COURSE / INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Classroom: TBD  
Meeting Time: Monday through Friday—10:00-12:00 
Instructor: Dr. Jason L. Kelley, Ph.D.  
Email: Jason.Kelley@asu.edu 

Course Description: This course is a 100-level undergraduate course introducing students to concepts of sustainability and sustainable urban development in the global, regional, and local contexts. The course covers the ecological, socio-economic, and structural problems of contemporary cities and the consequences for the natural and built environment. After an introduction to the philosophy and history of sustainability and the evolution of cities, various contemporary unsustainable urban issues are examined. Students learn about sustainable alternatives and mechanisms for shaping urban structures and dynamics.

Course Objectives: The following are the key objectives for the course.

- To introduce students to the fundamental principles of sustainable urban development, establish a solid understanding of these concepts, and apply these concepts to practical real-life examples
- To develop student critical thinking abilities and encourage students to question why things are the way they are in our world
- To develop student verbal and written communication skills
- To facilitate collaborative learning through the sharing of ideas in group activities, discussions and projects
- To have fun and create a memorable learning experience

Learning Objectives: The following are the primary learning objectives that will be covered in the course.

Objective One: Laying the Foundation and Examining the Past
Students are first introduced to the concept of sustainable development as it applies to the urban realm. What we examine:

- The concept of sustainable urban development and tools for measuring sustainability in cities
- The historic origins of cities and the urban dynamics that have evolved over time as humans and their environment interact
- The concepts of vulnerability and resilience—why some cities and people suffer, while others bounce back from disaster

Objective Two: Analyzing Contemporary Cities
Next, students explore the various inputs and outputs of our contemporary cities, and their environmental, social and economic impacts at the local, regional, and global scale. What we examine:

- The essential input of water, and how the water needed to supply a growing population puts a strain on resources and infrastructure in cities around the world
- Where our food comes from, and the contemporary food production methods used to supply the growing urban demand
- The various sources of energy that power our vehicles, supply our homes, and bring us our contemporary lifestyle
• The outputs of cities in the form of waste and pollution, from the trash we generate to the smog we produce with the vehicles we drive
• The impacts of cities on both their local climate, through the materials used in our buildings and streets, and global climate, through the production of greenhouse gases

Objective Three: Strategies for a Sustainable Future
Finally, students are introduced to various technological, social, and cultural principles and innovations for developing our cities in a more sustainable manner. What we examine:
• Strategies for sustainable economic development that celebrate and capitalize on local assets and strengthen local economies
• Strategies for sustainable urban transportation—creating a balanced system of mobility that respects the environment, stimulates economic growth, and provides access for all
• Strategies for sustainable land use and planning that protect our environmental assets, allowing cities to grow in ways that may benefit current and future generations
• Strategies for “green” building and design that minimize waste and impacts to the environment, while providing economic and social benefits as well

EXPECTATIONS AND ETIQUETTE

Philosophy Regarding Classroom Conduct: Although we will have fun in this class, students are still expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in much the same manner in which they would in a professional workplace environment. In a job setting, employees must consistently show up for work on time, demonstrate respect and courtesy to their supervisors and fellow co-workers, and complete all job responsibilities in a timely manner by meeting all deadlines. The same expectations hold true for students in a classroom setting. The following section outlines these expectations in greater detail.

Attendance: Consistent attendance is expected and absolutely essential to success in this course. Please arrive to class on time and be prepared to stay for the entire session. In-class course material missed due to any absence will result in a score of 0. Students will have an opportunity to earn credit for one missed class by completing the make-up assignment opportunity (see below).

Class Participation: Active participation in every class session is an essential component of the course. Participation goes beyond mere attendance, and includes attentiveness and active involvement in discussions during lecture, as well as during in-class discussion activities. Disruptive or inattentive behavior (e.g. talking, sleeping, texting, etc.) during class will not be tolerated.

Laptops, Phones, & Other Electronic Devices: Out of courtesy to the instructor, electronic devices (including laptops, pads, and phones) may NOT be used during in-person class time and should be put away. Students violating this policy will be dismissed from class and will receive no credit for missed in-class material. Cell phone ringers should be turned off during class time.

Quality of Work: Students are expected to submit work that meets the highest academic standards of quality. Assignments should showcase the student’s comprehension of the material and ability to clearly and concisely articulate the concepts discussed. All written work should be thoroughly proofread for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Assignments containing excessive proofreading errors will not be accepted for credit.

Deadline Compliance: Due dates for all coursework are strictly adhered to. NO late assignments are accepted. Students are responsible for ensuring that assignments are completed prior to deadline.
COURSE CONTENT

Course Schedule: The course schedule is provided at the end of this syllabus, and includes a class calendar with due dates for all assignments, as well as a detailed list of the lecture topics and required readings. Please note that this schedule is tentative and may change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

Readings: There is one textbook for this course, *Sustainability for the 21st Century* by Pijawka, which provides background information on the various topics we will cover in class. A list of all required readings for each class is included in the course schedule. Please read all required readings prior to each lecture and have a basic understanding of the key concepts from the readings.

Quizzes: A short quiz (typically consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions) is given at the end of each class, and covers the key concepts and main points from the material discussed in lecture and the readings. Quizzes are open note, and are intended to reflect your individual comprehension of the material. In-class quizzes missed due to absences will result in a score of 0. (See make-up assignment below.)

In-Class Activities: Each class session includes in-class discussion activities related to the lecture material and readings. These activities are completed and discussed in class, and turned in for credit. Students must attend the entire class session and participate fully in the activity in order to earn credit. In-class activities missed due to absences will result in a score of 0. (See make-up assignment below.)

Make-Up Assignment: A make-up assignment provides students the opportunity to earn up to a maximum of 10 extra quiz points and 10 extra activity points (the equivalent of one missed class). Detailed instructions for the make-up assignment will be provided in class. All students are eligible to complete the assignment and earn the extra points (regardless of attendance), however the maximum points earned for quizzes or in-class activities cannot exceed the total number of quiz or activity points possible for the semester (160 each).

Assignments: A selection of short assignments is completed over the course of the session, with instructions for each provided in class. All assignment due dates are listed on the course schedule. NO late assignments will be accepted.

Final Exam: A final exam covers the key concepts from the lecture material and readings. The exam may include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, or fill-in-the-blank questions. A study guide will be provided in advance of the exam. Absences will result in a score of 0 for the exam. Make-up exams will be allowed only for exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the instructor, if advanced notice is given and written documentation is provided (e.g. doctor’s note or receipt, traffic accident report, funeral announcement, etc.). It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor ASAP to schedule a make-up exam.

GRADING

Grading Philosophy: Final grades in the course are not “given” by the instructor, but are earned by the student based on his or her own performance in the class. No individual final grades will be adjusted at the end of the semester unless a class-wide curve is implemented. Please do not expect to “argue” your way into a higher grade. Grades will be strictly adhered to, based on the scores earned by each individual student.

Grading Breakdown: Final grades for the course are calculated according to the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (16 x 10 points each)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>≈ 30% of your grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Activities (16 x 10 points each)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>≈ 30% of your grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (5 total x 20 points each)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>≈ 18% of your grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following grading scale will be used to calculate final course grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100%</td>
<td>(527+ points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-97%</td>
<td>(494-526 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-91%</td>
<td>(484-493 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>(473-483 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87%</td>
<td>(440-472 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81%</td>
<td>(430-439 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>(419-429 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-77%</td>
<td>(376-418 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>(322-375 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR THE COURSE**

**Fair Use:** Many of the images contained within the PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted works that are being utilized for in-person classroom purposes under the fair use provision of Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Act. In the spirit of fair use, please refrain from copying any images, or utilizing any readings for purposes not directly related to this class.

**Plagiarism:** An assignment that bears your name is assumed to be your own original work. There is a conventional distinction between scholarship and plagiarism. *You may use words written by others in their publications or on their web sites, but only with proper attribution.* If you are quoting from a published source or from a web site, place it in quotation marks and cite the source in a footnote or in parenthesis (utilizing a consistent citation style throughout).

**Cheating:** Quizzes and exams are intended to reflect your own individual comprehension of the main points and key concepts from the course. Cheating is not acceptable and will result in serious consequences per university guidelines (ASU student academic integrity policy [http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy)). Don’t take the chance—it’s not worth the risk.

**NOTE:** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.