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URBS 514 office hours: Thurs 1-2 pm or by appt.

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Class meets Tues/Thurs 2-4 pm

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES
Urban Studies 514 Fall 2005

Segment III

URBS 514 fulfills requirements for Segment III Cluster *Planning the Urban Environment*. To receive credit for a Segment III course, the course must be part of the cluster selected and the student must have completed 60 units by the end of the term the course is taken. This course meets the Segment III critical thinking and writing requirements.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an academic arena in which to explore issues related to sustainable urban development planning and policy. The term “sustainable development” is used widely by numerous organizations, most of whom define the term differently. In this course, the term “sustainable urban development” is defined as: *planning and policy approaches and appropriate technologies that can be used to minimize a city’s impact on the environment while providing urban residents with the infrastructure and services they need to sustain a high quality of urban life*. The course focuses on ecologically and socially responsible planning, policy, and management of the urban infrastructure in five critical areas: water supply and management, waste minimization and management, energy production and use, transportation, and food systems. Main readings for the course are from the textbook *Alternative Urban Futures: Planning for Sustainable Development in Cities throughout the World*. Supplementary readings are provided in a course reader compiled by Professor Pinderhughes for the Fall 2005 class.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of conceptual and practical issues related to planning and policy for sustainable development in cities.
- Knowledge of conceptual and practical issues related to appropriate technologies that promote sustainable urban development.
- Basic understanding of analytical concepts related to sustainable development planning and policy.
- Basic understanding of the way in which global and international forces and dynamics effect cities.
- Familiarity with case studies of sustainable development projects throughout the world.
- Ability to integrate and apply knowledge learned in class to urban problems.
- Application of research and writing skills to urban problems and issues.
- Experience working with information in the library, on the World Wide Web, and in PowerPoint.

Assignments and Approximate Weight in Determining Grades (approximate because grades typically reflect progress made during the course).

Class participation	25%
Assignment #1	15%
Assignment #2	30%
Assignment #3	30%

The method of instruction is lecture-discussion with an emphasis on developing critical thinking skills. Class participation and reading of assigned materials are integral to the learning process. To do well in the course students must attend class regularly, keep up with assigned readings, hand in course assignments on time, be prepared to

contribute to in class discussion, and complete all assignments. Written assignments are designed to allow students to stimulate thinking and use different skills to think about issues discussed in class and provide an opportunity to express individual perspectives on the themes discussed. Oral presentations are designed to provide students with an opportunity to share their knowledge and perceptions about the issues and themes discussed in class with others. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on scheduled due dates. Late assignments will be docked a full grade for EACH DAY late. Incompletes will be granted only under exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts

1. Alternative Urban Futures: Planning for Sustainable Development in Cities throughout the World. By Raquel Pinderhughes, Rowman & Littlefield Inc. 2004.

2. Course Reader compiled by Professor Pinderhughes for fall 2005 course.

All required reading should be completed before the session begins. As you read, prepare written answers to the questions listed for that session and write down additional questions that the reading raises for you. Be prepared to address each of the questions in class based on your reading of, and thinking about, the material. It is essential that you keep up with the assigned reading. Again, all assigned reading should be completed by the date on which that session begins.

Sustainable Development in Cities (URBS 514)
SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS AND ASSIGNED READING
Fall 2005 Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

8/26 Introduction to the course and to each other. PURCHASE BOOK AND COURSE READER IF POSSIBLE

SESSION 1: CITIES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

8/31 and 9/2 PURCHASE BOOK AND COURSE READER (no later than 9/2)

These two sessions will be devoted to discussion of the relationship between urban development and the natural environment. We will focus on the development of unsustainable applications and practices in urban areas. Students will be introduced to key terms related to development, urban development, and sustainable development: *city, urban, peri-urban, natural environment, natural assets, development, economic growth, gross national product (GNP) sustainable, sustainable development, “developed” and “developing” country, industrialized country, “first world”, “third world”, bio diversity, cultural diversity, social inequality, carrying capacity, hidden costs, urban planning.*

9/7 Film: probably *Profiles in Progress*

SESSION 2: UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL CAPITALISM, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, CONSUMER SOCIETY

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Preface and Introduction Chapters

1.9/9 We will use this session to explore the concept of “development”. Without understanding conventional notions of “development” we cannot begin to discuss or understand how and why the concept of “sustainable development” emerged and how it promotes alternative processes and behavior. The following 5 questions will frame our in class discussions for this session.

SESSION 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPT AND PROBLEM

Assigned Reading: Course Reader: (1) Understanding Sustainable Development; (2) Sustainable Cities; (3) The Sociology of Sustainable Development

1.9/14 and 9/16 These two sessions will focus on the concept and problem of sustainable development. We will examine how the concept has been defined and applied by diverse groups and in different contexts.

SESSION 4: SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Chapter One

Assigned Reading: Course Reader: (1) The World’s Water 2003-2004 and (2) Greywater and Your Garden

9/21 and 9/23 These two sessions will focus on urban water issues and management. In addition to the questions outlined at the back of the Alternative Urban Futures assigned chapter, our discussion will revolve around the following 7 questions.

Questions

1. What are the impacts of colonial settlement, urbanization and industrialization in the United States on natural waterways? For example, the cutting down of forests for logging and large-scale agriculture and raising of domestic animals (especially cattle), irrigation, development of urban settlements and their sewage systems (toilet bowls, chemical water treatment), damming, water subsidies for farmers, hidden costs of corporate timber, agriculture and livestock industries, industrial fishing, including over fishing and hatcheries, and toxins in the waterways from industries.
2. Approximately 1/3 of people in the world do not have access to “clean” water; what are the impacts of lack of access to “clean” water and why are so many people in the world not able to access clean water?
3. What water management systems and technologies are available to deal with human waste?
4. What alternative water management systems and technologies are available to deal with industrial waste?
5. What alternative water management systems could be put into place to “clean” contaminated water?
6. What would a sustainable water management strategy look like?
7. What can we learn from existing examples (case studies) of sustainable water management?

Possible Films: Downwind, Downstream; Large Dams, False Promises; Power to Protect

SESSION 5: SUSTAINABLE URBAN WASTE MANAGEMENT

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Chapter Two

Assigned Reading: Course Reader: (1) Garbage in Asian Cities; (2) Scrapping Mining Dependence; (3) Materials Matter (all 3 sections)

9/28 and 9/30 These sessions will focus on urban waste issues and management. In addition to the questions outlined at the back of the Alternative Urban Futures assigned chapter, discussion will be focused on addressing the following 6 questions.

1. Why and how have urban planners in the “industrialized world” developed waste management systems and technologies?
2. How has the development and distribution of these waste management systems and technologies effected different social groups and communities?
3. How has the development of these waste management systems and technologies affected natural assets?
4. What other types of waste management systems exist?
5. How viable are these alternatives to existing waste management systems?
6. What can we learn from existing examples (case studies) of sustainable waste management?

Possible Films: Global Dumping Grounds; Trees, Toilets, Transformation

SESSION 7: RESTRUCTURING THE URBAN ENERGY SYSTEM

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Chapter Three

Possible Films: Environmental Architecture; Sustainable Architecture

10/5, 10/7, 10/12 These two sessions will focus on energy. We will focus particularly on the role that renewable energy sources can play in urban areas. In addition to the questions outlined at the back of the Alternative Urban Futures assigned chapter, discussion will revolve around the following 4 questions.

1. What do we mean by the concept “renewable energy”?
2. What energy systems and technologies are considered “renewable” and, why are they considered renewable?
3. What economic and social policies would need to be implemented to promote the widespread use of renewable energy?
4. Which countries are at the forefront of using renewable energy? What can we learn from these cases?

Possible Films: Race to Save the Planet #6 and #2

10/14 OPEN SESSION

SESSION 6: SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Chapter Four

Assigned Reading: Course Reader: (1) Bicycle Planning in the Netherlands

10/119, 10/21, 10/26 We will use these 3 sessions to examine issues related to sustainable urban transportation modalities; we will focus particularly on the role of mass transit, cycling and walking. In addition to the questions outlined at the back of the Alternative Urban Futures assigned chapter, our discussion will revolve around the following 4 questions.

1. Why and how did dependence on fossil fuel as the primary energy source in transit develop?
2. What are the impacts of this dependency on different social groups, communities, countries and regions?
3. What are the impacts of this dependency on natural assets (air, atmosphere, surface and ground water, the food chain, fish, animals, soil and food production)?
4. How can mass transit, cycling and walking contribute to a more sustainable urban transit system?

Film: A Shared Course

10/28 OPEN SESSION

SESSION 8: FEEDING THE POPULATION: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Chapter Five

Assigned Reading: Course Reader: (1) Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities; (2) Promoting Urban Agriculture

11/2, 11/4, 11/9 These two sessions will focus on urban agriculture and on the role that urban agriculture can play in supporting small farmers, land preservations, sustainable farming practices and methods and local ecosystems. In addition to the questions outlined at the back of the Alternative Urban Futures assigned chapter, the following 10 questions will frame our in class discussions for Session 8.

Questions

1. How has agriculture been socially organized throughout history?
2. What are the impacts of settled agriculture and corporate industrial agriculture on natural assets?
3. What are the impacts of corporate industrial agriculture on social groups, communities, countries and regions?
4. How has the term “sustainable agriculture” been defined?
5. How does “sustainable” agriculture differ from “conventional” agriculture?
6. Does “sustainable agriculture” inherently imply that social equality will be promoted and supported?
7. How do we determine top priorities in sustainable agriculture?
8. How high a priority should maintaining production capacity and ensuring farm and other agricultural business profitability be?
9. What can we learn from existing examples of sustainable urban agriculture?
10. What would an infrastructure to support sustainable urban agriculture look like?

Possible Films: Greening of Cuba, Cost of Cotton, Dirty Business, Web of Life

NOTE: ALTHOUGH THE WRITTEN REQUIREMENT FOR ASSIGNMENT #3 IS NOT DUE UNTIL DECEMBER 9TH, 2005, STUDENTS SHOULD BEGIN WORKING ON ASSIGNMENT #3 IN ORDER TO HAVE THEIR DD.

SESSION 9: PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Assigned Reading: Alternative Urban Futures Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Cities throughout the World: Conclusion Chapter

Assigned Reading: Course Reader: (1) Ecology of Place: New Planning Agenda; (2) The Future is Now: United Nations World Summit Report, 2001

11/11 and 11/16 In these three sessions we will summarize what we have learned from our collective examination of sustainable development planning and management issues related to water, waste, transportation, energy and feeding the population in cities throughout the world. We will then summarize what we have about these 5 infrastructure components helps us understand about planning and policy initiatives that foster the sustainable urban development. In addition to the questions outlined at the back of the Alternative Urban Futures assigned chapter, the following 3 questions will frame our in class discussions for Session 9.

Questions

1. How can consideration of natural systems be taken into account in the planning and management of urban areas?
2. How can a focus on sustainable design also be used to promote social equity and equality?
3. Can the concept of sustainability be used to generate consensus around specific urban planning directions?

SESSION 10: NATIONAL GREEN PLANS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

11/18 and 11/23 We will use this session to examine how some nations are using green plans national environmental plans) to move towards better environmental planning and policy. Our discussion will revolve around three central questions:

1. What do we mean by the term “green plan”?
2. How are green plans around the world similar and different from one another?
3. What can we learn from an examination of existing green plans?

Film: Green Plans

11/25 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

SESSION 11: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

(All Students Must Be Prepared To Present On November 30, 2005)

11/30 Student Presentations

12/2 Student Presentations

12/7 Student Presentations

12/9 Last day of class.

ALL FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE ON DECEMBER 9th, 2005. Late papers will be docked one full grade for each day late.