

INDEV 604/PACS 650

Sustainable Cities

Faculty of Environment
Fall 2017

Course instructor: Dr. Theresa Schumilas Class time: Thursdays, 8:30 – 11:20

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Office hours: 30 minutes before and after class, or by appointment

Note: *The guidelines in this syllabus are subject to change. Refer to the course website on Learn for updates.*

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

Course Description

For the first time in history more people around the world live in urban areas than rural ones. This has been the case in the global North since rapid urbanization started in the 19th century. But increasingly these same urbanization trends are evident throughout the global South. Is this degree of urbanization sustainable? Sustainable development rests on the balance between social, economic and environmental priorities from the local to the global scale, both currently and in the future.

Food and food systems offer a useful way of understanding and acting on some of the most pressing sustainability issues in cities. Cities are demanding greater supplies of food, and these demands are increasingly stressing surrounding ecology. Globalized, centralized food distribution systems are resulting in unsustainable fuel use & associated climate change, urban sprawl and loss of foodlands, contamination of soil, air and water, both under nutrition (hunger) and over nutrition (obesity), and marginalization of both urban and rural dwellers.

But cities are not only hubs of unsustainable and destructive consumption. Around the world cities are starting to see food and food systems as drivers for other sustainable urbanization practices and policies. In this course you are invited to re-think the sustainability of cities through the lens of food systems and emerging sustainable food initiatives evolving around the world.

We take a global and interdisciplinary perspective on cities and sustainability, using urban or 'city-region' food system to help focus our discussions and thinking. Drawing on both theoretical and case study material we will look across local and global scales to reveal the interconnections and disconnections between ecological stewardship, social justice, cultural vitality, prosperity and citizen engagement.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, you will:

- Be familiar with frameworks that can facilitate a systems-level approach in your future work. Specifically, we will discuss the community capitals framework, just sustainabilities, and sustainable transitions in socio-technical systems.
- Use conceptual tools to think about and assess sustainability from different perspectives.
- Weigh trade-offs among social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability, and constructively communicate these assessments in presentations and academic writing.
- Understand how approaches to sustainability are situated and contextualized, and explore how different cultural, political and macro-economic contexts interact to both drive and restrain transitions to urban sustainability. Specifically, you will compare sustainable food initiatives in Waterloo Region with initiatives across the global North and South.

Mutual expectations:

What you can expect of me: Your learning is my priority. This course exposes you to different ‘ways’ of learning (reading, lecture, discussion, site visits) and different approaches to assessment (in class contributions, presentations, lay and reflective writing). I will share all rubrics in advance (on LEARN) and use these in grading so there will be ‘no surprises’. I will try to create a safe and friendly environment in which you can share and test out ideas. I will respect your ideas and challenge you to develop these further.

What I expect of you: I expect you will arrive on time, attend all classes, attend class field trips, and complete all readings and assignments.

Course Requirements & Assessment

Engagement with readings, site visits and discussions are key to this seminar-style course. You need to arrive prepared to discuss the assigned readings. You will be assigned randomly to a group that you will work in for the term. You will discuss readings in class in this group and you will prepare and deliver a presentation on an assigned topic with this group.

Your final grade is comprised of 5 short (3 pages) written assignments, an annotated bibliography & topic description, and a group presentation. Detailed descriptions of the requirements for these assignments are posted on LEARN in the document ‘Assignment Details & Rubrics’.

Note the penalty for late assignments described at the end of this syllabus. If you fail to turn in an assignment 10 days past the due date, and if you cannot provide documentation of a legitimate excuse, you will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment.

Written Assignments – 60%

Using class readings, discussions and field trips you will write 5 reflections that respond to assigned questions. The reflection question will be posted on learn at least 10 days ahead of the due date. These are relatively short reflections – maximum 3 pages single spaced. Each assignment is worth 10%, except for the final reflection, which is worth 20%.

Assignments must be submitted to dropbox on LEARN before midnight on the due date as indicated on the class schedule below.

Annotated bibliography and topic summary – 20%

You will each, individually, write an annotated bibliography and topic summary for the topic selected by your group for presentation. (The presentation is done by the group, but you will each prepare an individual annotated bibliography and topic summary ahead of the presentation.) The assignment must be submitted to dropbox on LEARN before midnight on October 24.

Note - you will use this topic summary in a working session with your group on October 26 to plan your presentation and to select one reading from your group's bibliographies for the entire class to read.

Group Presentation – 20%

Your group will work together to research and present a 30 – 40 minute lecture on a topic your group will choose from a list presented in class. Presentation dates are noted in the course schedule below. Together, you will:

- Choose a topic from a list of 'promising' or 'alternative' sustainable food initiatives presented in class
- Choose 1 reading that your classmates will read (Send the instructor the PDF for posting on LEARN one week prior to your presentation)
- Present information about the possibilities and challenges with this particular 'type' of community food initiative, plus one or two examples (mini case studies) of this initiative in practice in global North and/or global South contexts.
- Engage the class in some manner - with a game, debate, or discussion questions
- Use strong visuals – could include a short video (not longer than about 7 minutes)
- Execute your presentation so that each group member contributes

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics	Readings
Week 1 Sept 7	Course Overview	
Week 2 Sept 14	Introducing the 'City-Region Food System' Perspective 'Sitopia' & Rapid Appraisal Assignment	Food in an Urbanized World, 2015
Sept 19	Assignment #1 – Rapid Appraisal Food System due before midnight on Tuesday Sept 19 to dropbox. Details on LEARN - (10%)	
Week 3 Sept 21	Sustainability Frameworks Collective WR Food System Appraisal	Mulligan, 2015
Week 4 Sept 28	Hacienda CSA visit – bus boards on the ring round outside of EV3 at 8:30 sharp	
Oct 3	Assignment #2 - Hacienda CSA reflection due before midnight on Tuesday Oct 3 to dropbox. Details on LEARN – (10%)	
Week 5 Oct 5	City scale planning for urban food polices & programs Waterloo Region food system case study discussion	Baker and de Zeeuw, 2015 De Zeeuw & Dubbeling, 2015
Week 6 Oct 12	Study Days – no class	
Oct 17	Assignment # 3 – Region of Waterloo food system planning reflection due before midnight on Tuesday Oct 17 to dropbox. Details on LEARN – (10%)	
Week 7 Oct 19	Central debates underpinning urban food sustainability planning: 'Food Security' vs 'Food Sovereignty' and Private Sector Role	Holt-Gimenez, 2010 Bancerez, 2016
Oct 24	Annotated Bibliography and topic description due before midnight on Oct 24 to dropbox. Details on Learn – (20%)	
Week 8 Oct 26	Group time to prepare case studies/topic presentations, share resources – no lecture or readings this week	
Week 9 Nov 2	Introducing community food initiatives	Forssell & Lankoski, 2015 Blay-Palmer, 2013
Week 10 Nov 9	Trip to Pfennings Organic Farm & Warehouse – bus boards on the ring road outside of EV3 at 8:30 sharp	
Nov 14	Assignment #4 –Pfennings reflection due before midnight on Tuesday Nov 14 to dropbox. Details on LEARN – (10%)	
Week 11 Nov 16	Urban agriculture and sustainability Presentations by groups Groups 1, 2 & 3	Readings TBA
Week 12 Nov 23	Balancing social justice and economic goals Presentations by groups 4, 5, & 6	Readings TBA
Week 13 Nov 30	Course wrap up and sharing food Course evaluation	
Dec 7	Reflection on group presentations due to dropbox before midnight Dec 7. Details on LEARN – (20%)	

In addition to the University of Waterloo Regulations available at:

<http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/Regulations-Overview> the following course practices will apply:

Grading: If you believe that an error has been made in grading a course requirement, please contact the instructor immediately. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade any portion of the submitted material. Hence, it is possible that an appeal may result in a lower grade.

Late Assignments

For assignments due to the LEARN drop box, lateness will be penalized by **5% of the assignment total mark per 24-hour period to a maximum of 10 days**. The late penalty begins immediately after midnight on the due date. At this point the dropbox for assignments closes, and late assignments need to be emailed to the instructor. **After the 10 day maximum** assignments will not be accepted and a **grade of ‘zero’** will be recorded for the assignment,

Elective arrangements (e.g. travel plans are not considered acceptable grounds for variance. In special unforeseeable circumstances where an assignment is missed due to circumstances beyond the control of the student, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the course instructor **no later than 48 hours after the scheduled date** and arrange to submit acceptable documentation according to the timeline determined by the course instructor.

Acceptable documentation may include a copy of a death certificate or obituary, a police report or a doctor’s certificate using the UW verification of illness form.

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. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] 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) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

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/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.