Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am – 12:15 pm in MH 206

Instructor: Raymond Asomani-Boateng
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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 on March 5 and final examination on May 5. 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 110 points**

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**  
*Jan. 13: Tuesday*  
- Course introduction:  
- Grading, readings, and requirements.  
*Jan. 15: Thursday*  
- 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**  
*Jan. 20: Tuesday*  
- Envisioning sustainable places  
- Ecological Footprint  
*Jan. 22: Thursday*  
- Class exercise on Ch. 1 of Ecology of Place (*8 points*)  

*Readings: Ch. 2: Ecology of Place*
Week 3: Municipal Solid Waste Management
Jan 27: Tuesday
• Solid waste management
• Landfill mining
Jan. 29: Thursday
• Sustainable solid waste management practices
• Mankato Integrated SWM

Week 4: Municipal Solid Waste Management cont’d
Feb. 3: Tuesday
• Video: Global Dumping Grounds
Feb. 5: Thursday
• Discussion of video and current cases of hazardous waste dumping in Africa
Reading: Trans-boundary dumping of hazardous waste@
http://www.eoearth.org/article/Transboundary_dumping_of_hazardous_waste

Week 5: Energy
Feb. 10: Tuesday
• Conventional energy sources
• Sustainable energy forms
Feb. 12: Thursday
• Video: The Three Gorges
• Reaction paper (5 points)

Week 6: Greening the City
Feb. 17: Tuesday
• Urban Green Spaces
• Urban Agriculture in North America
Feb. 19: Thursday
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 7: Urban Sprawl & Growth Management
Feb. 24: Tuesday
• Urban sprawl
• Growth management
Feb. 26: Thursday
• Video: Subdivide and Conquer
Readings: Ten things wrong with sprawl
Week 8: Mid-semester examinations
March 3: Tuesday
- Revision
March 5: Thursday
- Mid-semester examinations

Week 9: Planning and designing sustainable Communities
March 17: Tuesday
- Low impact development (LID)
- Planned Unit Development (PUD)
March 19: Thursday
- Class exercise: Ahwannee principles (5 points)

Week 10: Sensitive environments
March 24: Tuesday
- Wetlands
- Flood plains
March 26: Thursday
- Video: Vanishing wetlands
- Reaction paper (5 points)

Week 11: War and Sustainability
March 31: Tuesday
- Video: Spoils of war
April 2: Thursday
- Discussion of video

Week 12: Urban Form and Sustainability
April 7: Tuesday
- Sustainable Urban Forms
April 9: Thursday
Class exercise: Ch.3 of Ecology of Place (8 points)

Week 13: Brownfield’s
April 14: Tuesday
- Brownfield’s & urban sustainability
April 16: Thursday
  Movie: Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City
**Week 14: Civic Community**

*April 21: Tuesday*
- Class exercise: Ch. 6 of Ecology of Place (*8 points*)

*April 23: Thursday*
- Audit (*8 points*)

**Week 15: Final exams, review and course evaluation**

*April 28: Tuesday*
- Review and course evaluation

*April 30: Thursday*
- Revision

**May 5: Final examination**