Minnesota State University
Spring, 2010
URBS 150: Sustainable Communities: Section 2

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

Instructor: Raymond Asomani-Boateng
Office: 106B Morris Hall
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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 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Semester Examination</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Grading Scale:
A: 93-100
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
*Tuesday: January 12*
- Course introduction:
- Grading, readings, and requirements.
Thursday: January 14
- Class exercise (5 points)
  Future Visions & definition of sustainable development
- Review of the concept of sustainable development

Readings: Ch. 1: Ecology of Place

Week 2: Sustainable Places
Tuesday: January 19
- Envisioning sustainable places
- Ecological Footprint

Reading: Ch 1&2: Sustainable Urbanism

Thursday: January 21
- Class exercise on Ch. 1 of Ecology of Place (5 points)

Readings: Ch. 2: Ecology of Place

Week 3: Municipal Solid Waste Management
Tuesday: January 26
- Solid waste management
- Landfill mining

Thursday: January 28
- Sustainable solid waste management practices
- Mankato Integrated SWM

Week 4: Municipal Solid Waste Management cont’d
Tuesday: Feb. 2
- Video: Global Dumping Grounds

Thursday: Feb. 4
- 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
Tuesday: Feb. 9
- Conventional energy sources
- Sustainable energy forms

Thursday: Feb. 11
- Video: The Three Gorges
- Reaction paper (5 points)

Week 6: Greening the City
Tuesday: Feb. 16
- Urban Green Spaces
- Urban Agriculture in North America

Reading and discussion: Ch. 6 of Sustainable Urbanism
Thursday: Feb. 18
Class exercise: Based on Ch. 4 of Ecology of Place and Benefits of Urban trees (5 points)
Readings: Ch. 4: Ecology of Place, The Benefits of Urban trees

Week 7: Urban Sprawl & Growth Management
Tuesday: Feb. 23
• Urban sprawl
• Growth management
Reading and discussion: Ch.1 of Sustainable Urbanism

Thursday: Feb. 25
• Video: Subdivide and Conquer
Readings: Ten things wrong with sprawl

Week 8: Mid-semester examinations
Tuesday: March 2
• Revision
Thursday: March 4
• Mid-semester examinations

Week 9: Spring Break: March 8-12 (No classes)

Week 10: Planning and designing sustainable Communities
Tuesday: March 16
• Low impact development (LID)
• Planned Unit Development (PUD)
Thursday: March 18
• Class exercise: Ahwanee principles (5 points)

Week 11: Sensitive environments
Tuesday: March 23
• Wetlands
• Flood plains
Thursday: March 25
• Video: Vanishing wetlands
• Reaction paper (5 points)

Week 12: War and Sustainability
Tuesday: March 30
• Video: Spoils of war
Thursday: April 1
• Discussion of video
Week 13: Urban Form and Sustainability  
*Tuesday: April 6*  
• Sustainable Urban Forms  
*Thursday: April 8*  
Class exercise: Ch.3 of Ecology of Place (5 points)

Week 14: Sustainable Neighborhoods  
*Tuesday: April 13*  
• Discussion  
Reading: Ch. 7 of Sustainable Urbanism  
*Thursday: April 15*  
• Discussion  
Reading: Ch. 7 of Sustainable Urbanism

Week 15: Civic Community  
*Tuesday April 20*  
• Class exercise: Ch. 6 of Ecology of Place (5 points)  
*Thursday: April 23*  
• Audit (5 points)

Week 15: Final exams, review and course evaluation  
*Tuesday: April 27*  
• Review and course evaluation  
*Thursday: April 29*  
• Final Examination