

URPN 460

**Sustainable Community**  
(Fall 2013)

Tuesday & Thursday 3:55-5:10 pm  
Langford 207 (C)

Dr. G. Rogers

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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required Readings:**

- 1) Daley, Herman E., and Joshua Farley, 2011, *Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications*, Washington, D. C.: Island Press. ISBN-13 978-1-59726-681-9, ISBN-10 1-59726-681-7; **D&F**
- 2) Plus one book from the Reading list according to the assignment.

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the concept of sustainable community. It is particularly oriented toward applications of public policy and design. Topics covered will include: societal organization, disciplinary bound design and policy, and empowered community approaches to design, ecology and public policy. Course will focus on the concepts of sustainability in a lecture/discussion format, textbook readings and review of relevant literature on the subject. These classic approaches will be complemented with some exercises to illustrate specific principles involved in the subject matter.

**Course Format:** The course will be organized in a typical lecture/discussion format. Topics to be covered in the course are arranged by week. Each class period will be devoted primarily to lecture, with a focus on the theory; however, students are expected to have completed the assigned readings at the time of class. Each class period will include substantial discussion, with a focus on examples and implications of written materials. Discussions will focus policy and design implications associated with the concept of sustainability.

**Course Requirements:**

		<b>#</b>	<b>pts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Exams (Weekly)	Quizzes	14	4	56
Daily Journals (Weekly)	Submissions	15	3	45
Oral Book Report (OBR)	Presentation	1	5	5
Written Book Report (must do OBR to be eligible)	Written report	1	10	10
Assignments	Submission	4	2	8
Special Reports	Reports	4	2	8
Class Participation		1	5	5
Extra Credit	Up to	5	1	5
Course Grade (A>105, B> 95, C>85, D>75, F<=75)			<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>

## Learning Objectives:

When you complete this course, you will be able to:

1. describe some of the biggest issues of sustainable communities;
2. explain the principal human behaviors that continues to contribute to these issues;
3. describe the key elements of sustainability and how they relate to one another;
4. explain the difference between conventional economic thought and ecological economics;
5. explain the critical differences between renewable and non-renewable resources, abiotic and biotic resources, and the implications they have for humankind;
6. explain some of the key mechanisms to create sustainable human behavior;
7. explain the connection between day-to-day activity and a sustainable community; and
8. think critically about how sustainable principles impact designs, plans and policies.

**The American with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Student Services Building. The phone number is 845-1637.

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## PARTICIPATION

- **Excellent**—Student demonstrates consistent leadership in the discussion/learning of the class. Has read the assigned material for the class meeting and contributes to the understanding of the problem under consideration. Listens holistically and responds meaningfully to the comments of others. Initiates class discussion when appropriate. Peers consistently recognize leadership and excellence in contribution to class.
- **Above average**—Student frequently participates in the class. Responds to other students as well as instructor. Occasionally takes the lead in introducing a new relevant subject. Student volunteers illustrations from her/his own experience or personal knowledge about the subjects under discussion. Peers recognize above average leadership and contribution to class.
- **Average**—Student occasionally contributes to class. Occasional responses to the remarks of other students. Rarely initiates a discussion. Peers recognize contribution to class.
- **Below average**—Student answers direct questions from the instructor, but seldom, if ever, participates in class discussions. May have missed class a few times.
- **Poor**—Takes no part in classroom discussion or activities. May have missed class frequently.
- **Very poor**—You must be in class to participate!!!

### Schedule of Classes

Wk	Date	Reading	Assign	PT S	Tot pts		Lecture (Assignment)	Exams
1	27-Aug	Economics?	D&F Ch 1	0	0		Overview/Discussion	
	29-Aug	Vision	D&F Ch 2	2	2	1	The Problem (A. Breath Deep)	
2	3-Sep	Ends-Means	D&F Ch 3	3	5	2	Sustainability	
	5-Sep	Resources	D&F Ch 4	4	9	3	Discuss/Built to Last & Natural Capitalism	#1
3	10-Sep	Abiotic Resources	D&F Ch 5	4	13	4	Nutrimment	
	12-Sep			5	18		Discuss/Salmon Without Rivers & Enough	#2
4	17-Sep	Biotic Resources	D&F Ch 6	5	23		Protection	
	19-Sep			5	27	5	Discuss/Hell and High Water & Resilient Cities	#3
5	24-Sep	Empty to Full World	D&F Ch 7	3	30	6	Energy/Land/Food/Water	
	26-Sep			5	35		Discuss/Collapse & The Conundrum	#4
6	1-Oct	The Market	D&F Ch 8	5	40	7	Procreation	
	3-Oct			5	44		Discuss/Limits to Growth & Predictable Surprises	#5
7	8-Oct	Supply & Demand	D&F Ch 9	5	49	8	Biophilia (B. Sustainable cities)	
	10-Oct			5	54		Discuss/Perverse Subsidies	#6
8	15-Oct	Market Failures	D&F Ch 10	5	59	9	Life Principles	
	17-Oct	Failures Abiotic	D&F Ch 11	5	63		Discuss/Disaster by Design	#7
9	22-Oct	Failures Biotic	D&F Ch 12	3	66	10	Central and Decentralized Structures	
	24-Oct	Human Behavior	D&F Ch 13	0	66		Discuss/Why Most Things Fail	#8
10	29-Oct	Macroeconomic Concepts	D&F Ch 14	5	71	11	Development	
	31-Oct	Money	D&F Ch 15	5	76		Discuss/The New Economy of Nature	#9
11	5-Nov	Distribution	D&F Ch 16	3	79	12	Sustainability Examples (C. Assume the Consequence)	
	7-Nov			5	83		Discuss/Cradle to Cradle	#10
12	12-Nov	Policy Design	D&F Ch 21	5	88	13	Mitigation Banking	
	14-Nov			5	93		Discuss/Fast Food Nation & Omnivore's Dilemma	#11
13	19-Nov	Just Distribution	D&F Ch 22	4	97	14	Overarching Principles	
	21-Nov			5	101			
14	26-Nov	Sustainable Scale	D&F Ch 23	14	115	15	Design Principles (Written Book Report)	
	28-Nov	Thanksgiving		0	115			
15	3-Dec			10	125		Illustrations (D. Illustration)	#12
16	5-Dec	Final Exam Optional		7	132			#13

Sustainable Communities  
Reading List  
September 2013

1. Bazerman, Max H., and Michael Watkins. 2004. *Predictable surprises: the disasters you should have seen coming, and how to prevent them*. Leadership for the common good. Boston: Harvard Business School Press.
2. Beatley, Timothy. 2004. *Native to nowhere: sustaining home and community in a global age*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
3. Bernstein, Peter L. 1996. *Against the gods: the remarkable story of risk*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
4. Collins, James C., and Jerry I. Porras. 1994. *Built to last: successful habits of visionary companies*. New York: Harper Business.
5. Cunningham, Storm. 2002. *The restoration economy: the greatest new growth frontier: immediate & emerging opportunities for businesses, communities & investors*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.
6. Daly, Herman E., and John B. Cobb. 1989. *For the common good: redirecting the economy toward community, the environment, and a sustainable future*. Boston: Beacon Press.
7. Daily, Gretchen C., and Katherine Ellison. 2002. *The new economy of nature: the quest to make conservation profitable*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
8. Diamond, Jared M. 2005. *Collapse: how societies choose to fail or succeed*. New York: Viking.
9. Garreau, Joel. 2005. *Radical evolution: the promise and peril of enhancing our minds, our bodies--and what it means to be human*. New York: Doubleday.
10. Hawken, Paul. 1993. *The ecology of commerce: a declaration of sustainability*. New York, NY: HarperBusiness.
11. Hawken, Paul, Amory B. Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins. 1999. *Natural capitalism: creating the next industrial revolution*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co.
12. Newman, P., Beatley, T., & Boyer, H., 2009. *Resilient cities : responding to peak oil and climate change*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
13. Kunstler, James Howard. 2006. *The long emergency: surviving the end of oil, climate change, and the other converging catastrophes of the twenty-first century*. New York: Grove Press.
14. Kurzweil, Ray. 2005. *The singularity is near: when humans transcend biology*. New York: Viking.
15. Lichatowich, Jim. 1999. *Salmon without rivers: a history of the Pacific salmon crisis*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.
16. McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. 2002. *Cradle to cradle: remaking the way we make things*. New York: North Point Press.
17. Meadows, Donella H., Jørgen Randers, and Dennis L. Meadows. 2004. *The limits to growth: the 30-year update*. White River Junction, Vt: Chelsea Green Publishing Company.
18. Mileti, Dennis S. 1999. *Disasters by design: a reassessment of natural hazards in the United States : summary*. Washington, D.C.: Joseph Henry Press.
19. Myers, Norman, and Jennifer Kent. 2000. *Perverse subsidies: how tax dollars can undercut the environment and the economy*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
20. Newman, P., Beatley, T., & Boyer, H., 2009, *Resilient cities: Responding to peak oil and climate change*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
21. Ormerod, Paul. 1999. *Butterfly economics: a new general theory of social and economic behavior*. New York: Pantheon Books.
22. Ormerod, Paul, 2005, *Why Most things Fail: Evolution, Extinction and Economics*, New York: Pantheon Books.
23. Ott, Riki. 2005. *Sound truth and corporate myth\$: the legacy of the Exxon Valdez oil spill*. Cordova, Alaska: Dragonfly Sisters Press.
24. Owen, David, 2012, *The conundrum: How trying to save the planet is making our climate problems worse*, London: Short Books.
25. Pawlick, Thomas F., 2006, *The End of Food: How the Food Industry is Destroying Our Food Supply—and What You Can do About it*, Fort lee, NJ: Barricade Books.
26. Perrow, Charles. 1984. *Normal accidents: living with high-risk technologies*. New York: Basic Books.
27. Perrow, Charles. 2007. *The next catastrophe: reducing our vulnerabilities to natural, industrial, and terrorist disasters*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

28. Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The omnivore's dilemma: a natural history of four meals*. New York: Penguin Press.
29. Reisner, Marc. 1986. *Cadillac desert: the American West and its disappearing water*. New York, N.Y., U.S.A.: Viking.
30. Reisner, Marc. 2003. *A dangerous place: California's unsettling fate*. New York: Pantheon Books.
31. Ridley, Matt. 1994. *The Red Queen: sex and the evolution of human nature*. New York: Macmillan Pub. Co.
32. Romm, J. 2007, *Hell and High Water: Global Warming—The Solution and The politics— and What We Should do*, NY: HarperCollins
33. Safina, Carl, 1997, *Song for the Blue Ocean: Encounters Along the world's Coasts and beneath the Seas*, NY: Henry Holt and Company.
34. Schlosser, Eric. 2001. *Fast food nation: the dark side of the all-American meal*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
35. Schumacher, E. F. 1973. *Small is beautiful; economics as if people mattered*. New York: Harper & Row.
36. Steiner, Christopher. 2009. *\$20 per gallon: how the inevitable rise in the price of gasoline will change our lives for the better*. New York: Grand Central Pub.
37. Steiner, Frederick R. 2002. *Human ecology: following nature's lead*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
38. Thurow, Roger and Scott Kilman, 2009, *Enough: Why the World's poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*, NY: Public Affairs.