable Urban Forms
Class exercise: Ch.3 of Ecology of Place (8 points)

Week 14: Brownfield’s  
*Monday*
- Brownfield’s & urban sustainability
  *Movie: Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City*

Week 15: Civic Community  
*Monday*
- Class exercise: Ch. 6 of Ecology of Place (8 points)
- Audit (8 points): Due the following week
Week 16: Final exams, review and course evaluation

Monday:
  • Review and course evaluation

Final examination