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Monday 2:00-4:00
Office Hours: Monday 4:00-6:00

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

In 1987 the Brundtland Commission wrote that sustainability means the ability to ensure the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.¹ The concept of sustainability has, until recently, been applied primarily in the context of third world development. It is a slippery term applied rhetorically to many an effort and challenged by activists and critical theorists for a host of reasons. Often sustainability initiatives focus on the environment, but the concept could encompass far more. The term is increasingly used by European and North American nations, city governments, non-governmental organizations and businesses in policy documents and promotional literature. What should sustainability include? How should it be conceptualized?

This course will provide students with reference points and questions to ask to understand the problems US cities face and the efforts of urban actors to direct urban life toward sustainability. The class is organized into three main sections. Following the outline of a theoretical framework for approaching sustainability, the class will look at land uses, sprawl, transportation planning and the economic processes operating within US cities. The second section concerns whether sustainability and justice intersect as ideas and in current practice. The third section concerns biodiversity and climate change. The class will look at social movements, non-governmental work and efforts from within city government towards sustainable urban futures.

The course will consist of lectures and discussion. Students are expected to participate in the discussions to demonstrate their understanding of the readings. The emphasis in the class is on oral presentation skills and written work.

Class participation:	15%	(know the material and be able to raise 2 points/class)
Presentation:	20%	(due on the week scheduled below/topic)
Paper 1	20%	(due March 3)
Paper 2	20%	(due April 14)
Paper 3	25%	(due May 8)

The objectives of the course are to:

1. Investigate the history and current debate on urban sustainability;
2. Briefly contextualize debates on urban sustainability in the language of critical theory;
3. Discuss the social, economic and political dimensions of US cities as elements that they must face to construct sustainable urban life;
4. Explore some of the movements and initiatives that are emerging around issues of urban sustainability;
5. Understand the relationship between justice and sustainability;
6. Examine local approaches through case studies.

Date	Topic
January 24	Introduction
January 31	Historical and current understandings of sustainability
February 7	Theoretical Perspectives
February 14 – March 13	Progress
February 14	Economic Development
February 21	Land Use
February 28	Growth
March 3	Paper 1 due by 4 pm CISS office
March 3 – March 12	spring break
March 13	Transportation
March 20 – April 10	Justice and Community
March 20	Environmental Justice
March 27	Sustainable Cities – Movements and Initiatives

¹ World Commission on Environment and Development. 1987. *Our Common Future*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Date	Topic
April 3	Neighborhoods
April 10	Living Wages and Work
April 14	Paper 2 due by 4 pm CISS office
April 17 – May 1	Nature
April 17	Biodiversity Abstract for research paper due – beginning of class
April 19 – April 24	Easter break
May 1	Climate Change Conclusions
May 8	Paper 2 due by 4 PM

Papers

Paper 1

Choose a city anywhere in the country. Research its economic development strategies. You have the following choices:

- a) report on a relatively recent project (like Medical City or the Baltimore waterfront redesign)
- b) write on a project/strategy employed earlier in the last century.
- c) do a trajectory of development efforts in a particular city.
- d) write on the overall strategy of building sports arenas or convention centers across the country rather than in one city.
- e) write on empowerment/enterprise zones (if you're presenting on e or f you cannot write this paper on either of those subjects but you can use this material for the final research paper)
- f) write on brownfield redevelopment

Use readings assigned for the class as well as outside sources. Outside sources include articles, books, web materials, newspaper articles and conversations with appropriate sources (e.g. if you want to call the planning dept. of the city you chose and talk to someone). Your grade will be based on how well you incorporate the class readings and your effort at finding other sources to discuss the particular project. Paper should be 10 pages plus a bibliography. Due March 1 by 4 pm.

Paper 2

Using class readings from day one until April 10, class discussions, presentations and lectures, make an argument for or against one of these statements. Do not provide me with unsubstantiated fluff, optimistic wishful thinking or pessimistic rambling. You all have valid opinions but if you can't back them up, please don't tell me them. Whether you say yes or no, use a theoretical argument and back it up with practical examples from the readings. Follow the guidelines I gave you after the first paper. I will grade you on how well you use the material (so cite and give me a bibliography), your writing and your argument (do you have one, have you backed it up with analysis of what you've read, is it coherent and logical from start to finish). 7-10 pages due April 14.

Agree or Disagree

Choice A: Sustainability advocates and environmental justice advocates have nothing to learn from each other and never will.

Choice B: Sustainable cities are impossible.

Choice C: It is easier for Americans to care about the environment (trees, parks, open space, biodiversity) than it is for them to care about people (those who live near toxic dumps, those who work for less than a living wage, the marginalized, those who suffer discrimination).

Choice D: It is more useful to define sustainability only in relation to the environment rather than incorporate issues of economic development strategies, jobs and justice.

Paper 3

The purpose of this paper is to hone research skills, to encourage an in-depth look at an aspect of sustainable cities that has not been covered by the course and to apply relevant course material. The paper should be 10-15 pages, typed, double spaced. The paper can be about a specific initiative or overarching issue concerning cities and sustainability. I am fairly flexible on the topic but the main thing is to tell me how your topic relates to sustainable

cities. Please use sources in addition to the course readings. Information off the web is acceptable but see guidelines I gave you earlier on web sources and on my expectations of what a research paper should be. Use newspaper sources, articles and/or books as the foundation of your paper. Paper topics may be extensions of your class presentation but do not rely only on the readings I gave you – you need more sources. Please email me the topic before April 17. I will approve it (or not), then write your abstract. Everyone should have a different topic. Abstracts – 1 page outline of the topic and where you want to go with it are due April 17
Papers are due May 5 by 4 PM. Papers turned in later than the due date will not be accepted.

Presentations

I will provide additional readings for each presentation (about 2 articles). Presenters are responsible for the class readings for each week as well as the additional articles but the presentation should be developed only from the additional readings.

Presentation guidelines:

- The idea is to get the main points across to the rest of the class. Presentation materials are a critical part of the class and students will rely on you for this information;
- Do not read the presentation – know it well enough so you can work mostly from notes;
- Present the material in outline form using overheads or some other form of visual presentation (chalkboard);
- Look at your audience;
- Do not talk for longer than 10-15 minutes;
- Summarize the material, raise questions, suggest linkages, point out strengths and weaknesses of the articles, compare and contrast the arguments;
- Propose a question for the class to discuss. This can be an issue that concerns you, something you didn't understand in the articles, an aspect you agree or disagree with in the articles or a related issue.

The following list of lecture topics and readings is subject to change.

January 24 Introduction

January 31 Historical and Current Understandings of Sustainability

- Platt, Rutherford H. 1994. The ecological city: introduction and overview in Rutherford H. Platt, Rowan A. Rowntree and Pamela C. Muick (eds.). *The ecological city: preserving and restoring biodiversity*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts. 1-20.
- Spengler, John and Tim Ford. 1997. From the environmentally challenged city to the ecological city in Robert Geddes (ed.). *Cities in our future*. Washington DC: Island Press. 33-62.
- Beatley, Timothy. 1995. Planning and sustainability: the elements of a new (improved?) paradigm. *Journal of Planning Literature* 9(4):383-395.

Presentation: Campbell, Scott. 1996. Green cities, growing cities, just cities? urban planning and the contradictions of sustainable development. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 62(3):296-312.

City of Santa Monica. 1999. *Sustainable City Progress Report Update*. Santa Monica: City of Santa Monica Task Force on the Environment.

February 7 Theoretical Perspectives

Ruddick, Susan. 1996. Constructing difference in public places: race, class and gender as interlocking systems. *Urban Geography* 17(2):132-151.

Harvey, David. 1995. Cities or urbanization? *City* 1/2:38-61.

Keil, Roger and John Graham. 1998. Reasserting nature: constructing urban environments after Fordism in Noel Castree and Bruce Braun (eds.). *Remaking reality: nature at the millennium*. NY: Routledge. 100-125.

Presentation: Young, Iris Marion. 1990. The ideal of community and the politics of difference in L.J. Nicholson (ed.). *Feminism/postmodernism*. New York: Routledge. 300-323.

Demeritt, David. 1998. Science, social constructivism and nature in Noel Castree and Bruce Braun (eds.). *Remaking reality*. NY: Routledge. 177-197.

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 13 PROGRESS

February 14 Economic Development

- Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 3. The city as growth machine p. 50-98.
- Zukin, Sharon. 1997. Cultural strategies of economic development and the hegemony of vision in Andy Merrifield and Erik Swyngedouw (eds.). *The urbanization of injustice*. NY: University Press. 223-243.
- Mayer, Margit. 1991. Politics in the post-Fordist city. *Socialist Review* 21(1):105-124.

- Presentation:** Beauregard, Robert. 1997. City planning and the postwar regime in Philadelphia in Mickey Lauria (ed.). *Reconstructing urban regime theory*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. 171-188.
- Fainstein, Susan S. 1997. The changing world economy and urban restructuring in Susan Fainstein and Scott Campbell (eds.) *Readings in urban theory*. Oxford: Blackwell. 170-186.

February 21 Land Use

- Keating, W. Dennis. 1997. Cleveland: “the comeback city”: the politics of redevelopment and sports stadiums amidst urban decline in Mickey Lauria (ed.). *Reconstructing urban regime theory*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. 189-205.
- Diamond, Henry L. and Patrick F. Noonan. 1996. *Land use in America: the report of the Sustainable Use of Land Project*. Washington, D.C.: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Island Press. 1-42
- Scattone, Raymond P. 1998. Sustainable development in a US context: analysis and implications. *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* 18(5):352-364.

- Presentation:** Orfield, Myron. 1997. *Metropolitics*. Washington: Brookings Institution. Ch. 7 Metropolitics: regional coalition building p. 104-155 and Ch. 8 Can regional coalitions work elsewhere? p. 156-172.

- Presentation:** Abelson, Ned, and Maura McCaffery. 15 March, 1996. Brownfields: Recent Massachusetts and Federal Developments. *Environment Reporter* 26(44):2152-2155.
- Amekudzi, A., N. Attoh-Okine, and S. Laha. 1996-1997. Brownfields redevelopment issues at the federal, state, and local levels. *Journal of Environmental Systems* 25(2):97-121.
- Lerner, Steve. 1996. Brownfields of dreams: Can EPA, developers, and local communities transform old industrial sites into new economic hopes? *The Amicus Journal* 17(4):15-21.

February 28 Growth

- Leo, C. *et al.* 1998. Is urban sprawl back on the political agenda? Local growth control, regional growth management and politics. *Urban Affairs Review* 24(2):179-212.

- Presentation 1:** Portland Growth Management Act and other Portland materials

- Presentation 2:** Gordon, Peter and Harry W. Richardson. 1997. Are compact cities a desirable planning goal? *Journal of the American Planning Association* 63(1): 96-106.

- Ewing, Reid. 1997. Is Los Angeles-style sprawl desirable? *Journal of the American Planning Association* 63(1): 108-126.

March 13 Transportation

- Hanson, Susan. 1995. Getting there: urban transportation in context in Susan Hanson (ed.). *The geography of urban transportation*. NY: Guilford Press. 3-25.
- City of Seattle. 1998. *Transportation Strategic Plan*. Seattle: City of Seattle. (just get an idea of what they’re doing)
- Kunstler, James Howard. 1996. *Home from nowhere: remaking our everyday world for the 21st century*. NY: Simon and Schuster. ch. 3 Car crazy p. 58-80.

- Presentation 3:** Durning, Alan Thein. 1996. *The car and the city: 24 steps to safe streets and healthy communities*. Seattle: Northwest Environment Watch.
- Litman, Todd *et al.* 1998. *Road relief: tax and pricing shifts for a fairer, cleaner and less congested transportation system in Washington state*. Olympia, WA: Energy Outreach Center.

We are traffic: documentary on the Critical Mass social movement

MARCH 20 - APRIL 10 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY

March 20 Environmental Justice

Di Chiro, Giovanna. 1995. Nature as community: the convergence of environment and social justice in William Cronon (ed.). *Uncommon Ground*. New York: W.W. Norton. 298-320.

Heiman, Michael. 1996. Race, waste and class: new perspectives on environmental justice. *Antipode* 28(2):111-121.

Pulido, Laura *et al.* 1996. An archaeology of environmental racism in Los Angeles *Urban Geography* 17(5):419-439.

Presentation 1: Pulido, Laura. 1996. Multiracial organizing among environmental justice activists in Los Angeles in Michael J. Dear, H. Eric Schockman, and Greg Hise (eds.) *Rethinking Los Angeles*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. 171-189.

Gardner, Florence and Simon Greer. 1996. Crossing the river: how local struggles build a broader movement. *Antipode* 28(2):175-192.

Presentation 2: Lake, Robert W. 1996. Volunteers, NIMBY's and environmental justice: dilemmas of democratic practice. *Antipode* 28(2):160-174

Bailey, Adrian, James D. Sargent and Megan K. Blake. 1998. A tale of two counties: childhood lead poisoning, industrialization and abatement in New England. *Economic Geography* special AAG issue. 96-111.

March 27 Sustainable Cities

Barnett, J., Robert D. Yaro and Thomas K. Wright. 1997. New York City and the New York region in Robert Geddes (ed.). *Cities in our future: growth and form*. Washington, DC: Island Press. 115-146.

Lake, Robert. 2000. Contradictions at the local scale: local implementation of Agenda 21 in the USA in Nicholas Low *et al.* (eds.) *Consuming Cities*. New York: Routledge. 70-90.

Houghton, Graham. 1999. Searching for the sustainable city: competing philosophical rationales and processes of 'ideological capture' in Adelaide, South Australia. *Urban Studies* 36(11):1891-1906.

Presentation 1: Sustainable Seattle. 1998. *Indicators of sustainable community*. Seattle: Sustainable Seattle.

City of Seattle. 1998. Seattle's comprehensive plan: monitoring our progress. Seattle: City of Seattle Strategic Planning Office

April 3 Neighborhoods

Jacobs, Jane. 1961. The death and life of American cities. NY:Vintage. ch. 2. The uses of sidewalks: safety. p.29-54 and ch. 3 The uses of sidewalks: contact p. 55-73.

Davis, Mike. 1992. *City of quartz: excavating the future in Los Angeles*. NY: Vintage Books. ch. 4 Fortress L.A. p. 221-264.

Kunstler, James H. 1998. *Home from nowhere*. New York: Simon and Schuster. ch. 5 Creating Someplace.

Presentation 1:

Marston, Sallie A. and Michelle Saint-Germain. 1991. Urban restructuring and the emergence of new political groupings: women and neighborhood activism in Tucson, Arizona. *Geoforum* 22(2):223-236.

Chouinard, Vera. 1996. Gender and class identities in process and in place: the local state as a site of gender and class formation *Environment and Planning A* 28:1485-1506. (case studies only)

Hayden, Delores. 1984. *Redesigning the American dream: the future of housing, work and family life*. New York: W. W. Norton and Co. Housing and American Life p. 3-12.

Presentation 2: Kunstler, James. 1998. *Home from nowhere*. New York: Simon and Schuster. ch. 6 Beyond Seaside.

Stevens neighborhood development plan, Minneapolis, MN
Celebration USA web materials

April 10 Living Wages and Work

- Merrifield, Andy. 2000. Living wage activism in the American city *Social Text* 62, 18(1):31-54.
- Peschek, Joe. 1997. A living wage? *Dollars and Sense* May-April #210:28-34
- Gorz, Andre. 1999. *Reclaiming work* Oxford: Blackwell. Read pages 62-64, 100-111 and the epilogue.
- Paehlke, Robert. 1998. Work in a sustainable society in Roger Keil, David V. J. Bell, Leesa Fawcett and Peter Penz (eds.) *Political ecology: global and local*. NY: Routledge. 272-291.

Presentation: Keil, R. 1994. Green work alliances: the political economy of social ecology *Studies in Political Economy* 44:7-38.

Ithaca hours website: www.lightlink.com/hours/ithacahours/

APRIL 17 – MAY 1 NATURE

April 17 Biodiversity

- Beatley, Timothy. 1994. Reconciling urban growth and endangered species: the Coachella Valley Habitat Conservation Plan in Rutherford Platt *et al.* (eds). *The ecological city*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 231-250.
- Holland, Marjorie M. and Raymond W. Prach. 1994. Sustainability of urban wetlands in Rutherford Platt *et al.* (eds). *The ecological city*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 69-82.
- Wolch, Jennifer. 1998. Zoopolis in Jennifer Wolch and Jody Emel (eds.). *Animal Geographies*. NY: Verso. 119-138.

Presentation: Sonoran Desert Protection Plan – Tucson

Presentation: NTER Baltimore

May 1 Cities and Climate Change and Conclusions

- McEvoy, Darryn, David Gibbs and J.W.S. Longhurst. 1997. Urban sustainability: viability of the 'local' approach to carbon reduction strategies. Working Paper Series: Carbon Flows, Jobs and the Environment.
- Ravetz, Joe. 2000. *City Region 2020*. London: Earthscan. read ch. 14 and ch. 15.
- Atkinson, Adrian. 1996. Sustainable cities: dilemmas and options *City* 3-4:5-11.
- Blowers, Andrew. 1997. Environmental planning for sustainable development in Andrew Blowers and Bob Evans (eds.) *Town planning into the 21st century*. New York: Routledge. 33-53