

ERS 253: The Politics of Sustainable Communities

Winter 2017

Meetings: Wednesdays 11:30–2:20 PM, HH 119, EV2 2006

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Office hours: Mondays, 2:30-3:30

Roles and purposes of the course

This course explores community, sustainability and politics (broadly conceived as governance) as a useful package of ideas and practices. The emphasis will be on building understandings for practical application. This will involve

- applying a broad and critically advanced approach to each of community, sustainability and politics, and to the three together; and
- aiming to identify the practical implications, including for particular undertakings.

The course begins with community as the focal venue, sustainability as the objective and politics (governance) as a major tool.

Communities are human collectivities that can take many forms. Not all communities are defined spatially (e.g., as a neighbourhood or village). There are cultural, occupational, ideological and interest-based, etc. communities. For the purposes of this course, however, we will focus on communities that are of particular places, and that involve some degree of shared experience, commitment and capacity.

Sustainability is lasting wellbeing or, more realistically, progress towards the conditions for and characteristics of lasting wellbeing in a complex world. The generic requirements for progress towards sustainability cover the usual social, economic and ecological pillars, but recognize these to be interacting and often inseparable factors in complex and dynamic socio-ecological systems that are entwined through all scales from the individual to the planet. Accordingly, progress towards sustainability involves building resilience to protect desirable systems and system qualities, and guiding transitions from undesirable systems and system qualities to more sustainable ones.

Politics and governance represent the realm of deliberation and decision making on matters of public significance. In this course, the emphasis is on the local to regional scale but with recognition that local and regional decision making interacts with decision making at many other scales from the individual to the planet and involves an enormous diversity of participants, issues, opportunities, structure and uncertainties, among other considerations.

The course work will include development and application of capacities to build an integrated understanding of communities, sustainability and politics/governance and to expand this understanding in discussions about issues and actions in a variety of particular areas of concern and opportunity (food systems, growth, decline, economic

greening, ecosystems, etc.). As well, each participant will integrate the broad insights, specify them for the particular context of a community of her or his choice, and apply the results in the conception and evaluation of a sustainability-enhancing undertaking in that community.

Readings

The course will rely heavily on individual readings that are or will be available on the course UW Learn website plus other materials available on the internet (see the schedule of events and readings). Users can login to UW Learn via <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password.

Some of the readings on the course UW Learn site are long reports. You are not expected to read them through. Skim as needed.

Course structure, assignments and evaluation

From week 2 to week 10, each weekly session of the course will be divided into two parts. The first half or less will feature a lecture or the rough equivalent (often with discussion, sometimes with a guest or guests). The second half will be devoted to discussion of weekly issues or questions related to the lecture and readings, and/or the individual application projects that each participant will be developing.

The weekly schedule is set out below. The first four sessions provide an overview and background to the main big issues of community, sustainability and politics and their interactions and the initial steps in the participants' projects. The next six sessions consider a suite of big issue areas in which innovative initiatives are needed and underway at the community level. Sessions 11 and 12 will be devoted to "the conference" where the participants will present the findings of their case projects and the rest of the class will have comments, questions, occasion for standing ovations, etc.

Assignments and evaluations summary

Each student's graded work in the course will centre on three basic components:

- the case project:
 - initial description 5%
 - initial framework 10%
 - conference presentation notes and delivery 5%
 - final report 25%
- the weekly class preparation and reflection notes:
 - first set of 4 covering weeks 2-5: 20%
 - second set covering any 4 of weeks 6-10: 20%
- class participation:
 - weeks 1-10 and conference responses 15%

Late penalties will be assessed for written assignments received after the due dates set out below. The standard penalty is 0.5% per day (20/25 one day late becomes 19.5/25).

Deadlines for dropbox submissions are 11:59 pm on the due date.

The case project

The case project centres on the design and decision making surrounding a sustainability-enhancing community-based undertaking. The community involved must be real and at least to some significant extent place-based at a local scale (to be discussed in class), but is otherwise open to selection by the individual participant. The community-based undertaking is also largely open to selection by the individual participant. The undertaking may be based on an actual current or recent undertaking or be largely an invention, but must be realistic (plausibly doable) by residents of the actual community. As well, the undertaking must have objectives and involve deliberations and decision making that should contribute to sustainability at the community scale and beyond (to be discussed in class).

The objective of the exercise is to integrate an understanding of community, sustainability and appropriate decision making in a way that is likely to deliver multiple lasting, mutually reinforcing and fairly distributed gains for the community while avoiding significant adverse effects and risks.

The core of the assignment consists of the following five components:

- to identify and outline the essential sustainability-related characteristics of the selected community and the main sustainability-related issues and opportunities the community faces;
- to outline the basic nature and core purposes of the selected undertaking to address sustainability-related issues in the community, though probably with an immediate focus on a smaller set of particular issues and/or opportunities;
- to develop a sustainability-based framework that is specified for the selected community and appropriate for application to the selected undertaking
- to apply the framework in the design of the undertaking and in the description of a suitable decision-making process(es) to be used in developing the undertaking, implementing it and managing it through its lifetime;
- to conclude with an assessment of the strengths and limitations of the undertaking in light of the objective outlined above and using the framework specified for the case.

The project assignment proceeds in four steps:

- an initial description of the community and the general nature of the selected undertaking – maximum 200 words, due Wednesday, January 11 (bring to class);
- an initial version of the framework specified for the case and community context – maximum 300 words, due Friday, January 27 (submit to dropbox);
- conference presentation – 5 minutes (in class week 11 or 12), with presentation notes to be submitted in class after the presentation; and
- final report – maximum 2000 words, due Monday, April 3 (submit to dropbox)

All case report submissions should adopt a scholarly and professional approach to writing and incorporate proper bibliographic references to written materials or other sources you've used. The references are not included in the word limit for this or any other written assignments in this course.

The final report, especially, should feature the following:

- evidence of familiarity (though not necessarily agreement) with the key points raised in the readings, lectures and discussions, though you are also encouraged to incorporate material from other sources;
- an integrated understanding of the significance and practical implications (directly and indirectly) of these points; and
- recognition of uncertainties, diverse interests and competing perspectives.

The report should draw from the lectures, readings and discussions, as well as from any material you dig up that is relevant to your community and undertaking. Always provide proper references to your sources.

Given the complexities involved (many different sustainability-related objectives, players, issues, possible responses, etc.), you cannot discuss everything. In choosing what to include pay particular attention to what you consider to be most significant for community sustainability and for communicating your ideas clearly. You will have to consider carefully what is and is not crucial here.

Be concise. Even the final report is quite short. This is, among other things, an exercise in presenting key information in a way that facilitates a quick grasp of the material, but that also includes necessary clarifications and evidence (or references to evidence) supporting the argument. Remember that you are, at least implicitly, making an argument. Remember also that these are scholarly papers, expected to meet the usual expectations for sound argument, proper references and reasonable adherence to the conventions of grammar, even if you choose to rely to some extent on bulleted lists of major points.

In addition to the considerations noted above, grading of the papers will be based primarily on evidence of

- familiarity with (or mastery of) the concepts and sources, ideas and implications covered by the course;
- coherence (or brilliance) of argument; and
- clarity (or elegance) of writing.

Note the lateness penalties discussed above.

The not quite weekly class preparation and reflection notes

Each week from week 2 to 5 inclusive and for four of weeks 6 to 10, each participant must submit class preparation and reflection notes. The notes

- should address the big issue posed for the week, focusing on the key insights and their interconnections;
- should be based roughly equally on the course readings for that week (and any additional readings or other research that the student may choose to consult) and on the lecture and discussions for that week,
- may be largely in point form, so long as the result is comprehensible to an outside reader;
- should demonstrate familiarity with at least two of the week's readings

- must include proper references to all sources used (not just to ones from which quotations are taken);
- should not exceed 600 words; and
- must be submitted to the course dropbox for the weekly notes on or before the Friday after the class on the relevant week.

The class preparation notes will be graded in two packages: the first four covering weeks 2-5 and the second four covering four of weeks 6-10.

Note the lateness penalties discussed above.

Participation

Each week at least half of the class time will be devoted to discussion of issues surrounding the ideas raised in the lectures and readings and the implications for the case projects. The anticipated discussion topics are noted below in the section on the weekly topics, readings and questions.

Each student is encouraged and expected to participate thoughtfully in the class discussions. Given the size of the class, we will for some discussions break up into smaller groups (probably 6 groups of 4-5 individuals) to permit more active engagement the deliberations. One group member will report back to the whole class when re-convene together. The reporting should rotate among group members from week to week to ensure equal opportunities.

Special arrangements for participation in the conference (weeks 11 and 12) are set out below in the section on the weekly activities.

Evaluation of participation will be based on the quality as well as the extent of contributions. Evaluation of participation quality will take the following criteria into account:

- understanding of the concepts and issues introduced and insight into their practical implications;
- evident familiarity with the readings;
- careful listening and thoughtful reflection before making comments;
- communication skills (clear, constructive, etc.);
- synthesis, integration and drawing connections between and among the immediate subject matter and ideas, issues and insights from the course materials or elsewhere; and
- accuracy and creativity in illustrating implications.

There will be bonus marks for humour.

Important UW policies and services on key course-related topics

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>. Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing

academic offences, and to take responsibility for his or her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating), should visit the on-line tutorial at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/> and seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. Within the Faculty of Environment, those committing academic offences (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) will be placed on disciplinary probation and will be subject to penalties that may include a grade of 0 on affected course elements, 0 on the course, suspension, and expulsion.

Grievances: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable has the right to grieve. See Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he or she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 – Student Appeals, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Disabilities: The AccessAbility Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AccessAbility Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges – physical and/or emotional. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. *Help is available.* Counselling Services (<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services>) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Religious observances: A student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Unclaimed assignments: Assignments that are not picked up by students will be retained for four months after the course grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's procedures for confidential shredding: <https://uwaterloo.ca/central-stores/confidential-shredding>.

Summary of the course schedule

1. January 4 Introductions and planning
2. January 11 Community

3. January 18 Sustainability
4. January 25 Politics and governance
5. February 1 Growth and decline
6. February 8 Food systems
7. February 15 Tools, motivations and structures for change
8. March 1 Economy, diversity, opportunity and equity
9. March 8 Green spaces and ecosystems
10. March 15 Social capital and ecological civility
11. March 22 The conference part 1
12. March 29 The conference part 2

Details on the course sessions, issues, readings, etc. (subject to adjustment)

1. January 4 Introductions and planning

big issue: What is at the intersection of community, sustainability and politics, and what is to be done there?

initial discussion questions for each participant: What is your main place-based community? What is one significant sustainability-related issue in your community? Who is affected? Who is/should be involved in developing responses?

2. January 11 Community

big issue: What is community and what are the characteristics of a desirable and sustainable or sustainability-enhancing community (community vitality, social capital, resilience and innovation/transition, economic and ecological dimensions, various indicators of community wellbeing, etc.)?

discussion:

- individual assignment: Each participant makes a brief initial presentation on his or her individual project ideas – identifying the selected community and one sustainability-related undertaking (past, current, prospective) that might be worth examining and pursuing, and outlining how that undertaking might contribute to sustainability
- class task: We will create 6 break-out groups for discussions (to be determined: should the groups be based on the kinds of communities involved or based on the kinds of issues/undertakings or established by random assignment? And should different grouping be created every few weeks?).

readings on community:

Ann Dale, Chris Ling, Lenore Newman, “Community vitality: the role of community-level resilience, adaptation and innovation in sustainable development,” *Sustainability* 2 (2010), pp.215-231, on course UW Learn site.

Alternatives Journal 42:3 (2016), special issue on “Belonging,” available at <http://www.alternativesjournal.ca/sites/default/files/AJ42n3BelongingDigiFreeV2sm.pdf>

Ann Dale, Rebecca Foon, Yuill Herbert and Rob Newell, *Community Vitality: from adaptation to transformation* (Tatamagoche: Fernweh Press, 2014), available at

<https://dspace.royalroads.ca/handle/10170/925?show=full>, see especially chapter 1 and the coda at the end (pp.85-91).

readings on community indicators:

Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, *Waterloo Region's Vital Signs Priority Report* (2016), available at https://www.kwcf.ca/vital_signs

Ann Dale, et al., *Community Vitality: from adaptation to transformation* (see above), especially chapter 2

project idea sources:

Anne Dale, Chris Ling et al., "Community vitality," see above.

<https://www.theworkingcentre.org/>

<http://www.iclei.org/activities.html>

<https://www.fcm.ca/home.htm>

<http://smartgrowthontario.ca/our-focus/>

<http://www.tess-transition.eu/>

<http://youngfoundation.org/publications/going-green-and-beating-the-blues/>

3. January 18 Sustainability

big issue: What does sustainability mean for communities? What generic sustainability criteria apply to decisions in all communities, and how can these criteria be specified for particular communities and community undertakings?

discussion:

- individual assignment: Each participant finds a set of criteria/indicators of community wellbeing relevant to his or her community and undertaking
- break-out groups task: Each group builds a consolidated set; one member reports; whole class considers how well the consolidation covers the generic sustainability criteria and key community considerations
- round-the-table review of individual cases: Each participant takes the main purpose of her or his sustainability initiative, and identifies two other potential lasting benefits (or risks).

readings on sustainability:

Robert B. Gibson, "Foundations: sustainability and the requirements for getting there," in Robert B. Gibson, editor, *Sustainability Assessment: Applications and Opportunities* (London: Routledge/Earthscan, 2017), pp. 1-15, on course UW Learn site.

Robert B. Gibson, "Criteria," in *Sustainability Assessment: Criteria and Processes* (London: Earthscan, 2005), chapter 5, pp.88-121, on course UW Learn site.

resource on how to specify sustainability assessment framework for particular cases and contexts:

Robert B. Gibson, "Applications: from generic criteria to assessments in particular places and cases," in *Sustainability Assessment: Applications and Opportunities*, pp. 16-41, on course UW Learn site.

4. January 25 Politics and governance

big issue: How are decisions made in and by communities and how should they be made for contributions to sustainability? Who discusses? Who decides and with what assumptions, information and authority? What interests do and do not have power and influence? Which sustainability requirements get effective attention and which ones do not? What is the extent (and what are the limits) of community/municipal/regional decision making power in sustainability-enhancing initiatives? What structures, processes and motives are involved? What other influences are powerful? What can be done at the community scale (and what can't)? What qualifies as "democratic" or "meaningful public engagement"?

discussion:

- break-out group discussion 1: Each participant outlines who does or should participate in the development and implementation of his or her undertaking. Others suggest additions and identify possible problems and solutions. Each group identifies and reports common findings in the cases discussed.
- break-out group discussion 2: Each participant outlines what major influences beyond the community scale may be involved in his or her undertaking. Others suggest how those influences might be addressed. Each group reports common findings in the cases discussed.

readings:

Ann Dale, et al., *Community Vitality: from adaptation to transformation* (see week 2), chapter 9

Arun Agrawal and Maria Carmen Lemos, "A greener revolution in the making? environmental governance in the 21st century," *Environment* 49:5 (June 2007), pp.36-45, on course UW Learn site.

René Kemp, Saeed Parto and Robert B. Gibson, "Governance for sustainable development: moving from theory to practice," *International Journal for Sustainable Development* 8:1/2 (2005), pp.12-30, on course UW Learn site.

useful background sources:

Jay Makarenko, "Local government in Canada: organization and basic institutions," (2007), available at <http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/local-government-canada-organization-amp-basic-institutions>

5. February 1 Growth and decline

big issue: Some big cities are growing unsustainably, some smaller communities are declining unsustainably – what are their options and which of these issues and options can be addressed effectively at the community scale? For example, what may be the role of economic greening initiatives?

discussion topic: How to build a framework for considering sustainability issues and options so that it covers all the key generic requirements for progress towards sustainability, but also gives due attention to the particular conditions and dynamics, capacities and limitations, fears and aspirations, issues and opportunities, etc. that

characterize the community involved and the sustainability-enhancing undertaking that is being developed.

- individual assignment: Each participant brings the initial version of the framework specified for his or her case and community context (the one submitted on Friday, January 27)
- break out group discussions: Each participant outlines his or her framework. Others suggest additional considerations, or alternative ways are categorizing the main issues. Each group identifies and reports insights from the frameworks discussed (e.g., considerations that were shared in most or all cases, one peculiar to certain communities)

readings:

David Crombie, et al., *Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth: Expert Panel Report*, (2015), on course UW Learn site.

Robert B. Gibson, "Sustainability and the Greenbelt," *Plan Canada* 51:3 (2011), pp.38-41, on course UW Learn site.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, "A thriving rural Canada," (Ottawa: FCM, 2016), available at <https://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/2016-FCM-ThrivingRuralCanada-EN.pdf>, on course UW Learn site.

Pamela Blais, *Perverse Cities: hidden subsidies, wonky policy and urban sprawl* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010), chapter 13 "Perverse subsidies, perverse cities," pp. 221-237, on course UW Learn site.

6. February 8 Food systems

big issue: What is the role of regional food systems and community food initiatives in building sustainability? What are their most direct contributions and how do (or can) they contribute to other sustainability objectives? What can be done at the community level and how can communities play roles in addressing influences beyond the community?

guest expert: Alison Blay-Palmer, WLU

discussion topic: Food is a central issue and realm of opportunity for every community. It is also an area in which economy, ecology and society necessarily merge, as do rural and urban, hand-made and mass produced, and local and global. Also, the loose movement (if that is what it is) that favours local/regional food production, cuisine/culture and food security, has drawn support from an extraordinary diversity of contrasting interests and organizations in communities around the world.

- initial class discussion question: What major lessons for successful community-based sustainability initiatives can be drawn from the example of local and regional food initiatives.
- break out group discussions: How can the lessons from the class discussion be applied in individual cases? Each participant identifies some possibilities for her or his case. Common themes are reported back to the class.

readings:

Waterloo Region Food Charter (Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable, 2013), available at <http://www.wrfoodsystem.ca/food-charter>

- Metcalf Foundation, “Food connects us all,” (Toronto: Metcalf Foundation, February 2008), available at <http://www.metcalffoundation.com/.../Food Connects Us All.pdf>, and on course UW Learn site.
- Knezevic, Irena, Karen Landman, Alison Blay-Palmer and Erin Nelson, *Models and Best Practices for Building Sustainable Food Systems in Ontario and Beyond* (Guelph: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 2013), 263pp. plus appendices, on course UW Learn site.
- Nyéléni Declaration, “The Six Pillars of Food Sovereignty,” (2007), on course UW Learn site.
- Chantal Blouin et al., “Local food systems and public policy: a review of the literature,” (Montréal: Equiterre and The Centre for Trade Policy and Law, September 2009), on course UW Learn site.
- Miller, Sally, “Places to Farm: alternative practices and policies for Ontario’s changing agricultural landscape,” (Toronto: Metcalf Foundation, July 2013), 64pp., on course UW Learn site.
- C. Clare Hinrichs, “The practice and politics of food system localization,” *Journal of Rural Studies* 19 (2003), pp.33-45, on course UW Learn site

other sources:

Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable, website www.wrfoodsystem.ca

7. February 15 Tools, motivations and structures for change

big issue: What are motivations and tools available to community scale governance players: governments, big and small industry/commerce, neighbourhood organizations, public interest groups and others? What are the best means of engaging potential participants, including often marginalized or excluded communities and community members/interests, in sustainability-enhancing initiatives? What structures and players do best in addressing integrated sustainability-oriented challenges?

discussion:

- break-out group discussion: Each participant identifies (again) the main participants in the development and implementation of his or her undertaking and then describes (i) what motivates their participation and (ii) how their engagement is organized – if there is(are) some evident formal or informal organization(s). Others suggest additional possibilities. Each group identifies and reports the main categories of participants, motivations and structures in the cases discussed.
- class discussion questions: What potential participants, tools, motivations and structures are and are not included in the reported cases? How could they be?

readings:

Stephanie Cairns, Pomme Arros and Sara Jane O’Neill, *Incenting the Nature of Cities: Using Financial Approaches to Support Green Infrastructure in Ontario* (Toronto: Metcalf Foundation, May 2016), 34pp., on course UW Learn site [see also Blais from week 5 readings]

Charles Dobson, “Social movements: a summary of what works,” from *The Citizen's Handbook: A Guide to Building Community in Vancouver* (Vancouver: Vancouver

Community Network, 2001), available at www.vcn.bc.ca/citizens-handbook/movements.pdf and on course UW Learn site.

Doug McKenzie-Mohr, *Fostering Sustainable Behaviour: Community-Based Social Marketing*, available at <http://www.cbsm.com/pages/guide/preface/>, see especially the introductory summary at <http://www.cbsm.com/pages/guide/fostering-sustainable-behavior/>, on course UW Learn site.

Caledon Institute, *Collaboration on Policy: a manual developed by the community-government collaboration on policy* (Ottawa: Caledon Institute, 2009); http://atwork.settlement.org/sys/atwork_library_print.asp?doc_id=1004865, on course UW Learn site.

8. March 1 Economy, diversity, opportunity and equity

big issue: How can we green the economy while also increasing social justice (ensure positive equity effects – including intra- and inter-generational equity)? Or should that be how can we increase social justice as a means of greening the economy?

discussion:

- class discussion: What should we consider in an evaluation of the equity effects of a sustainable community initiative? How should we build an equity effects evaluation framework for application to undertakings being developed in this course?
- break-out group discussion: Each participant with the assistance of the other participants in the group does a quick equity effects evaluation of his or her undertaking. Each group identifies and reports the main insights from this exercise.

readings:

Tim Jackson and Peter Victor, “Green economy at community scale (Toronto: Metcalf Foundation, November 2013), 68pp., on course UW Learn site.

Cheryl Teelucksingh and Laura Zeglen, “Building Toronto: achieving social inclusion in Toronto’s emerging green economy,” (Toronto: Metcalf Foundation, 2016), on course UW Learn site.

Adriana Beemans, “Resilient Neighbourhood Economies: A Foundation’s strategic learning from a three-year investment in local economies” (Toronto: Metcalf Foundation, 2016), on course UW Learn site.

other sources

The Working Centre’s website re the Waterloo School for Community Development http://www.theworkingcentre.org/wscd/wscd_main.html Resources for Learning

9. March 8 Green spaces and ecosystems

big issue: How can an ecosystem-based approach to community sustainability issues and opportunities contribute new considerations and alternative options to community sustainability initiatives? How can communities go beyond providing greenspace to integrate ecosystem understanding and restoration? What are the core objectives and tools for ecosystem-sensitive approaches and activities?

discussion:

- break-out group discussion : Each participant identifies any component of his or her undertaking that does or may involve effects on (or from interactions with) the community ecosystem(s), and describes how these are addressed (or not) in the undertaking. Others suggest additional possibilities. Each group identifies and reports the main categories of interactions, implications and responses in the cases discussed.
- class discussion questions: What are the most promising means of integrating more effective attention to ecosystem-related issues in community sustainability initiatives. What different options are there for public and private lands? What tools have greatest potential?

readings:

Ann Dale, et al., *Community Vitality: from adaptation to transformation* (see week 2), chapter 8.

Richard J. Hobbs, Eric Higgs, Carol M. Hall, Peter Bridgewater, F. Stuart Chapin III, et al., “Managing the whole landscape: historical, hybrid, and novel ecosystems,” *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 12 (2014), pp.557–564, on course UW Learn site.

Matthew Van Dongen, “Ecopark,” *Hamilton Spectator*, 6 April 2016, available at <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6441784-vision-of-massive-hamilton-burlington-eco-park-is-coming-to-life/> and on course UW Learn site; also Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark map available at http://media.zuza.com/8/a/8ac6a9e7-f1c5-40de-b9e1-0a7aff1fb7f4/ECOPARK_MAP.pdf, on course UW Learn site.

Robert B. Gibson, “Avoiding sustainability trade-offs in environmental assessment,” *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* 31:1 (2013), pp.1-12 especially pp.6-8 re Laurel Creek improvement, on course UW Learn site.

10. March 15 Social capital and ecological civility

big issue: How do the concepts of social and ecological civility, sense of place, and conviviality fit into community level sustainability? What do they look like in practice.

discussion

- class discussion: What are the main ways of building social capital and ecological civility into a sustainable community initiative? How could we incorporate them into an evaluation framework for application to undertakings being developed in this course?
- break-out group discussion: Each participant with the assistance of the other participants in the group does a quick review of how his or her undertaking does or could build social capital and ecological civility. Each group identifies and reports the main insights from this exercise.

readings

Ann Dale, et al., *Community Vitality: from adaptation to transformation* (see week 2), chapter 4.

Ann Dale, Lenore Newman and Rob Newell, “Patterns of our footsteps: topophilia, rhythm and diversity in urban landscapes,” *Spaces and Flows: An International*

Journal of Urban and ExtraUrban Studies 4:2 (2014), 11pp., available at Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2479755>, on course UW Learn site.

Jane Jacobs “Why cities need ‘holes in the wall’,” excerpt from Samuel Zipp and Nathan Storrington, editors, *Vital Little Plans: The Short Works of Jane Jacobs* (Toronto: Random House Canada, 2016), available at <https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2016/09/23/jane-jacobs-on-preserving-a-citys-holes-in-the-wall.html>, and on course UW Learn site.

Timothy D. Sisk et al. (2001) *Democracy at the Local Level: The International IDEA Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance* (Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 2001), chapter 1 “Concepts, challenges and trends” (also chapter 5 “Expanding participatory democracy”), available at <http://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/democracy-at-the-local-level-handbook.pdf>, on course UW Learn site.

11. March 22 The conference part 1

- presentations on individual cases: components
 - the community and undertaking
 - application of framework focused on core purpose, extent of other benefits
 - process for deliberation/decision making/continued engagement at community scale
 - linkages beyond the community
 - big lessons

first 3 groups (~13 presenters), with the other three groups as questioners; each group gets 50 minutes; each presenter gets 5 minutes, then ~25 minutes questions/discussion

12. March 29 The conference part 2

- presentations on individual cases: components
 - the community and undertaking
 - application of framework focused on core purpose, extent of other benefits
 - process for deliberation/decision making/continued engagement at community scale
 - linkages beyond the community
 - big lessons

second 3 groups (~13 presenters), with the other three groups as questioners; each group gets 50 minutes; each presenter gets 5 minutes, then ~25 minutes questions/discussion