COURSE OUTLINE
ENVIRONMENTAL COLLOQUIUM (ENST 3000)
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Winter 2014

Professor: Jill Wigle, PhD, MCIP
Office: B340B, Loeb Building
Office hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, or by appointment
Contact info: (613) 520-2600 extension 8552, Jill.Wigle@carleton.ca
Class Schedule: Mondays, 8:35 am to 11:25 am, MacKenzie Building 3235
Teaching assistant: Beth Mburu (BethMburu@email.carleton.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the complexities of planning for urban “sustainability” with a focus on the City of Ottawa. The course takes a critical look at sustainability as both a concept and practice by exploring the social, political and economic factors that influence the evolution of urban environments. As a colloquium, the course features a series of researchers, policy-makers and activists engaged in different aspects of urban sustainability in Ottawa who are invited to share their expertise with students. The course addresses a range of significant urban environmental issues, including: the politics of urban sprawl, the political ecology of private lawns, environmental (in)justice, automobile dependency, the “greening” of the built environment, and the linkages between downtown intensification and housing affordability.

PREREQUISITE
Third-year standing in Environmental Studies or permission of DGES.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• To examine the political, economic and social processes that shape urban environments;
• To analyze urban “sustainability” as a contested concept and practice;
• To strengthen critical thinking and writing skills relevant to environmental studies.

CLASS FORMAT
This course meets once weekly and consists of a 3-hour time slot. Each three-hour class combines lectures and class discussions, documentaries, and in most weeks, guest speakers discussing their respective areas of expertise.

REQUIRED TEXT

Copies of Cities and Nature are available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca, 613-730-9888). Two copies are also available through course reserves in the library.
The text is complemented by a number of carefully chosen articles available through the ARES link on the course’s cuLearn site. Students are encouraged to bring their text and readings to class.

CULEARN
A cuLearn site for this course containing the course outline, an electronic link to readings for the course, lecture slides, assignment marks, TA contact information, detailed assignment instructions, a question and answer forum for assignments, and occasional announcements can be found at https://carleton.ca/culearn/. Your confidential grades will be posted on cuLearn as available; please notify the instructor of any omissions or inaccuracies.

COMMUNICATIONS, LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES
Please use your Carleton email account for all course-related correspondence, placing “ENST 3000” in the subject heading. The responsible use of laptops (e.g. taking notes during class) is welcomed in class. Students using their laptops to check their email, Facebook or to engage in other non-course related activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home. Students are requested to refrain from texting and to mute their cell phones during class. Audio or video recording of classes is not permitted without the permission of the instructor.

LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS
Readings, lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, audio-visual materials and assignments are designed to complement each other in meeting the course’s learning objectives. Required readings establish the overall theme for each class and introduce key concepts and issues. Class lectures expand upon the readings, clarify key terms, and present case study material to provide additional background. Class discussions also incorporate guest speakers and/or audio-visual materials. The written assignments provide the opportunity to deepen knowledge and understanding of key themes and issues introduced in class readings, lectures and discussions.

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS
All written assignments are due at the beginning of class for their respective deadlines. Assignments submitted after class will be considered late. As per the Academic Calendar, April 8, 2014 is the last day to submit written assignments in the winter term.

Reading Discussant (5%)
This assignment requires students to sign-up to serve as a “discussant” for the required readings for a given week of the term. Reading discussants will be called upon in class to respond to questions about the required weekly readings in an informal manner; no formal presentation is required. A sign-up sheet for this activity will be circulated in weeks 1 and 2 and then posted on cuLearn. The dates on the sign-up sheet should be treated as firm deadlines; a medical note is required to change the date selected to serve as a discussant. Students who fail to sign-up or show-up as a discussant will receive a zero for this component of their overall grade.

Reading Commentary (20%)
The reading commentary requires students to critically analyze a set of assigned readings and related questions. Please refer to the assignment guidelines posted on cuLearn. Reading commentaries are due in class on February 10, 2014.

Policy Brief (30%)
The policy brief represents the major written project for this course and must be on a topic relevant to the course. Students are strongly encouraged to focus their policy brief on one of the major course themes outlined on the assignment instruction sheet. If selecting a different topic, students should obtain
permission from the professor. An in-class workshop to assist students with this assignment will be held on February 24, 2014.

A webpage to assist with the policy brief has been created by Susan Tudin, the Carleton library specialist in geography and environmental studies. In completing this assignment, please refer to: http://www.library.carleton.ca/research/course-guides/enst-3000 and to the assignment guidelines on cuLearn. The policy brief is due on March 24, 2014.

**Final Exam (35%)**
The three-hour final exam will be comprised of short and long answer questions designed to test students on their understanding of key concepts, issues and arguments from class lectures and discussions, readings, audio-visual materials and guest speakers for the entire course.

**Class Participation (10%)**
Regular class attendance and class participation is an important part of the overall grade and will assist students to perform well on the final exam. Class participation will be evaluated based on overall class attendance (5%) and engagement (5%) in class activities (e.g. asking questions about or commenting on the readings, asking questions of guest speakers, and participating in class discussions). Students should come to each class prepared to discuss the following questions related to the readings:

- What are the main points, arguments or questions raised?
- How do they help us to better understand urban environments?
- How do they contribute to a more critical understanding of urban sustainability?

Please note the relevant due dates and evaluation details for the course listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component/Assignment</th>
<th>Discussed in class</th>
<th>Due in class</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Discussant</td>
<td>Week 1 (January 6)</td>
<td>See sign-up sheet on cuLearn</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Commentary</td>
<td>Week 2 (January 13)</td>
<td>Week 6 (February 10)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Brief</td>
<td>Week 3 (January 20) and Week 7 (February 24)</td>
<td>Week 11 (March 24)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>To be held in the final examination period (April 11-26)</td>
<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>Based on the entire semester</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
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**Submission, grading of assignments and late policy**
Written assignments must be typed, submitted as a hard, paper copy and adhere to assignment instructions distributed in class and posted on cuLearn. Students should retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of assignments in the event of loss. In all cases, originals should be submitted for marking. All assignments must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. Plagiarism will be monitored and treated as an instructional offence in accordance with university policy (see below).

All written assignments are due at the *beginning* of class as per the indicated deadlines. Work submitted after the class will be considered late. Assignments submitted late will be subject to a reduction of the overall assignment mark at the rate of 10% for each day past the stated deadline, unless accompanied by appropriate documentation, such as an official medical note. Medical notes must indicate the period of illness and be presented to the professor within two or three days (excluding weekends) of the end of the specified period of illness indicated on the note.
Assignment extensions will be granted only for unforeseen, legitimate and documented circumstances (e.g. illness or immediate family emergencies).

Late penalties will be enforced to ensure fairness in grading practices among students. Late assignments are strongly discouraged, but can be submitted through the drop-box slot located at Room B342 of the Loeb Building (near the Department’s main office). The name of the instructor and TA must be on the cover of your assignment. In addition, you must also follow the drop-box policy:

- Send an email to the TA, with a copy of your assignment attached, immediately after you drop the original paper copy of your assignment in the drop box.
- It is your responsibility to follow-up with the TA to ensure that your email/assignment has been received. Sending the assignment as an email attachment is very important to ensure that the correct time stamp for your submission is recorded.
- The paper copy of your assignment in the drop box will be the version used for marking purposes; the emailed copy will be used for verification purposes.
- If the drop-box policy is not followed, the assignment will be marked as being received the day it is picked up from the drop-box, which could be one or more days after the assignment is dropped off.

Requests for a review of an assigned grade must take place in written form (e.g. by email) within 10 days after which the assignment in question is returned. Students who fail to meet the above-outlined course requirements may be assigned an FND grade. All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval. In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
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**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

Please note that lecture topics, required readings, guest speakers and audio-visual materials are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Week 1 – January 6**

**Course Introduction**
- Course introduction and overview
- Cities and nature, and the nature of cities
  - Sign-up to be reading discussant

**Required readings:**

**Audio-visual:** The Nature of Cities (2009) [on reserve]
**Week 2 – January 13**

**Urban Environments in Historical Context**
- The regulation and evolution of built environments
- Urban planning, reform and environmental issues in cities
- Reading commentary assignment distributed in class

*Required readings:*
Benton-Short, Lisa and John Rennie Short. 2013. The pre-industrial city, pp. 21-54 and the industrial city, pp. 57-93, in *Cities and Nature*.

*Guest speaker:* Rebecca Aird, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Environmental Services, City of Ottawa, speaking about environmental planning and priorities in Ottawa.


**Week 3 – January 20**

**Planning for Sustainable Cities?**
- The production of urban environments and “fixing” urban sustainability
- Land use planning in Ontario and the politics of urban growth management
- Policy brief assignment distributed in class

*Required readings:*


*Guest speaker:* Alex Cullen, former City of Ottawa Councillor, speaking on the politics of sprawl in Ottawa and Ontario.


**Week 4 – January 27**

**Suburbs and Cities**
- The production and consumption of suburban environments
- Theory versus practice in planning suburbs and cities

*Required readings:*


*Guest speaker:* Professor Ben Gianni, School of Architecture and Urbanism, Carleton University, speaking on the evolution of North American suburbs.

Week 5 – February 3
Social Inclusion and the “Greening” of Urban Development
• Neoliberalism, gentrification and “green” urban development
• Affordable housing and planning for social inclusion

Required readings:


Guest speaker: Meg McCallum, Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC), speaking on their green and affordable housing project, Beaver Barracks.

Look at: Beaver Barracks at: http://ccochousing.org

Week 6 – February 10
Transportation, Mobility and Urban Sustainability
• Planning narratives and street stories
• The politics of cars and planning for transportation alternatives
  ➢ Reading commentary due at the beginning of class


Guest speaker: Colin Simpson, Senior Project Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Ottawa, speaking on transportation planning challenges in Ottawa.


**Week of February 17 – There is no class during Reading Week. Students are encouraged to work on their policy briefs.**

Week 7 – February 24
Policy Brief Workshop – Room 252, Carleton Library (note different class location)
• Tips, strategies and advice for researching and writing a high-quality policy brief

Guest speakers: Beth Mburu, PhD candidate and Susan Tudin, Geography and Environmental Studies Specialist, Carleton University Library.
Week 8 – March 3
Cities, Food and Social Justice
• Why plan for food production in cities?
• Food, social justice and environmental issues in urban areas

Required readings:

Ballamiege, Patricia and Sarah Walker. 2013. Field of dreams: Just Food’s proposal to create a community food and sustainable agriculture hub in Ottawa, Ontario. Local Environment 18 (5): 529-542.

Guest speaker: Moe Garahan, Executive Director, Just Food.

Look at: Just Food at http://www.justfood.ca/

Week 9 – March 10
“Green” Spaces and Places in the City
• The political ecology of private lawns
• The production and regulation of “green infrastructure” in cities

Required readings:


Audio-visual: Gimme Green (2006)


Week 10 – March 17
Activism and Community Mobilization
• Activism, citizen participation and community planning
• Resistance to change and obstacles to participatory planning


Guest speaker: John Dance, Member of Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE).

Look at: Sustainable Living Ottawa East at http://www.sustainablelivingottawaeast.ca
Week 11 – March 24
Environmental Justice and the City
- What is environmental justice?
- Power, planning, and procedural and distributive justice
  - Policy brief due in class

Required readings:

Audio-visual: Toxic Racism

Look at: Just Sustainabilities at http://julianagyeman.com/2012/09/just-sustainabilities/

Week 12 – March 31
Course review
- Course summary and exam review

INSTRUCTIONAL AND CONDUCT OFFENCES
Carleton University has clear and firm policies regarding instructional and conduct offences. Instructional offences include among other activities cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in 2 or more courses without prior permission, and disrupting classes. Conduct offences apply in areas of discrimination and sexual harassment. Further information about University regulations that define and regulate these offences is presented in the 2012-2013 Undergraduate Calendar: http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/.

Plagiarism is one kind of instructional offence. The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.” This can include:

- Reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- Submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another’s data or research findings;
- Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- Handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information, please refer to: http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism. This link also contains useful instructions on how to properly acknowledge sources.
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Students with Disabilities
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) at http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/.

If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by March 7, 2014.

Religious Obligation
Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/.

Pregnancy
Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/.

CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
Student Experience Office http://www2.carleton.ca/seo/
Health and Counselling Services http://www.carleton.ca/health
International Student Services Office http://www.carleton.ca/isso
Student Academic Success Centre http://www.carleton.ca/sasc