

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

In preparation for the largest global forum on housing and sustainable urban development –the United Nations Habitat III Conference in 2016 – countries around the world focus on defining policies and strategies that foster sustainable housing solutions. Sustainable housing is critical for equitable and economically vibrant cities. It defines the vision of the city, the configuration of its neighborhoods and its ecological footprint. A reinvigorated commitment to green and affordable housing in cities will maximize economic efficiency, promote sustainable density, encourage social diversity and mixed land uses, and thus make the city more functional, inclusive while maintaining environmental balances. This is a research seminar that provides a forum for discussion and evaluation of independent student research on a wide variety of topics related to sustainable urban housing at the local, national and global level.

Objectives

The research seminar is demand-driven and responds to the specific needs of students in terms of content and pedagogy. It has the following objectives:

1. To facilitate the development of a high quality research paper and/or thesis chapter through well directed independent research;
2. To provide an effective feedback on student research thematically related to sustainable housing through a forum for discussion and peer evaluation;
3. To contribute to the development of essential research skills.

Content and Teaching Approach

The class format includes directed reading, preparation of annotated bibliography, development of a research paper and/or thesis chapter related to the topic of choice by each student, as well as presentation of a literature review pertaining to the theoretical advances in their selected field of inquiry. The research seminar acknowledges the value of peer-reviewed research contributions in shaping and advancing the knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of sustainable urban housing. Students, depending on their research topic, select research publications from international journals, books, conference proceedings, master and PhD theses communicating recent advances in their specific field of inquiry. A review of the literature will be presented to the class and discussed to facilitate proactive learning. The class will select research areas most relevant to the students, which will be explored through guest lectures, student presentations and/or critical literature review.

The course requires participants to attend class and to contribute to critical discussion of student research papers/chapters of their thesis. Students also conduct individual literature review and prepare an annotated bibliography, under direction from the instructor. Class meets biweekly, at which time a student will present chapters of their thesis, a conference paper related to their thesis research or the results of a literature review pertaining to recent theories in their selected field of inquiry. The presentation will be followed by a group discussion in which all in attendance are expected to participate. The aim is to prompt discussion and feedback, with the instructor and the presenting student serving as the moderators.

Course Evaluation

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Annotated bibliography | 15% |
| Literature review | 25% |
| Research paper | 30% |
| Research seminar presentation | 20% |
| Class participation | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

Effective writing and presentation are major factors in the evaluation of student work.

The course evaluation will be based on the assignments completed during the term, which includes written assignments, presentation of work, and participation in class discussions. There will be no final examination. Students must achieve a passing grade in all assignments to complete the course successfully. Students are expected to attend all classes. Grades will be deducted for work submitted later than the deadline specified in the assignment. Students will receive a common grade for work done in pairs or groups, unless it is clear to the instructor that an unequal share of the work occurred. Attendance is expected. Engagement is also expected as a requirement for progress in planning and design, and is characterized by active involvement in the work and discussions. Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance, engagement in class discussions and review of assigned readings.

The EVDS standard grading scale will be used in all evaluations for this course.

Background papers for Habitat III conference.

<http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii-conference/>

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. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
2. Academic Accommodations. The Academic Accommodations Policy can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>. It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403.220.6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access. 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/contact>); 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>).

Grading Scale

Please note that a passing grade is required in each individual assignment in order to pass the course as a whole.

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range.

| Grade | Grade Point Value | 4-Point Range | Percent | Description |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|----------|---|
| A+ | 4.00 | 4.00 | 95-100 | Outstanding - evaluated by instructor |
| A | 4.00 | 3.85-4.00 | 90-94.99 | Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter |
| A- | 3.70 | 3.50-3.84 | 85-89.99 | Very good performance |
| B+ | 3.30 | 3.15-3.49 | 80-84.99 | Good performance |
| B | 3.00 | 2.85-3.14 | 75-79.99 | Satisfactory performance |
| B- | 2.70 | 2.50-2.84 | 70-74.99 | Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies |
| C+ | 2.30 | 2.15-2.49 | 65-69.99 | All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. |
| C | 2.00 | 1.85-2.14 | 60-64.99 | |
| C- | 1.70 | 1.50-1.84 | 55-59.99 | |
| D+ | 1.30 | 1.15-1.49 | 50-54.99 | |
| D | 1.00 | 0.50-1.14 | 45-49.99 | |
| F | 0.00 | 0-0.49 | 0-44.99 | |

Notes:

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.