Course Syllabus - BCT 191A - Fall, 2011

The Built Environment

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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:00pm, Holdsworth 110

TEXT & MATERIALS:


Online Readings

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will explore the issues of sustainability from the perspective of the built environment, our history of construction and expansion, and buildings and how they interact with the natural environment. Students will be exposed to issues of human impacts on natural systems through the built environment and the variety of disciplines that are working to create a more sustainable future.

PREREQUISITES: None

CREDITS: Three

SCHEDULE NO: Section 1: 31473

MEETS: Mon, Wed 4:40-5:55PM, Thompson Hall, Rm. 102

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an overall understanding of the definition of sustainability in the context of the built environment.
2. To become aware of the ecological, ethical and economic issues that arise from the interaction of the built and natural environments.
3. To become aware of the roles that planning, design, construction and operation of the built environment can have in achieving sustainability goals. To be exposed to the variety of disciplines and major degree study programs that help shape these roles.
4. To enhance decision-making and problem solving skills. Individual and group skills are honed through case studies, in-class discussion and exercises, written assignments and regular quizzes.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

All reasonable efforts will be made to meet the individual needs of the student. If you have a learning disability or need special accommodation please contact the instructor to discuss your needs. All discussions will be strictly confidential.

COURSE WORK AND EXPECTATIONS:

Readings, class work, and exams will be given during the scheduled time periods. Keeping up with the class work and handing in material on time is extremely important in providing the student with the best chances for meeting the course objectives. No make-up quizzes or assignments will be scheduled.

In-Class Assignments (approximately 10) will be scheduled throughout the semester. On those days when in-class assignments are presented students will be asked to pair-up and discuss or solve the topic or problem presented.
Each Learning Module will consist of some combination of the following:

- A Reading (either from the text or an online link or both)
- A Video Lecture
- An additional Assignment Reading
- A written Assignment – Usually 250 words, unless otherwise noted.
- A Discussion – Each student will be asked to contribute their own thoughts and ideas regarding the discussion topic 50-100 words. In addition, each student is required to write an additional “meaningful response” or “critique” of another student’s submission (25-50 words)

Exams are non-cumulative will be scheduled to cover the material in the preceding Learning Modules. Exams will be administered through SPARK and will only be accessible for a limited time-window to be announced on the Class Schedule.

Video term project. Students are expected to pair-up to produce a 3 minute video on a specific topic (of your choice) regarding sustainability in the built environment. A rubric for the term project will be presented in the initial lectures for the class including: Topic of video, Outline, Technical requirements and online tutorial material, Live tutorial sessions, Draft presentation, Final presentation.

GRADING AND EVALUATION:

Students are expected to have read the text and online material prior to attempting other learning module components. The learning modules are designed to reinforce and expand on the material contained in the readings. Students are required to participate in class discussions.

The concepts and techniques being studied will be presented in textbook and online readings, video, PPT lectures, exercises, and discussions. Real world problems and examples will frequently be used to tie theory with practical issues in the design and construction industries.

Exams and Grades: Your grade will be based on your successful completion of online exams, homework exercises (both assigned written and in-class assignments), and participation in online discussions.

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (SPARK) (3@ 15%)</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Homework Assignments (SPARK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Assignments</td>
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<td>Discussions (SPARK)</td>
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<td>Video Term Project</td>
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<td>73 - 76+</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The University requires honesty of all its members in their academic work. Honesty is necessary to the learning process, and is integral to the atmosphere of genuine inquiry and intellectual curiosity which the University seeks to foster. Academic dishonesty not only contradicts the expectations of a community whose central purpose is the pursuit of intellectual endeavor, it violates University rules and regulations, a fact of which all students must be aware. For a more complete definition visit the University Academic Honesty page.