COURSE OUTLINE
ENVIRONMENTAL COLLOQUIUM: URBAN ENVIRONMENTS (ENST 3000)
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Winter 2016

Professor: Jill Wigle, PhD
Office: B340B, Loeb Building
Email: Jill.Wigle@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00 to 4:30 pm, or by appointment
Class Schedule: Mondays, 11:35 am to 2:25 pm, Southam Hall 502
Teaching Assistant: Miguel Sioui (MiguelSioui@cmail.carleton.ca)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Interactions among complex natural systems, social values and attitudes and economic, political and legal concerns are explored through invited speakers from various disciplines and agencies addressing specific environmental issues.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course examines the development and transformation of urban environments, with a focus on the complexities of planning for urban “sustainability.” The course begins by exploring the relationships between urban environments and socio-ecological and political economic processes. This first part of the course also takes a critical look at the concept of urban sustainability. The course then examines a range of significant sites and issues related to urban environments and sustainability, such as: private lawns, sprawl and the suburbs, downtown gentrification and housing affordability, transportation and automobility, environmental justice and community planning. As a colloquium, the course features a series of guest speakers engaged in different aspects of urban and environmental planning in Ottawa. Course content focuses mostly on Canadian cities.

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• To examine a range of forces underpinning the transformation of urban environments;
• To analyze “sustainability” as a contested concept and practice;
• To strengthen critical thinking and writing skills relevant to environmental studies.

CLASS FORMAT
This colloquium meets once weekly and consists of a 3-hour time slot. Each three-hour class combines lectures, discussion, and documentaries or guest speakers presenting on their respective areas of expertise.

REQUIRED TEXT
Copies of Cities and Nature are available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca, 613-730-9888). In addition, one print copy and two electronic copies are available through the Carleton 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 web site for this course containing the course outline, an electronic link to the required readings (ARES), lecture slides, and assignment instructions can be found on cuLearn. The lecture slides provide a partial summary of the material presented in class and should not be considered a replacement for attending class and taking careful notes. Your confidential grades will be posted on cuLearn as available. Please check your posted grades and notify your tutorial assistant or the instructor of any inaccuracies as soon as possible, or before the last class.

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 additional background and case study materials. Class discussions also incorporate guest speakers and/or audio-visual materials. The written assignments provide the opportunity to expand upon and apply course content in greater depth.

Evaluation and Assignments
All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the indicated deadlines. Assignments submitted after class will be considered late.

Reading Discussant (5%)
Students will be asked to sign-up to serve as a “discussant” of the required readings for a given week during the term. Discussants will be called upon in class to initiate and facilitate class discussion by responding to questions about the readings posed by the instructor. This will be done in an informal manner and no formal presentation is required. “Discussants” are also expected to ask questions of the guest speakers, if present. A sign-up sheet for this activity will be circulated in the first week of class and then posted on cuLearn. The dates on the sign-up sheet should be treated as firm deadlines; evidence of a legitimate reason (e.g. illness or bereavement) 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.

Written Assignments (50%)

Written Assignment No. 1 (20%)
Detailed information and instructions for this assignment will be distributed in class on January 18, 2016 and then posted on cuLearn. Assignment no. 1 is due at the beginning of class on February 8, 2016.

Written Assignment No. 2 (30%)
This represents the major written project for this course. Detailed information and instructions for this assignment will be distributed in class on February 8, 2016 and then posted on cuLearn. A research workshop to assist students with this assignment will be held in Room 252 of the library on February 8, 2016. Assignment no. 2 is due at the beginning of class on March 28, 2016.

Final Exam (30%)
The final exam will be comprised of multiple choice, short and long answer questions related to the entire course, including class lectures and discussions, readings, audio-visual resources and guest speakers.
Class Participation (15%)  
Students should come to class prepared to participate in class discussions in an informed manner based on their familiarity with the required weekly readings. Students are also encouraged to ask questions of the guest speakers. Class participation will be evaluated by the instructor based on attendance (5%) and overall contribution to class discussions (10%) during the entire semester. Class participation therefore involves completing the readings before class, attending class, contributing to class discussions and engaging the guest speakers. An attendance sheet will be circulated in class starting on January 18, 2016.

MARK DISTRIBUTION  
Please note the mark distribution and important dates for assignments and the final exam outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Important Dates</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reading discussant</td>
<td>As per sign-up sheet posted on cuLearn</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Written assignment no. 1</td>
<td>Due at the beginning of class on Feb. 8, 2016</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Written assignment no. 2</td>
<td>Due at the beginning of class on March 28, 2016</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Final exam</td>
<td>During formal exam period (April 11-23, 2016)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Class participation</td>
<td>Based on entire term</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Additional audio-visual resources may be added during the term.

Week 1 – January 11  
Course Introduction  
• Course overview  
• Cities and nature and the nature of cities  
➢ Circulation of sign-up sheet for reading discussants


Week 2 – January 18  
Urban Environments I  
• Urban areas and socio-ecological and political economic processes  
• Is sustainability a technological “fix”?  
➢ Distribution of assignment no. 1 in class


Audio-visual: The Nature of Cities (2009) [on reserve].
Week 3 – January 25
Urban Environments II
• Planning and environmental regulation in urban areas in historical context
• The City of Ottawa’s Environmental Strategy


Guest speaker: David Chernushenko, Councillor, Capital Ward and Chair of the Environment Committee, City of Ottawa, speaking on the city’s environmental strategy and cycling initiatives.


Week 4 – February 1
“Green” Spaces in the City
• The political ecology of private lawns
• The production and regulation of “green” space in cities


Week 5 – February 8
Research Workshop – Room 252, Carleton Library
• Urban and environmental studies resources at the library
• Tips, strategies and advice for researching and writing assignment no. 2
➢ Assignment no. 1 is due at the beginning of class
➢ Assignment no. 2 distributed in class

Guest speaker: Susan Tudin, Geography and Environmental Studies Specialist, Carleton University Library.

* There is no class on February 15 because of the Winter Reading Week (February 15-19).

Week 6 – February 22
Planning for Sustainable Cities?
• Land use planning and the politics of growth management
• The separation of social and spatial planning and the selective application of “smart” growth


Week 7 – February 29
Sprawl and Suburbs

- The production of suburban environments
- Critiques of “green” development


Guest speaker: Gary Martin, PhD (Carleton) and Partner, Integrative Solutions Group Inc, 1125@carleton, speaking on “The Suburbs and a Low-Carbon Future? The Case of Ottawa.”


Week 8 – March 7
Compact Cities or Eco-gentrification?

- Density as sustainability
- Urban renewal, housing insecurity and social exclusion


Guest speaker: Mike Bulthuis, Executive Director of The Alliance to End Homelessness, speaking on housing insecurity and affordability in Ottawa.


Week 9 – March 14
Transportation and Automobile

- Car dependence and planning for alternatives
- Transportation planning in the City of Ottawa


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

**Week 10 – March 21**  
**Environmental Justice and the City**  
- What is environmental justice?  
- Power, planning, and procedural and distributive justice

*Required readings:*  

Look at: Indigenous Environmental Network at: [http://www.ienearth.org](http://www.ienearth.org)

**Week 11 – March 28**  
**Community Planning**  
- Citizen participation and community mobilization  
- Obstacles to participatory planning  
- Assignment no. 2 is due at the beginning of class


*Guest speaker:* John Dance, Member of Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE), speaking on community-based planning in Old Ottawa East.

Look at: Sustainable Living Ottawa East at: [http://sustainablelivingottawaeast.ca](http://sustainablelivingottawaeast.ca)

**Week 12 – April 4**  
**Course Summary and Exam Review**

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Submission of Written Assignments and Late Penalties**  
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the indicated due dates. Assignments handed in after class will be considered late. Late assignments will be subject to a reduction of the overall assignment mark at the rate of 10% for each calendar day past the due date, unless accompanied by adequate written documentation for a legitimate reason. Written assignments handed in after class but before 11:59 pm on the indicated due date will receive a 5% deduction in the overall assignment grade. Assignments received the day after the indicated due date will receive a 10% reduction in the overall assignment grade, and so on. Assignment extensions will be considered only for documented illnesses or immediate family emergencies. Late penalties will be enforced to ensure fairness in grading among students.
Late assignments must be uploaded as a Word or pdf file to cuLearn. Do not use the DGES drop box for late assignments. Written assignments will not be accepted more than one week past the due date (e.g. after the beginning of the following class) and the uploading function on cuLearn will be programmed accordingly. April 8, 2016 is the last day to submit written work in the winter term as per Carleton University’s 2015-2016 Academic Calendar.

Written assignments must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. They must be typed using 11 or 12-point font, contain appropriate academic referencing, and adhere to the instructions for written assignments distributed in class and posted on cuLearn. Students are asked to retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of submitted assignments in the event of loss. Plagiarism will be monitored and treated as an instructional offence in accordance with university policy (see below). Requests for a review of an assigned grade must take place in written form (e.g. by email) within 7 days of the grade being posted on cuLearn.

Communications, Laptops and Cell Phones
Students should use their Carleton email account for all course-related correspondence, placing “ENST 3000” in the subject heading. Please note that I may not respond to emails over the weekend. Email is an acceptable medium for responding to simple inquiries, but not complex questions (e.g. “I was ill for class. What did I miss?”). If your question cannot be answered in a sentence or two, please come to the instructor’s office hours. The use of laptops in class for note-taking is welcomed. Students should not use their laptops to check email, Facebook or to engage in other non-course related activities. Students are asked to mute or turn their cell phones off during the class and refrain from texting.

Grades
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WDN</td>
<td>Withdrawn from the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Student absent from final exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>Deferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FND</td>
<td>Student could not pass the course even with a grade of 100% on the final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WDN = Withdrawn from the course; ABS = Student absent from final exam; DEF = Deferred; FND (Failed Not Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with a grade of 100% on the final exam. Students who fail to complete the outlined course evaluation components may be assigned an FND grade. Note that the instructor may adjust course grades at the end of the term to approximate a bell-shaped distribution for the class. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferred Examinations and Grades
Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honoured. If you are unable to write the final exam because of circumstances beyond your control, please refer to the following webpage: http://carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/. Final exam deferrals are the responsibility of the Office of the Registrar, not the instructor.

Drop Date
Please check the Carleton University Calendar for the last day in the term to withdraw from a course with full fee adjustment.
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 which define and regulate these offences is presented in the 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.

University regulations stipulate that allegations of plagiarism, cheating or any violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved by the course’s instructor. University procedures do not permit an instructor to discuss allegations of plagiarism with a student. If the instructor suspects that a student has submitted plagiarized work, the submitted assignment is forwarded to the Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. If it is agreed that an instructional offence may have been committed, the case is forwarded to the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Affairs) of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) who conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, before deciding what, if any, penalties are warranted. For more information and guidance, please refer to: http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism.

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

Pregnancy 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 see the Student Guide.

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 see the Student Guide.

Academic Accommodations for 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 exam.

**Additional Information**
- Knowledge of the content of the syllabus and the cuLearn course site is the responsibility of each student.
- Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted.
- Learning materials created for this course (including presentations and posted lecture notes, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author. They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author.

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

**WRITING TUTORIAL SERVICE**
Writing is a critical component of this course. Students who want to improve their writing skills should consider making use of the writing tutorial service at Carleton University: [http://carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/](http://carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/).