

EVDS 501/601, ARST 483 Interdisciplinary Seminar

Fall 2013 (Half course)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-13:15 hrs.

Room ENE 239 (11:00 – 12:15) and

Rooms PFB 2140, 2160, 3160, 3176, 3177, 4140 (12:30 – 13:15)

Managers:

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental Design (EVDS) is an interdisciplinary approach to the conceptualization, design and execution of interventions in human and natural environments at a variety of scales – from object to global – and including physical, process, and policy interventions. This course will introduce students to the following key concepts in Environmental Design: Ecology, Sustainability, Design, Ethics, and Leadership. The concepts will be introduced and discussed through a broad spectrum of faculty and guest lectures, videos, discussions, and assignments.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to critically discuss and articulate a range of theoretical perspectives on key concepts of Environmental Design: Ecology, Design, Sustainability, Ethics, and Leadership.
2. Students will be able to articulate their own understanding of key concepts in EVDS and position their understandings in relation to prominent positions and debates within the field.
3. Students will develop diagnostic skills and be able to examine design interventions and articulate the nature of the intervention, key elements of the intervention and its critical design issues.
4. Students will improve their critical, creative and professional written, oral and visual communications skills and demonstrate that their communication skills are commensurate with study at a graduate level.

Teaching Approach

This course will introduce students to a broad range of theoretical and professional perspectives on Environmental Design represented within the faculty of environmental design, the wider university community and professional and community practitioners. This material will be introduced, discussed and debated through lectures, videos, readings, small group discussion, field exposures and hands-on exercises. The course will be framed around key themes: Ecology, Design, Sustainability, Ethics, and Leadership. Topics will be explored predominantly within the spatial context of the Calgary metropolitan region. The course will introduce students to examples and case studies of design interventions at a variety of scales (object, building, neighbourhood, community, city, region; and ecosystem, landscape, ecoregion, biosphere). The course will focus attention on the underlying processes by which socio-ecological systems are shaped and evolve.

Course Expectations and Means of Evaluation

Students will be expected to attend all lectures and discussion sessions. Students will also be expected to read to assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss the issues and concepts raised in the readings. All papers are to be properly referenced (refer to Plagiarism section at the end of this outline) using the *The Chicago Manual of Style* format (see www.chicagomanualofstyle.org). Students who have difficulties with writing are referred to the University of Calgary's Writing Centre.

Students will be expected to complete each of the course assignments. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course. Quality of writing (spelling, grammar, clarity) will be a component of the assessment of all assignments. The assignments are as follows:

1. In-class Writing Assignment (300 words) 5%

Students are required to hand write a 300 word essay critically examining the question: "What is Environmental Design"?

Deadline: September 10

2. Photographic Transect. 15%

The project involves recording various conditions along a 4 km. transect through Calgary; the material is to be compiled into a well designed document. Using Google Earth, Street View, and site visits students are to photographically record a variety of conditions (boundaries, transitions, etc.) and spaces (water body, green space, public space, etc.) along the transect. The transects will be plotted from one of the following locations: 1) Calgary Tower, 2) Crowfoot Centre LRT Station NW, 3) Peter Lougheed Hospital NE, 4) IKEA Store SE, or 5) Southland Leisure Centre SW. Refer to assignment handout for further details.
Deadline: October 1

3. Term Essay (3000 words) 45%

Following academic standards for a term paper (critical, well researched, referenced), write a 3000-4000 word essay that critically examines a posed question or topic. Refer to handout for further details. Paper Outline (10%) and paper (35%)
Deadline: November 26

4. Pecha Kucha Presentation 20%

Working in teams of 3 students, you are to develop a "Pecha Kucha" presentation (see www.pecha-kucha.org) in one of the four thematic topics. Select a topic and develop a critical take on it. The presentation involves 20 slides (images and/or text) and a verbal presentation. Each image is shown for 20 seconds, for a total presentation of 6 minutes, 40 seconds. Each session will involve 6-8 presentations. Presentations will be graded on content, clarity, continuity, and visual communications. Refer to handout for further details.
Deadline: Refer to course schedule.

5. Reading Summaries 15%

During the semester students are required to write short critical summaries of each of the required readings. These are to include 1) 1-2 sentences describing the content of the reading, 2) 1-2 sentences describing the key arguments, and 3) 1-2 sentences describing why the content is important to Environmental Design. These are to be handed in the TAs at the beginning of the discussion groups.
Deadline: Each discussion session.

SCHEDULE AND TOPIC AREAS

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Tuesday, September 10, 2013 | 1. Course Introduction
(Dr. Cormack Gates and Dr. Graham Livesey, EVDS)
2. Assignment 1
Reading 1 |
| 2. Thursday, September 12 | 1. Lecture: Ecology/Sustainability 1 – Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Human Well-Being
(Dr. Cormack Gates, EVDS)
Presentation by Brenda McDermott, Writing Support Services
2. Discussion Groups |
| 3. Tuesday, September 17 | 1. Lecture: Calgary – History and Structure
(Dr. Bev Sandalack, EVDS)
2. <i>Manufacturing Landscapes</i> (2006), or <i>Carbon Nation</i> (2010), or <i>Water Resources and the East Slopes of Alberta</i> (2008)
Reading 2 |
| 4. Thursday, September 19 | 1. Lecture: Ecology/Sustainability 2 –Values, Landscapes and Sustainability
(Dr. Ian Dyson)
2. Discussion Groups |
| 5. Tuesday, September 24 | 1. Lecture: Ecology/Sustainability 3 – Meaningful Trades in Negotiating Water Policy
(Dr. Christopher Bruce)
2. Discussion Groups |

Reading 3

6. Thursday, September 26
 1. Lecture: **Ecology/Sustainability 4** – Political Ecology (Dr. Ted Morton)
 2. Discussion Groups
7. Tuesday, October 1
 1. Lecture: **Ecology/Sustainability 5** – Calgary Region Ecology (Dr. Mary-Ellen Tyler, EVDS)
 2. Discussion GroupsReading 4
Assignment Hand-in: Photographic Transect
8. Thursday, October 3
 1. **Ecology/Sustainability Pecha Kucha Presentations**
 2. Discussion Groups
9. Tuesday, October 8
 1. **Ecology/Sustainability Pecha Kucha Presentations**
 2. Discussion GroupsReading 5
10. Thursday, October 10
 1. Lecture: **Ecology/Sustainability 6** - Energy and Sustainability (Andrew Nikiforuk)
 2. Discussion Groups
- October 14
October 15-18, 2013
Thanksgiving
EVDS Fall Block Week/makeCalgary
11. Tuesday, October 22
 1. Lecture: Lecture: **Design 1** – Approaches to Design (Dr. Graham Livesey, EVDS)
 2. Videos: *Sketches of Frank Gehry* (2005), or *Helvetica* (2007).Reading 6
12. Thursday, October 24
 1. Lecture: **Design 2** – Design Basics (Prof. Barry Wylant, EVDS)
 2. Discussion Groups
13. Tuesday, October 29
 1. Lecture: **Design 3** – A Systems Approach to Design (Dr. Richard Levy, EVDS)
 2. Discussion GroupsReading 7
14. Thursday, October 31
 1. Lecture: **Design 4** – Design and Practice (Prof. Marc Boutin, EVDS)
 2. Discussion Groups
15. Tuesday, November 5
 1. **Design Pecha Kucha Presentations**
 2. Discussion GroupsReading 8
16. Thursday, November 7
 1. Lecture: **Ethics/Leadership 1** – Ethics and Leadership (Dr. Janet Keeping)
 2. Videos: *Who Killed the Electric Car?* (2006), or *An Unreasonable Man: Ralph Nader* (2006).
- November 9-12
University Reading Days
17. Thursday, November 14
 1. Lecture: **Ethics/Leadership 2** – Working in Developing Countries: Challenges and Opportunities (Dr. Larissa Muller, EVDS)
 2. Discussion Groups
18. Tuesday, November 19
 1. Lecture: **Ethics/Leadership 3** – Professional Ethics (Prof. Tom Harper, EVDS)

2. Discussion Groups
Reading 9
19. Thursday, November 21
1. Lecture: **Ethics/Leadership 4** – Professional Ethics (Rollin Stanley, City of Calgary)
2. Discussion Groups
20. Tuesday, November 26
1. Lecture: **Ethics/Leadership 5** – Corporate Environmental Responsibility and Leadership (Dr. Robert Page, Haskayne)
2. Discussion Groups
Reading 10
Assignment Hand-in: Essay
21. Thursday, November 28
1. Lecture: **Ethics/Leadership 6** – Approaches to Leadership (Mogens Smed, DIRTT)
2. Discussion Groups
22. Tuesday, December 3
1. **Ethics/Leadership Pecha Kucha Presentations**
2. Discussion Groups
23. Thursday, December 5
1. **Ethics/Leadership Pecha Kucha Presentations**
2. Discussion Groups

REQUIRED READINGS

Ecology/Sustainability

Reading 1

Worster, Donald, "Chapter 16," in *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas*. Cambridge University Press, 1994, ISBN: 0-521-46834-5 (505 pages), 316-338.

Reading 2

Commoner, Barry, "Chapter 2: The Ecosphere," in *The Closing Circle: Man, Nature and Technology*, Bantam Books, 1974 (343 pages), 11-44.

Reading 3

Capra, Fritjof, "Chapter 3: Social Reality," *The Hidden Connections: Integrating the Biological, Cognitive and Social Dimensions of Life into A Science of Sustainability*, Doubleday, 2002, ISBN: 0-385-49471-8 (300 pages), 70-94.

Reading 4

Nikiforuk, Andrew, "Chapter 4: The New Servitude" and "Chapter 11: The Surplus Devolution," in *The Energy of Slaves: Oil and the New Servitude*, Greystone Books, 2012, ISBN: 978-1-55365-978-5 (296 pages), 62-73, 204-218.

Design

Reading 5

Latour, Bruno. 2008. "A Cautious Prometheus? A Few Steps Toward a Philosophy of Design." Keynote Lecture for the Networks of Design meeting of the Design History Society Falmouth, Cornwall, 3rd September 2008.

Reading 6

Orr, David. "Human Ecology as a Problem of Ecological Design." In *The Nature of Design*, Oxford University Press, 2002, ISBN: 0-19-514855-X (238 pages), 13-32.

Ethics/Leadership

Reading 7

Thompson, I., "The Ethics of Sustainability," in Benson, J.F. and M. Roe, eds., *Landscape and Sustainability*, Routledge, 2007, ISBN 978-0-415-40443-3 (320 pages), 16-36.

Reading 8

Russ, T.H., "Professional Ethics," in *Sustainability and Design Ethics*, Taylor and Francis, 2010, ISBN 978-1-4398-0854-2 (156 pages), 19-45.

Reading 9

Eckersley, Robyn, "Chapter 18: Environment Rights and Democracy," in Keil, Bell, Penz and Fawcett, *Political Ecology: Global and Local*, Routledge, 1998, ISBN: 0-415-18381-2 (408 pages), 253-376.

Reading 10

Avery, Gayle C., "1. The Leadership Scene," and "2. Leadership Paradigms," in *Understanding Leadership: Paradigms and Cases*, Sage Publications, 2004, ISBN 0 7619 4289 0 (316 pages), 3-36.

NOTES

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor.
2. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
6. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
7. Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).
8. At the discretion of the instructor, assignments submitted after the deadline **may** be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. The following equivalencies (the University of Calgary has no official percentage scale system) will be used in calculating grades: **A+** (92.5-100); **A** (85-92.49); **A-** (80-84.99); **B+** (76-79.99); **B** (73-75.99); **B-** (70-72.99); **C+** (66-69.99); **C** (63-65.99); **C-** (60-62.99); **D+** (56-59.99); **D** (50-55.99); **F** (0-49.99).
9. A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript. Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to a 4-point range. Assignments will be evaluated by percentage grades with their letter grade equivalents as shown.