
COURSE OUTLINE
SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Lectures: Mon, Wed, Thur 10:00-13:00 (online)

Office Hours: By appointment (online)

Contact: camo@uvic.ca (lead instructor) & sharondias@gmail.com (teaching assistant)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes as its starting point the urgent socio-ecological challenges facing contemporary cities. However, in the midst of great anxiety, cynicism, and pessimism, it adopts a critically optimistic tone, focusing on identifying promising pathways towards more ecologically responsible, livable, resilient, and socially just urban futures, while recognizing the significant barriers in the way. Topics include: sustainable land use and transportation planning, green building, urban agriculture, and the pressing challenge of urban resilience in the context of the

- The “live” portion of the course will involve lectures, break-out group sharing, class discussion, and time for questions and answers. Please listen carefully to directions given at the beginning of class around how to ensure we can have effective discussions through this format. When you are not actively contributing, please ensure your “mute” yourself to reduce ambient noise. Students less keen on sharing live will be able to participate through the [CourseSpaces](#) forum. As in class, please be respectful, friendly and professional in all your online interactions. No falling into troll-mode.
- Given the condensed format, regular attendance and keeping up on course work is even more important than in full semester-long courses. An individual class in summer semester is the equivalent of a week during the Fall or Spring terms. Also, keep in mind that time will be condensed for out of class work (i.e. completing readings and assignments). You will need to set aside time outside of class (likely 6-9 hours a week) for preparation, reading, completing assignments, etc. 😊

REQUIRED AND / OR RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)

There are no required texts for this course. Required readings (journal articles, book chapters, and other sources) will be available online (for example through the UVic Library or posted on [CourseSpaces](#)).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Reading thoroughly is essential for success in this course. Keep in mind in a condensed course, keeping up on reading can be a challenge. Make sure you organize your time effectively to read the material. And be mindful that simply reading without engaging with the material is essentially useless in that the material has no chance of moving from short to long term memory. It is critical to mark up, highlight, take notes and critically reflect while reading. Invest time and effort and you will be rewarded.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course presents an opportunity to learn about urban sustainability, but equally importantly an opportunity to develop certain skills and cultivate good habits. Specifically, as a disciplined and focused student, you will leave this course...

1. ...with the ability to ask - and tools to answer - more qualified, capacious, and conditional questions about the socio-ecological state of the (urban) planet and promising pathways towards and insidious barriers in the way of creating ecologically responsible, livable, resilient and socially just cities
2. ...with a deeper understanding of the web of interconnections associated with urban development including the intimate connections between your own life and processes of (un)sustainability.
3. ... with specific knowledge about pressing urban challenges such as responding to resilience challenges posed by our (in)actions on climate change & the pandemic, transportation sustainability, green building and urban agriculture
4. ... with creative mapping, research, outreach and communication skills developed through the mapping assignment and community-engaged project
5. ...motivated to take action in your own community to bring about positive change along with ideas, inspiring stories, knowledge of good practices and connections to help inform such action
6. ... better habits in terms of discipline, focus, intentionality, consistency, organization, confidence, courage, conscientiousness, empathy, and dedication.

EVALUATION

You will be evaluated on the following required elements:

May 18	"Your Life on Lockdown" Map – you will create a perceptual map detailing your world in the time of coronavirus based on this exercise led by CityLab.	15%
Jun 4	Community-Engaged Project & Presentation – you will undertake a research or outreach project supporting a community partner and present outcomes to the class on June 4	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision).

Mon, May 11 (Live)	Introduction to the study of sustainable cities <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What do we mean by sustainability?2. Why cities?3. What are sustainable cities? Introductions, ice-breakers, course outline review
Wed, May 13 (Live)	Sustainable Cities Pathways & Barriers <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elements: healthy urban metabolism, livability, resilience, social justice2. Case studies3. Sustainable Cities: pathways and barriers
Thur, May 14 (Live)	Sustainability Efforts in Victoria <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Malcolm Maclean (City of Victoria Community Planning) on "Victoria's Approach to Sustainability Planning and Public Engagement"2. Eric Diller (Island Transformation Organization) on "Value-Capture Financing for Transportation Projects and Reviving Commuter Rail on South Vancouver Island"3. Wendy Littlefield (NetZero Victoria) on "The Conversion of a 1912 Home to NetZero"
Mon, May 18 (Self-directed) Wed, May 20 (Live)	Self-directed reading assignment on Urban Resilience in the time of the Climate Emergency & COVID-19 + <i>Mapping Assignment due</i> Urban Resilience

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

You will access the [CourseSpaces](#) site to access readings and also for important announcements, instructor notes, your grades, and additional information. If you are not familiar with CourseSpaces please come see me.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

UVic Geography prides itself on being one of the top programs in the country. You are expected to take seriously your time as a scholar in our program. Do your part to ensure an engaging classroom. Be punctual, respectful, compassionate, and attentive.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on [academic integrity](#), including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission**, and **aiding others to cheat**. If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see: uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php. This is a useful source for guidance on when to cite something and when something is "common knowledge". <https://www.thoughtco.com/when-to-cite-a-source-1857338>

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and

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