Landscape Architecture Program LDA 142: Applying Sustainable Strategies

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### SYLLABUS

**LDA 142: APPLYING SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES**

**SPRING 2017**

Time: MW 9-11:50

Hunt Hall 142/166

6 Units

Course Number: 77422

Office Hours: Tues 10-12

TA: Sahoko Yui <syui@ucdavis.edu>

**Description**

This capstone course for the Sustainable Environmental Design (SED) major helps students expand knowledge and skills from their previous coursework so as to develop sustainable solutions for real-world situations. We will examine a series of sustainability problems at different scales through in-class and assigned exercises, and will prepare various types of professional documents: a stakeholder analysis; a staff memo to council; a research report; a site analysis; and a site design.

To consolidate our knowledge about sustainability, we will read and discuss chapters from *Planning for Sustainability: Creating Livable, Equitable, and Ecological Communities* (Second Edition 2013). This book outlines the history and nature of the sustainability discourse and sustainability applications at different scales. Please make sure you have done the reading by the date listed in this syllabus. There will be four pop quizzes on readings and class materials (top three will count). We will also do more specialized readings (available on the Canvas site) around particular assignments. The class schedule may change as we go along, so check with the Canvas site, TA, or instructor if necessary.

**Learning Objectives**

-- Deepen our understanding of “sustainability” and perspectives on it

-- Improve ability to think critically and holistically about current issues

-- Improve ability to work creatively across disciplines to develop constructive solutions

-- Improve ability to be productive leaders within a range of settings

-- Improve writing, research, graphic representation, oral presentation, and site design skills

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS

* Regular attendance (please let the instructor and TA know in advance if you must miss a class)
* Complete assigned readings on-time (this material is important for class discussions)
* Complete class assignments
* Participate in class discussions and exercises

## GRADING

30% - 4 Pop Quizes (3 highest will count)

50% - 5 Class Assignments

10% - Exam (the Sustainability Literacy Test)

10% - Participation

# PROFESSIONALISM

# All work and communication in LDA 142 should be done in a professional manner. That means that you should do several drafts of every work product and edit carefully for spelling, grammar, and good writing. Reference your work if necessary, using standard reference styles. If working in teams, treat your colleagues respectfully and make sure to communicate clearly with them and be on time for meetings. Be on time for class as well and turn in all work on time. Refrain from using electronic devices for other than course purposes during class time.

# ACADEMIC HONESTY

In line with U.C. Davis policy, students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. This means that all work that you present as your own must in fact have been done by you, and that all sources must be properly cited. In particular, **do not copy material from websites unless for short quotes with citations**. **Also, do not copy graphics without attribution.** There are multiple ways to cite information; please refer to reference books such as the Chicago Manual of Style. An APA Style Sheet is available on <http://guides.lib.ucdavis.edu/friendly.php?s=citations>. If you have any questions about citation procedures or academic honesty, please ask the instructor. Academic dishonesty may lead to the student failing the course or other more serious measures.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| Class 1  Mon Apr 3 | Identifying Sustainability Opportunities in the Built Environment (field analysis of Central Davis) |
| Class 2  Wed Apr 5 | The Origins of “Sustainability”  Characteristics of Sustainability Work: Long-term, Holistic, and Engaged  “Sustainability is not Simple”: Understanding Values, Assumptions, and Worldviews  What Is Going on in this Country?: Stakeholder Analysis of the US Election |
| Class 3  Mon Apr 10  *Reading:* | Discussion of Readings  Stakeholder Analysis: The Housing Crisis in Davis  Site Design Exercise (bring markers)  *Planning for Sustainability*, Preface, Chapters 1-3 |
| Class 4  Wed Apr 12  *Reading:* | Discussion of Readings  Stakeholder Analysis Workshop  Brainstorm: Questions about Sustainability  Quiz 1  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 5-6  **Assignment 1 Due: Stakeholder Analysis of a controversy of your choice** (2 page single-spaced analysis; upload to Canvas by 10 PM) |
| Class 5  Mon April 17  *Reading:* | Understanding Local Government  Discussion of Readings  Guest Speaker Rob Davis, Mayor of Davis  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 23-24 |
| Class 6  Wed April 19  *Reading:* | How to Get Things Done: Networking, Organizing, and Strategic Thinking  Discussion of Readings  Exercise: Developing Strategies for Action at International and National Scales  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 19-20 |
| Class 7  Mon April 24  *Reading:* | Analyzing a Development Project (Case Example: The Nishi Project)  Discussion of Readings  Exercise: Developing Strategies for Action at State and Regional Scales  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 21-22 |
| Class 8  Wed April 26  *Reading:* | Appropriate Technology for Sustainability  Discussion of Readings  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 7-9  **Assignment 2 Due: Staff Memo to Council on Nishi Site Alternatives**  (2 page single-spaced written analysis with 1 page tabular summary of options w/ advantages & disadvantages, following sample format; upload to Canvas by 10 PM) |
| Class 9  Mon May 1  *Reading:* | Developing a Research Project  Guest Speaker: Evan Schmidt, Valley Vision  Developing a Survey Questionnaire  Reading on research strategies from Creswell, John. W. (2014) *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: Sage. |
| Class 10  Wed May 3 | Research fieldwork: Administering a survey |
| Class 11  Mon May 8  *Reading:* | Transportation and Land Use Sustainability Strategies  Discussion of Readings  Guest Speaker: Laura Podolsky, Institute for Transportation Studies  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 10-12 |
| Class 12  Wed May 10  *Reading:* | Site Design and Architecture  Discussion of Readings  Site Design Exercise (bring markers)  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 25, 13-14  **Assignment 3 Due: Research Report**  (3 page single-spaced report with the following sections: Introduction (including why this specific research is important), Research Question, Method, Findings, Recommendations, and Conclusion, with two embedded ½-page charts and an additional 1 page original graphic illustrating recommendations; on Canvas by 10PM) |
| Class 13  Mon May 15 | What Makes for Good Site Analysis?  Discussion of Readings  Reading from LaGro, James A., Jr. 2013. *Site Analysis: A Contextual Approach to Sustainable Land Planning and Site Design*. Third Edition. Hoboken NJ: Wiley. |
| Class 14  Wed May 17 | Class walking tour of site |
| Class 15  Mon May 22  *Reading:* | Strategies for Social Equity  Discussion of Readings  Exercise or speaker to be determined  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapter 15  **Assignment 4 Due: Site Analysis**  (Graphic analysis on tracing paper or similar material with title, labels, symbols, legend and <50 word summary, due at the beginning of class) |
| Class 16  Wed May 24  *Readings:* | Creating a Large-Scale Site Design  Strategies for Economic Development  Discussion of Readings  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapter 16 |
| Mon May 29 | MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY \* NO CLASS \* |
| Class 17  Wed May 31 | The Institutional Challenges of Davis EcoDistrict Site  Pin-Up Review of Draft Designs in Class (have a full-sized 24”x36” design proposal on tracing paper ready to review, with title, labels, colors, legend, north arrow, etc.) |
| Class 18  Mon June 5  *Reading:* | Discussion of Readings  Work Period with desk crits by instructor and TA  *Planning for Sustainability*, Chapters 17, 18, 26 |
| Class 19  Wed Jun 7 | **Assignment 5 Due: Presentation of Final Davis EcoDistrict Designs** (Teams of 4 present 24”x36” poster-sized proposals) |