

**Exploring Sustainability**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 – 10:45**

**UNIV 207**  
**KNB 133**

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### **Introduction**

Over the past several decades governments, corporations, not for profit and community organizations and citizens have been struggling to understand the implications of rapid industrialization, population growth, resource depletion, and information technology on our health, happiness and quality of life. The concept of sustainability has played a key role in the struggle. Sustainability offers a new way of understanding the world and our place in it. It has become a key concept in design at all scales of human intervention in the world. Sustainability, both in theory and practice is complex and challenging. This course will present a wide range of perspectives on the vitally important concept.

### **Objectives**

1. Students will gain a broad understanding of the social, ecological, economic, cultural, political dimensions of sustainability, its promise and the challenges it presents.
2. Students will understand the diversity of ways in which sustainability is practiced in real world situations and be able to critically assess claims of sustainability.
3. Students will gain an understanding of how they can contribute to creating a sustainable world in their personal, academic and work lives.

### **Teaching Approach**

Your course instructor and guest speakers will offer perspectives on sustainability from business, government, the not for profit sector and academia. Topics will cover a range of scales, from the smallest devices we use on a daily basis, to neighbourhoods, cities, countries and critical international issues. Classes will include lectures, videos, discussion and activities. We will be bringing real world issues into the classroom discussions on a regular basis. You will be encouraged to be engaged in the course, asking questions, challenging speakers, formulating your own ideas. The course will introduce the idea of inter-disciplinarity with a diverse group of guest speakers from The Arts, Sciences, Social Sciences, the Professions, all with a common interest in understanding, educating about and practicing sustainability.

### **Weekly Class Schedule**

We will start off each week with a lecture (Tuesday). Thursday will be time for class discussion and debate on topics introduced in the lecture and to explore sustainability with hands on activities. Detailed lecture schedule to be provided at a later date. Lecture topics will include Principles of Sustainability • Measuring Sustainability • Ecological Economics • Technology and Design • Urban Food Systems • Sustainability in the Global Village • Alternatives to the Private Automobile • Beyond Fossil Fuels • Making a Fairer World • Governing for a Sustainable Future • Climate Change • The Personal and the Political • Ecological Footprint

### Means of Evaluation

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.

Assignment 1. Group Project	(multiple due dates)	50%
(group assignment will include individual and group grading of sub-components)		
Multi-Choice Exams:	Mid-term [Oct (15%)] and Final [Dec 1 (15%)]	30%
Assignment 4: My Learning Journal	(April 16)	20%
Note: (up to 5% grade reduction for every day late)		

### Course Texts

Exploring Sustainability: From the Local to the Global

The 2011 State of Our City Report: Sustainable Calgary Society: [www.sustainablecalgary.org](http://www.sustainablecalgary.org)

Other Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis

### Supplementary Reading

George Monbiot: [monbiot.com](http://monbiot.com)

Orion Magazine: [orionmagazine.org](http://orionmagazine.org)

Sustainable Development Goals

2013 IPCC Report: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#.UrOYYXmA33g>

IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [www.ipcc.ch/](http://www.ipcc.ch/). In particular, its page called "Publications and Data",

[http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_and\\_data\\_reports.shtml](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.shtml)

### Weekly Schedule (25 Classes)

Tuesday (Lecture)	September 13	Instructor and Course Introductions
Thursday (Lecture)	September 15	Group Project
Tuesday	September 20	Sustainability Reporting and Measurement
Thursday	September 22	Reporting and Group Work
Tuesday	September 27	International Perspectives – Africa
Thursday	September 29	Class Discussion and Activities
Tuesday	October 4	Ecology and Ecological Economics and the Issue of Growth
Thursday	October 6	Urban Agriculture/Food Security
Tuesday	October 11	The Social Economy
Thursday	October 13	Multiple Choice Exam
Tuesday	October 18	The Energy Question
Thursday	October 20	Renewables – Alberta's Energy Future

Tuesday	October 25	Product Footprint Analysis
Thursday	October 27	Design for Sustainability
Tuesday	November 1	Sustainability in Architecture
Thursday	November 3	Calgary's Prospects in a Post-Carbon World
Tuesday	November 8	The Manchester Project: Next Generation Cities
Thursday	November 10	(Reading Week)
Tuesday	November 15	Water and Sanitation Sarah
Thursday	November 17	Sustainability Lessons from the North
Tuesday	November 22	Justice, Fairness and Sustainability
Thursday	November 24	Class Discussion and Activities
Tuesday	November 29	My Future in a Sustainable World
Thursday	December 1	Multi-Choice Exam (2 – one at mid-term)
Tuesday	December 6	Group Project Presentations
Thursday	December 8	Group Project Presentations

### Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Point	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding
A	4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	76-79.99	
B	3.00	73-75.99	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete
B-	2.70	70-72.99	
C+	2.30	66-69.99	
C	2.00	63-65.99	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter
C-	1.70	60-62.99	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation (see individual undergraduate faculty regulations)
D+	1.30	56-59.99	
D	1.00	50-55.99	Minimal pass – marginal performance
F	0.00	0-49.99	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

**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. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer ([jtaillef@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jtaillef@ucalgary.ca)). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/)
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 (<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>).