

INDEV 604/PACS 650
Sustainable Cities

Faculty of Environment
Fall 2018

Course instructor: Dr Theresa Schumilas

Class time: Tuesdays: 6:30 – 9:20

E-mail: t2schumi@uwaterloo.ca

Room: HH 227

Office hours: 30 minutes before or after class by appointment

Note: This syllabus could 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 the emerging City-Region Food System (CRFS) approach 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: Understand how ‘world views’ (illustrated through the ‘food security’ versus ‘food sovereignty’ lenses) influences the framing of sustainability issues and solutions
- Use conceptual tools (in particular the evolving ‘City Region Food Systems’ approach) to think about and assess sustainable development in cities and city-regions
- 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.

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 (presentations, lay, reflective and academic 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. This is a seminar style discussion course. You will only get out of it what you put into it!

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 and case studies in class in this group and you will prepare and deliver a presentation related to an assigned broad topic area with this group.

Your final grade is comprised of short (2 pages) reflections, an annotated bibliography & topic description, a group presentation and a final integrative reflection. 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 5 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.

Also note that print copies of the written assignments (except for the final one) are to be submitted at the beginning of the class noted in the schedule below. Electronic submissions are not accepted. The final assignment will be submitted to dropbox.

Course Schedule:

Each class is divided into 2 x 80 minute 'halves' with a break around 7:50 pm. All readings are on LEARN.

<p>Week 1 Sept 11</p>	<p>Course Overview, Meet your group members. Introducing 'sitopia' or 'food place' (Carolyn Steele video) Explain sitopia assignment</p>	<p>Note: Sitopia Assignment – due September 18 – details on LEARN</p>
<p>Week 2 Sept 18</p>	<p>Hand in your Sitopia Assignment at the beginning of class</p> <p>Part 1: City-Food sustainability challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Discussion – Sitopias • Case Study - national food systems report <p>Part 2: Comparing world views - how the way we look at sustainability and food can be differently 'shaped' : Food Sovereignty vs Food Security lenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion - Comparison of 2 videos <p>Part 3: Group Discussion – City-Region Food System case studies on food waste</p>	<p>For this week: Scan Food Counts (Canadian sustainable food system report card)</p> <p>Read Holt-Gimenez, 2010 (we'll be using this in small group discussion)</p> <p>Read Dubbeling et al, 2016 (report on CRFS and food waste) up to page 30, plus read the case study for your group. Your group will be discussing this case study in class:</p> <p>Group 1 – Bello Horizonte, Brazil Group 2 – Quito, Ecuador Group 3 – Rosario, Argentina Group 4 – Monrovia, Liberia Group 5 – Kesbewa, Sri Lanka Group 6 – Ile de France, France</p> <p>Note: video comparison assignment – due Sept 25</p>
<p>Week 3 September 25</p>	<p>Hand in a PRINT copy of your video comparison at the beginning of class</p> <p>City Region Food System Approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Group Case studies presentations <p>Group exercise: website/resources review & topic selection Review FAO – Urban Food Actions Platform - and topic selection for annotated bibliography. Umbrella topics:</p>	<p>For this week: Read Blay-Palmer et al, 2018</p>

	<p>Group 1 – Governance</p> <p>Group 2 – Sustainable diets & nutrition</p> <p>Group 3 – Social and economic equity</p> <p>Group 4 – Food Production</p> <p>Group 5 – Food Supply and Distribution</p> <p>Group 6 – Food Waste</p>	
<p>Week 4 Oct 2</p>	<p>Part 1: City Region Food System approach in practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study - Waterloo Region's Food System planning • Group discussion – What went wrong? <p>Part 2: Introducing sustainable food initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study - food hubs and CSAs • Video carousel 	<p>For this week:</p> <p>Scan Baker and de Zeeuw, 2015</p> <p>Scan the City Region Food Systems Toolkit at: http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/toolkit/introduction/en/ – we'll be using this in class</p> <p>Read: Forssell & Lankoski, 2015 Read Levkoe et al, 2018</p> <p>Note your annotated bibliography and topic description is due on October 11</p>
	<p>Break - no class on October 9. Next class is October 11</p>	
<p>Week 5 October 11</p>	<p>Hand in a PRINT copy of your annotated bibliography and topic description at the beginning of class.</p> <p>Part 1: Role of the private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group discussion & report back <p>Part 2: Film - Merchants of Grain</p>	<p>For this week:</p> <p>Read sections 1, 2, 7 & 8 in Duebbling, 2016 and scan the remainder and the case studies - we'll be using them in our discussion</p> <p>Read: Bancerez, 2016</p>
<p>Week 6 October 16</p>	<p>Field Trip #1 - Steckle Farm 6:30 – 8:00 – bus departs from in front of Hagey Hall at 6:30, and returns there around 8:30.</p> <p>Class re-convenes afterwards (around 8:30) for group work and presentation planning</p>	<p>Note: your Steckle urban farm reflection is due on October 23.</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 23</p>	<p>Hand in a PRINT copy of your Steckle urban farm reflection at the beginning of class.</p>	<p>For this week:</p> <p>Read Prost, 2018 Read Schumilas, 2017</p>

	“Smart Cities” - will technology save us?	And bring an example of a new technology (hardware, software or liveware) affecting food system sustainability
Week 8 Oct 30	Field Trip #2 - Downtown Kitchener ‘alternative’ food stores. Details to be discussed in class.	Note – your downtown Kitchener ‘alternative’ food stores reflection is due on November 6.
Week 9 Nov 6	Hand in a PRINT copy of your downtown Kitchener ‘alternative’ food stores reflection at the beginning of class. Case study: China’s dominant and ‘alternative’ food systems. Urban-Rural relations in a climate of food scares. Guest: Dr. Zhenzhong Si	For this week read: Si, 2017 and Si, 2018
Week 10 Nov 13	Governance (Group 1), Sustainable Diets & Nutrition (Group 2) and Social & Economic Equity (group 3) presentations	Readings TBA
Week 11 Nov 20	Food Production (Group 4) , Food Supply & Distribution (Group 5) & Food Waste (Group 6) presentations	Readings TBA
Week 12 Nov 27	Course wrap up and sharing food Course evaluation Description of final assignment	
	Final Assignment due to dropbox before midnight Dec 6. Details will be posted on LEARN on November 27 (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. For grade re-considerations, the instructor requires a written request that clearly specifies the aspects of the published rubric that you feel was mis-evaluated.

Late Assignments Lateness will be penalized by 5% of the assignment total mark per 24-hour period to a maximum of 5 days. The late penalty begins immediately following the time the assignment is due. After the 5 day maximum assignments will not be accepted and a grade of 'zero' will be recorded for the assignment,

Missed Assignments: Elective arrangements (e.g. travel plans, optional family visits...) 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. 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.