Course Overview
This course explores two interrelated themes: 1) the concept of sense of place as it relates to coastal communities (including islands) and 2) the unique threats to and opportunities for building resilience in coastal communities. While examples from around the world will be investigated, a prime objective of the course is to afford you the time to learn about local coastal communities including Indigenous communities of coastal BC. Course work will involve a collaborative project with students researching and designing a coastal community green map, and, taking advantage of the small class size, leading seminar-style discussions on key readings exploring course themes. We will also get out of the classroom on field excursions.

Assessment
You will be assessed on the following:

1. Participation (10%) – contribution to class discussion & field trips
2. Midterm (25%) - Feb 24th
3. Student-lead seminars (25%) – commencing Feb 1
4. Contribution to Coastal Community Green Map Project (15%)
5. Final Exam (25%) Scheduled by the registrar sometime TBD in April.

Note on marks: A-level marks (80%+) reflect exceptional (beyond expectations), outstanding, or at least highly competent efforts. B+/B level marks (73-79%) reflect good or at least acceptable efforts (usually above the class average). B-/C+ level marks (65-72%) represent average efforts, showing some understanding but deficient in some way. C/D level marks (50-64%) represent passable but largely insufficient efforts, while F marks (<50%) represent failing the course.

Course readings
There are no texts for this course however mandatory readings, around which the course is has been designed, will be posted on the Course Spaces site. Reading - and engaging with the readings (highlighting, underlining, taking good notes etc.) – is essential for your enjoyment of and success in this course.
Notes on learning expectations

1. Think deeply about why you are here and what you want to get out of your experience at UVic in the short time you’ll be here. Use this time wisely to communication, critical thinking*, problem solving, digital mapping design, empathic listening, organization, perseverance, and initiative.

2. I consider such skill development and good habit formation as being at least as important as content mastery in this course. While I want you to learn important things about coastal communities, sense of place and resilience, I also want you to develop particular skills and habits. Keep in mind employers are just as concerned with your skills and habits as your marks.

3. Effective learning involves recognizing how the course material is directly relevant to your life – in this case how your own story is weaved into the story of our coastal communities.

4. *Note: critical thinking is often misrepresented as cynical, pessimistic, or “being against things”. In this class it should rather be understood in terms of healthy skepticism with received wisdom recognizing the things could /should be otherwise; ceaseless, piercing questioning of status quo “common sense”; trying to make important linkages and connections; recognizing and evaluating multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying each (including our own); evaluating evidence and arguments (while recognizing power relations in knowledge claims), arriving at defensible positions on issues and working towards a more respectful, inclusive, just, and fair world.

Note on Course Experience Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, 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.

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