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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

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*In grateful acknowledgement of the Lək̓ʷəŋən & W̱SÁNEĆ peoples upon whose territories we are able to live and learn.*

**CONTACT**

Before reaching out, please **review the course outline**, as much valuable information is included there.

You can reach me at: [camo@uvic.ca](mailto:camo@uvic.ca) (preferred) or 250-721-7330

I will aim to reply within 24 hours (not including weekends). Please do not leave important matters to the last minute. I host office hours on Mondays from 15:00-17:00 or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores how cities are grappling with the daunting social and ecological crises we are currently facing. Blending theoretical reflection and practical case analysis, we explore efforts at promoting greener, more resilient, regenerative, livable and socially just urban environments. Amid much despair, the course takes a critically optimistic tone, marking out the most promising pathways toward a brighter future while examining the significant structural barriers in the way. The three-hour format lends itself to a variety of pedagogical approaches. Along with lectures and group discussions, the course will feature field excursions, guest speakers, video & podcast analysis, and workshop sessions.

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

There is no required text for this course. There are required readings (journal articles, book chapters, and other sources) and other materials (e.g. videos, podcasts) that will be made available online (through Brightspace).

Reading (or watching, listening) effectively is absolutely essential for success in this course. Along with lecture material, other assigned materials will be tested on the final exam. Be mindful that simply reading without engaging with the material is essentially useless in that the material has no chance of moving from short to long term memory. It is critical to mark up, highlight, take notes and critically reflect while reading. Invest time and effort and you will be rewarded.

## EVALUATION

You will be evaluated on the following required elements:

Feb 11	<b>Assignment #1: Sustainable Transportation Backgrounder</b> —written assignment involving research and dissemination of information on sustainable transportation	15%
Mar 11	<b>Assignment #2: The Just City Backgrounder</b> - written assignment involving research and dissemination of information on urban social justice	15%
Apr 1	<b>Assignment #3: Term Project</b> – community-engaged research/outreach project addressing a local sustainability issue OR sustainability education tool (deliverable plus short presentation)	25%
Ongoing	<b>Participation</b> – involving positive contribution to class learning environment (though in class and/or online group discussion)	10%
April	<b>Final Take-Home Exam</b> – open-book, written answer exam to be competed during the regular exam period	35%

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding</b> and <b>excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good</b> and <b>solid</b> performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
<b>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course presents an opportunity to learn about environmental management, but more importantly an opportunity to develop certain skills and cultivate good habits. Specifically, as a disciplined and focused student, you will leave this course...

1. ...with the ability to ask - and tools to answer - more qualified, capacious, and conditional questions about the socio-ecological state of the (urban) planet and promising pathways towards and insidious barriers in the way of more sustainable and just cities
2. ...with a deeper understanding of the web of interconnections associated with urban development including the intimate connections between your own life and processes of (un)sustainability.
3. ...motivated to take action in your own community to bring about positive change along with ideas, inspiring stories, knowledge of good practices and connections to help inform such action
4. ... development of research, communications, and group work skills fostered through assignments.
5. ... better habits in terms of discipline, focus, intentionality, consistency, organization, confidence, courage, conscientiousness, empathy, and dedication.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

<b>Week</b>	<b>Key question/theme</b>
Week 1- Jan 14	<b>What is this course about? How will we approach the study of urban sustainability?</b> Course outline, guiding assumptions, introductory brainstorms
Week 2 - Jan 21	<b>What are the key elements of urban sustainability?</b> Greening, resilience, urban metabolism <i>Note: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> - 100% return of fees drop deadline, and Jan 26<sup>th</sup> is last day to add courses</i>
Week 3- Jan 28	<b>What are the key elements of urban sustainability?</b> Livability, Justice
Week 4- Jan 31	<b>What can we learn from European cities?</b> <i>Note: Jan 31 is last day for paying fees without a penalty</i>
Week 5- Feb 4	<b>How can we measure sustainability?</b> Sustainability indicators programs, ecological footprint analysis
Week 6- Feb 11	<b>How do we promote walking, cycling, and transit in cities?</b> Sustainable transportation & land use planning <b>Assignment #1 due</b>
Week 7 - Feb 18	<b>Downtown Victoria walking tour</b>
Week 8- Feb 25	<b>No class</b> (Reading Week) <i>Note: Feb 28 last day to withdraw without penalty of failure</i>
Week 9- Mar 4	<b>How do we promote greener, more climate-friendly, building in cities?</b> Green building
Week 10- Mar 11	<b>How do we promote a more just and inclusive city?</b> Inclusive urban design, environmental justice, eco-gentrification <b>Assignment #2 due</b>
Week 11- Mar 18	<b>How do we promote a more just and inclusive city?</b> Housing affordability
Week 12- Mar 25	<b>Vic West Neighbourhood walking tour</b>
Week 13- Apr 1	<b>Student Presentations + Celebration</b> <b>Assignment #3 due</b>
Exam period → Apr 29	<b>Final exam</b>

### DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

## **GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO**

- Geography Department website: [uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/](http://uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/)
- Geography Department Chair: [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)

## **BRIGHTSPACE**

You will access the [Brightspace](#) site for important announcements, to submit assignments, and to access information handouts, instructor slides, readings, your grades, and other stuff. Guidance for navigating Brightspaces is [available](#).

## **EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR**

I will do everything I can to create an effective, engaging learning environment. I invite you to be part of something special. Please be punctual, respectful, compassionate, and attentive.

## **POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments will be accepted up to three days late with a penalty of 5% reduction in mark per day.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php)

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible ([uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/)). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## **POSITIVITY AND SAFETY**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

## **SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC**

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca)

Web: [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp)

## **COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## **NOTES ON SELF CARE**

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* [uvic.ca/services/counselling/](http://uvic.ca/services/counselling/)

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* [uvic.ca/services/health/](http://uvic.ca/services/health/)

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* [uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/). *The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.* [uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)