

CIRP 4320 Sustainable Communities

Fall 2015, Tuesday 3:00-5:50pm, Architecture Building 330

Instructor

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Description of Course Content

This course explores broad environmental and social issues in sustainable communities. Through weekly service learning activities, the course serves as a laboratory for working with governmental and non-governmental organizations in the DFW area and developing issue-based, action research projects to solve real-world problems in our communities. Potential topics include urban water management, food and resources, wildlife conservation, native landscaping, waste management, green building, renewable energy, housing diversity, alternative transportation and community design. This course combines lecture, discussion, site visits, and collaborative team work for service learning projects.

* Instructor acknowledges generous advice from Dr. Yekang Ko, Assistant Professor in the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs, for developing this syllabus.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Understand broad environmental and social issues in building sustainable communities
- Analyze a specific problem of interest in our communities and design action research projects related to the problem
- Acquire effective problem solving abilities and an ability to develop implementation strategies through various hands-on activities and service learning
- Increase one's environmental literacy and sense of environmental stewardship
- Develop one's sense of social responsibility and civic engagement through outreach to communities

Required Textbook and Other Course Materials

Roseland, M. 2012. *Toward Sustainable Communities: Resources for Citizens and Their Governments*, 4th Edition. Gabriola Island, Canada: New Society Publishers.

ISBN 978-0865717114 (Reserved in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library; 3 hours library use only; Call Number: HT169.C2 R67 2012)

Additional readings will be available on the course Blackboard page.

Description of Major Assignments and Examinations

Grades will reflect class participation, individual reflection essays, and a research group project. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

• Class Participation (25 points)

Participation is key to the success of this course. Students are expected to attend class, actively participate in class activities and the service learning projects, and consistently demonstrate that they have completed the readings through weekly response papers.

- Attendance and In-Class Participation (10 points): In cases of illness or emergency situations, please make every attempt to notify the instructor in advance of an absence.
- Class Preparation (10 points): For each lecture (a total of 10, see the course schedule on page 5), students are expected to submit a brief written response to the weekly readings (approximately one to two paragraphs; no longer than half of one page single spaced). The response is due on Blackboard by 11pm on the Monday prior to each class. Please describe what new information you learned from each of the readings and at least one question for discussion in class.
- Evaluation of Service Learning Project Contribution (5 points): At the end of the semester, the supervisor for your service learning project and each student in your project group will evaluate your individual contributions to the project. A rubric describing the expected contributions will be available on Blackboard.

• Individual Reflection Essays (40 points)

Students are expected to submit a total of four reflection essays: three essays on class topics and one essay on the service learning experience. The three reflection essays on class topics should discuss the interrelations between each topic and cite the assigned class readings (two pages single spaced with bibliography). The one reflection essay on the service learning experience should describe the service learning experience, examine the significance of the project, and reflect on its long-term impact on the student (two pages single spaced).

Reflection essays on class topics:

- *Essay 1* (Due: October 3): Reflections on classes from W3 to W5 (10 points)
- *Essay 2* (Due: October 31): Reflections on classes from W6 to W9 (10 points)
- *Essay 3* (Due: November 21): Reflections on classes from W10 to W12 (10 points)

Reflection essay on service learning experience:

- *Essay 4* (Due: December 5): Reflections on service learning (10 points)

• Group Action Research – Service Learning Project (35 points)

Throughout the entire semester, student groups will conduct action research projects collaborating with local organizations related to class topics. After students sign up for their group of interest on September 8, each group will have weekly group meetings in class to report progress since the previous week, discuss next steps, and assign individual work for the upcoming week. Additionally, each group will work with the community partner on-site for one hour per week, on average. Deliverables of the project are: a 10 minute midterm progress presentation, a 10 minute final presentation with a two minute documentary film that fosters

public awareness of the assigned topic, and a 6-8 page final paper (single spaced). Graphic communications such as maps, figures, charts, photographs, etc., are highly recommended in the presentations and paper. Student contributions to the project will be evaluated by group members and the project supervisor from the local organization. The final paper must be submitted to SafeAssign in Blackboard in order for students to view and correct any evidence of plagiarism.

- *Midterm Presentation* (Due: October 20): 10 minute progress presentation (10 points)
- *Final Presentation* (Due: December 8): 10 minute final project presentation (10 points) and a two minute documentary film that fosters public awareness of the assigned topic (5 points)
- *Final Paper* (Due: December 2 and December 15): Each group must submit their completed 6-8 page (single spaced) paper (not a draft) by December 2. The instructor will provide feedback by December 9. Each group must edit their paper by incorporating the instructor's comments and submit the final paper by December 15 (10 points)

Grading

Final grades will be calculated according to the following:

Assignment	Points
<i>Class Participation</i>	
Attendance and In-class participation	10
Weekly reading response	10
Service learning project evaluation	5
<i>Individual Reflection Essays</i>	
Essay 1	10
Essay 2	10
Essay 3	10
Essay 4	10
<i>Service Learning Project</i>	
Midterm Presentation	10
Final Presentation and Film	15
Final Paper	10
Total	100

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A: 90 points and up. Exceptional level of achievement. The student displays a superb command of the subject matter and can creatively apply it at many different levels.
- B: 80-89 points. Above average but not outstanding level of achievement. Student demonstrates a good grasp of the material and the ability to apply at several but not all levels.
- C: 70-79 points. Average level of achievement. Shows some mastery of the material and a narrow application range. May indicate poor study skills or a lack of motivation or interest.
- D: 60-69 points. Little or no understanding of the subject matter and may not be interested in learning any more.
- F: 59 or fewer points. A performance below the level of random chance. The student may totally lack interest, motivation, and/or ability.

All due dates on the syllabus are firm and late work will not be accepted. Exceptions may be made based on the discretion of the instructor when students present documentation of an unforeseeable, significant, and unavoidable situation that prevented the completion of the assignment on time. An incomplete grade (I) is not available in this class unless severe illness or documented extenuating circumstances justify it.

Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established that class attendance is instrumental to success in this course. Students are expected to attend class weekly. In cases of illness or emergency situations, please make every attempt to notify the instructor in advance of an absence.

Special Requirements

Since this course includes a service learning project that takes place off of UTA's campus and outside of scheduled weekly class meeting times, it is important that students be able to accommodate this requirement in their schedules. Please contact the instructor if you have any questions or concerns about these requirements. More details about the service learning project will be provided in class.

This course counts as part of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Minor, a minor that is open to students in all majors, in all colleges. For more information about ESS classes, requirements, advising or the FB group see: [http://www.uta.edu/english/alaimo/For ESS Minors \(Environmental and Sustainability Studies\).html](http://www.uta.edu/english/alaimo/For ESS Minors (Environmental and Sustainability Studies).html)

Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	Readings (BB=available on Blackboard)	Assignment Due Dates
1	9/1	Class Overview		
2	9/8	Sustainability; Service learning projects	Roseland Ch. 1; Beatley 2009 (BB)	Sign up for groups
3	9/15	1. Urban Hydrology & Water-conserving Landscapes	Roseland Ch. 5	Essay 1 (10/3)
4	9/22	2. Urban Agriculture	Roseland Ch. 4	
5	9/29	3. Wildlife Conservation & Environmental Stewardship	Groc 2013; Wheeler 2013 (BB)	
6	10/6	4. Energy Efficiency & Green Building	Roseland Ch. 7 & 11	
7	10/13	5. Resource & Waste Management	Roseland, Ch. 6	
8	10/20	Midterm Presentation		Essay 2 (10/31)
9	10/27	6. Affordable & Diverse Housing	Roseland Ch. 10; Condon Ch. 6 (BB)	
10	11/3	7. Field Trip: Arlington Landfill	Filsram 2010 (BB)	
11	11/10	8. Field Trip: Fort Worth Water Treatment Plant	Wenz 2009 (BB)	
12	11/17	9. Alternative Transportation	Roseland Ch. 8	Essay 3 (11/21)
13	11/24	Project Review		Final Paper Initial Submission (12/2)
14	12/1	10. Sustainable Community Planning & Design	Roseland Ch. 2 & 9	
15	12/8	Final Project Presentation		Essay 4 (12/5)
	12/15	Final Paper Due		

**As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Ann W. Foss*

Other General Notes

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.
Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT

Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located down the stairs to the right of the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number is 817-272-3381.</p>
