

**Env Des/Reg Pl 591b Sustainable Cities:**

**Spring 2009**

*Urban Vitality Beyond Subsistence and Superabundance* MW 11:15-12:20, 105 Hills

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‘Sustainability’ is a concept and approach that has become more prominent in ecological, economic and equity discussions over the last several decades, yet its historical and cultural roots are far more extensive than is generally recognized. This course will examine and evaluate the core principles and practices identified by advocates as well as critics of sustainability, and will address a variety of questions related to sustainability: the appropriate spatial and temporal scale of sustainable planning and design; the full scope of which systems and standards are best suited for achieving sustainable outcomes; the relative roles of ‘high’ vs. ‘low’/‘hard’ vs. ‘soft’ science and technology paths; expertise ↔ efficiency ↔ equity; individual vs. collective responsibilities.

**Course Readings** (available at *Food for Thought Bookstore*, 106 North Pleasant St., Amherst)

Stephen Wheeler and Timothy Beatley, eds. *The Sustainable Urban Development Reader*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. NY: Routledge, 2009

Mark Roseland, *Toward Sustainable Communities: Resources for Citizens and Their*

*Governments*. Stony Creek, CT: New Society Publishers, 2005 (revised and updated ed.)

William Shutkin, *The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy...* MIT, 2009

Susan Strasser, *Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash*. NY: Metropolitan, 1999

**Evaluation** of student work will rely upon the following weighted criteria:

20% for attendance, preparation and participation (reading, note-taking, discussing)

25% for exercises and in-class team work

25% for an in-class presentation (possible topics, formats, case studies TBA)

30% for a self-designed final project (guidelines and timelines TBA)

Given the importance of each of these criteria for evaluating students’ work, anyone who needs to miss a class meeting, turn in an assignment after deadline, or request other arrangements must address such matters with the instructor as far in advance as possible. Only urgent reasons or unusual circumstances will receive consideration in such cases.

Part I Introduction and Orientation

<b>Week 1</b>	1/26/09	<b>Expectations</b>	<b>Groundrules and Guidelines</b>
	1/28/09	<b>Representations</b>	<i>[video excerpts]</i>
	Readings:	Howard, Calthorpe in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.	
<b>Week 2</b>		<b>Determinations</b>	<b>What Is (Not) Sustainability?</b>
	2/02/09	<b>History</b>	
	Readings:	Shutkin, ix-xvii; Strasser, 3-28; Mumford in Wheeler and Beatley	
	2/04/09	<b>Culture</b>	
	Readings:	Strasser, 69-80, 106-9; Jacobs in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.	
	Assignment:	<i>Cognitive Mapping Exercise due (see Wheeler and Beatley, eds.)</i>	
<b>Week 3</b>	2/09/09	<b>Principles</b>	
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 1; Shutkin, Introduction 1-4, 13-20	
	Reports:	<i>Meadows et al., Daly, WCED, Rio in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.</i>	
	2/11/09	<b>Practices</b>	
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 3; Shutkin, Introduction 4-13	
	Reports:	<i>Maclaren, Wackernagel/Rees, Allan Jacobs, de Montis in idem.</i>	
	Assignment:	<i>Definitions of Sustainable Development Exercise due (see idem.)</i>	
<b>Week 4</b>	2/16/09	<i>[University Holiday: no class meeting]</i>	
	2/18/09	<b>Ecology</b>	
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 2; Leopold, Spirn in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.	
	Assignment:	<i>In-class presentation proposal due</i>	

<b>Week 5</b>	2/23/09	<b>Economy</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 12, Frank in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Reports:	<i>Pearce and Barbier, Hawken, Korten, Roseland with Soots in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.</i>
	Assignment:	<i>Economic Development Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Systems and Standards</b>	
	2/25/09	<b>Expertise</b>
	Readings:	Strasser, 111-125; Shutkin, Chapter 1, 21-44; McKibben in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
<b>Week 6</b>	3/02/09	<b>Energy</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 7; Girardet, Pacala and Socolow in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Assignment:	<i>Personal Footprint/Household Audit Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
	3/04/09	<b>Water</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 5; McHarg, Riley in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Assignment:	<i>Waterway Mapping Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
<b>Week 7</b>	3/09/09	<b>Waste</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 6; Strasser, 125-36; Lyle in Wheeler and Beatley
	3/11/09	<b>Air and Land</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Chs. 8, 10; Gehl, Wheeler (Part 2) in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Assignment:	<i>Ecological Site Plan Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
	[3/16-18/09	<i>University Spring Recess; no class meetings]</i>

<b>Week 8</b>	3/23/09	<b>Biotics</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 4; Beatley (Part 2) in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Assignment:	<i>Firsthand Environmental Analysis Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
	3/25/09	<b>Food</b>
	Readings:	Shutkin, Chapter 4, 143-66; Strasser, 181-91; Shuman in Wheeler and Beatley, eds
	Assignment:	<i>Final project proposal due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	3/30/09	<b>Transportation</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 9; Shutkin, Chapter 5, 167-88; Cervero in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	4/01/09	<b>Housing</b>
	Readings:	Roseland, Ch. 11; Eisenberg and Yost, USGBC LEED in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Assignment:	<i>Sustainability Indicators Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Scale and Scope</b>	
<b>Week 10</b>	4/06/09	<b>Green Design and Construction</b>
	Readings:	McDonough, Vale and Vale in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	4/08/09	<b>International Comparisons</b>
	Reports:	<i>Part 4 in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.</i>
	Assignment:	<i>International Development Exercise due (see idem.)</i>
<b>Week 11</b>	4/13/09	<b>Building or Site Scale</b>
	Readings:	see Part 6 in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	4/15/09	<b>Neighborhood or District Scale</b>
	Readings:	see Part 6 in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.
	Assignment:	<i>Neighborhood Planning Exercise due (see idem.)</i>

- Week 12**     *[4/20/09*     *University Holiday; M class meeting on T]*
- 4/21/09*     **City and Regional Scale**
- Readings:     see Part 6 in Wheeler and Beatley, eds.; Shutkin, Chapter 6  
*Assignment:*     *Regional Vision Exercise due (see idem.)*
- 4/22/09*     **Ecology/Economy/Equity: Place Matters**
- Readings:     Shutkin, Chapter 2, 45-88; Strasser, 136-40
- Week 13**     *4/27/09*     **Ecology/Economy/Equity: Race, Class, Gender Matters**
- Readings:     Shutkin, 89-120; Bullard, Hayden, Perlman and Sheehan in  
Wheeler and Beatley, eds.  
*Assignment:*     *Final project progress report due*
- 4/29/09*     **Ecology/Economy/Equity: Workplace Matters**
- Readings:     Strasser, 140-153; Shutkin, Ch. 3, 120-41
- Week 14**     *5/04/09*     **Ecology/Economy/Equity: Marketplace Matters**
- Readings:     Strasser, 153-9, 191-201, 274-8; Shutkin, Chapter 7, 209-36  
*Assignment:*     *Analyzing the Three Es Exercise due (see idem.)*
- Part IV**     ***Virtue and Vision***
- 5/06/09*     **Reconstructing Community and Democracy**
- Readings:     Roseland, Ch. 13; Shutkin, Chapter 8, 237-44  
*Assignment:*     *Mapping Your Own Block Exercise due (see idem.)*
- Week 15**     *5/11/09*     **The Future(s) of Sustainability**
- Readings:     Roseland, Chs. 14-5; Callenbach, Le Guin, Wheeler (Part 5) in  
Wheeler and Beatley, eds.  
*Assignment:*     *Future Visions Exercise due (see idem.)*
- 5/13/09*     ***Presentation and discussion of final projects***  
*Assignment:*     *Finished final projects due*