URBS 150 – Sustainable Communities  
Spring 2009, MH 305, M 6:00 – 8:45

Instructor: Bob Hugg  
E-Mail: Robert.Hugg@MNSU.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: 106 Morris Hall  
Phone: 389-1714

Course Overview:
The course is an exploration of community sustainability in its various forms. Through readings, discussion, hands-on activities, films and selected writing assignments students will experience and share the dynamics of community sustainability. Emphasis is on helping the student experience and assimilate newly gained knowledge and find rewarding and satisfying ways to participate in understanding and solving community sustainability issues. In essence, the students explore the meaning of community and sustainability concepts as they relate to each other in a fun, informative, and dynamic setting.

Instructional Strategy:
This course is built on the premise that you are responsible for your part in our shared journey; you are responsible for attending, participating and owning a willingness to learn. My role is to guide, facilitate, encourage and provide thought provoking opportunities. Simply put, my professional-educator role is to open doors for you to walk through and explore in a safe learning environment. My personal-professional goal is to introduce you to worlds of thoughts, opportunities and challenges you will probably not have experienced before, and in so doing provide a degree of mentorship that will encourage you long beyond this class or your college experience.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will demonstrate competency in knowledge, skills, and abilities as related to historical, current and future community sustainability issues, initiatives and opportunities:

Community Sustainability
1. Understand and experience historical and current community sustainability concepts
2. Understand the challenges and rewards of building sustainable communities
3. Understand the historical and cultural basis of community sustainability issues
4. Articulate through discussion and writing current and emerging future sustainability issues and initiatives explored in this course

Required Texts:

Toward Sustainable Communities  (Revised Edition, 2005)  
By Mark Roseland.  

ECOVILLAGES (2005)  
By Jan Martin Bang  

Requirements:
The key requirements for this course are an open mind, a willingness to discuss new concepts, and the desire to grow. Each Student is required to fulfill the following requirements in order to pass this course:
Classwork: In class, you will meet in groups to discuss readings from the textbook and discuss each others’ writing. You will write 1 short page (not more than 2 paragraphs) on a selection of your choice from each of the assigned reading areas from the text. This will help you prepare to participate in discussion. This peer-work is an important part of the learning in this course.

Written Assignments:
Writing is a wonderful means to explore your experiences and articulate the meaning to others. In addition to the chapter paragraphs, there are 2 different writing projects which will give you the opportunity to practice writing and learning to “tell your story”. Please use MLA standard style for your writings; please use Times New Roman, font size 11 or 12, 1 inch margins (top/bottom/left/right), double spacing when writing your papers.

The assignments will be discussed in-depth through handouts and class discussion; a brief description of each follows:

1. PAPER 1 – Sustainability Treasure Hunt
2. PAPER 2 – The Future of Sustainability Communities – Your Vision

Written reports are expected to be free of grammatical, spelling, and content errors. Please familiarize yourself with the University’s Academic Honesty Policy; plagiarism is a serious breach of academic behavior and will result in an F for the course.

Attendance, Timeliness and Class Participation:
It is your responsibility to complete your coursework in a timely fashion, interact and engage in the class discussions. If there is an emergency which requires you to miss class, please contact me immediately. ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DATE LISTED IN THE COURSE CALENDAR. I will give partial credit for assignments that come in during the next class period; assignments posted after that will not earn course credit unless there is a prior agreement.

Grading:
There are 100 points for the course, divided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAPER 1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPER 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READINGS/PARAGRAPHS (10x1.5 points each)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIZZES (2x10 points EACH)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE (RANDOMLY TAKEN)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100-90 = A   89-80 = B   79-70 = C   69-60 = D   Under 60 = F

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please contact us as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact the Disability Services Office at 507-389-2825 (V) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY/HOMEWORK/READINGS TO BE DISCUSSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1-12     | CLASS INTRODUCTION  
                      FILM - CITIES  
                      Discussion of Film                           |
| 1-19     | NO CLASS – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY HOLIDAY                                        |
| 1-26     | Roseland Chapter 1&2/Bang Chapter 1&2  
                      FILM – AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH  
                      FILM – SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapter 2 and Films |
| 2-2      | Roseland Chapters 3 & 4/Bang Chapter 3  
                      FILM – DESIGNING A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapters and Film |
| 2-9      | Roseland Chapter 5/Bang Chapter 6  
                      FILM – CRAPSHOOT  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapters and Film |
| 2-16     | Roseland Chapter 6  
                      FILM – THE 11TH HOUR  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapter 6 and Film  
                      QUIZ 1                                        |
| 2-23     | Roseland Chapter 7/Bang Chapter 7  
                      FILM – POWER PLAY  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapters and Film |
| 3-2      | SUSTAINABILITY TREASURE HUNT – NO CLASS                                             |
| 3-9      | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK                                                             |
| 3-16     | PAPER 1 DUE  
                      Roseland Chapters 8 & 9  
                      FILM – WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapters 8 & 9 and Film |
| 3-23     | Roseland Chapter 10  
                      FILM – END OF SUBURBIA  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapter 10 and Film |
| 3-30     | Roseland Chapter 11/Bang Chapter 4  
                      FILM – THE POWER OF COMMUNITY  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapters and Film |
| 4-6      | Roseland Chapter 12/Bang Chapter 8  
                      FILM – GREEN IS THE COLOR OF MONEY  
                      FILM – CASHING IN ON CULTURE  
                      FILM – OUR LAND, OUR LEGACY  
                      Paragraphs and Group Discussion of Chapters and Films |
| 4-13     | FILM – SUSTAINABILITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY  
                      FILM – THE SUSTAINABLE CITY  
                      QUIZ 2                                        |
| 4-20     | Bang Chapter 9  
                      DESIGN DAY                                         |
| 4-27     | PAPER 2 DUE  
                      FILM – LITTLE TOWNS LIKE THESE  
                      COURSE FEEDBACK                                       |
| 5-3      | FINAL EXAM - SPRING                                                               |
OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES AND FINAL EXAM

Writing is a wonderful means to explore your experiences and articulate the meaning to others. In addition to the chapter paragraphs, there are 2 different writing projects which will give you the opportunity to practice writing and learning to “tell your story”. Please use MLA standard style for your writings; please use Times New Roman, font size 11 or 12, 1 inch margins (top/bottom/left/right), double spacing when writing your papers and paragraphs.

1. **READINGS AND PARAGRAPHS:** You will write 1 short page (not more than 2 paragraphs) on a selection of your choice from each week’s assigned reading. The goal is to highlight an issue in the readings and your ideas on how to solve the issue. **For weeks where readings from multiple texts are assigned you may include ideas from either, or all, readings in your short page. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WRITE A SEPERATE PAGE FOR EACH READING WHEN MULTIPLE READINGS ARE ASSIGNED, THOUGH YOU MAY DO IF YOU DESIRE.** No idea is too big or too small – or too far out! Paragraphs will be collected at the end of class and graded/returned.

2. **ASSIGNMENT:** Sustainability Treasure Hunt. This is an opportunity to pick a community (your hometown, your residence hall, the campus, Mankato – a place you feel at home in and feel you belong to) and fine tune your personal sustainability radar. Using the concepts discussed in the course so far, spot good and bad practices, and think about how they might become better. Areas to look for include energy, building design, transportation, resource use, housing sprawl, and educational initiatives.

3. **PAPER 1 – Sustainability Treasure Hunt.** A reflection paper that tells a brief story about what you found on your quest to find sustainable – and non-sustainable - practices throughout your community. Emphasis is on what you found and your ideas on what practices could make things better. This is an opportunity to dream big and talk about your ideal sustainable community! **This paper requires at least 3 pages of writing.**

4. **PAPER 2 – The Future of Sustainability Communities – Your Vision.** A reflection paper that talks about your vision of what communities can be based on your experiences and discussions throughout the course. This is an opportunity to set, and articulate, your vision of how communities can become economically, environmentally and socially responsible. Think about how you would design, power and provide governance for your city, and how you would make it a welcoming, friendly and sustainable home. **This paper requires at least 3 pages of writing.**

5. **QUIZ 1 – Covers selected critical points from readings in weeks 1-6. (Open book).**

6. **QUIZ 2 – Covers selected critical points from readings in weeks 7-14. (Open book).**

7. **FINAL EXAM - Covers selected critical points from Design Day and selected key points from films (Open Book).**