Skyscrapers and Polar Bears

Perspectives on Sustainable Design

UGS s303

Second Summer Session, 2011 July 11 - August 15

Lectures: T/W/Th 2:30-4:30pm Goldsmith Hall Rm 3.120

Discussion Sessions: 3 groups Mon 10:00 - 11:30am Mon 1:00 - 2:30pm Mon 2:30 - 4:00pm Main Building Rm 220D



Instructors:

Prof. Matt Fajkus, Architect
Office: West Mall Building 4.102A
Office Hours: Wed 10am to 12pm

Tel. 232-1961

Email: matt.fajkus@austin.utexas.edu

Teaching Assistant:

Nishtha Mehta

Office: Sutton Hall 3.112

Office Hours: Thu 10am – 12pm Email: nishtha.mehta1@gmail.com Prof. Barbara Brown Wilson
Office: West Mall Building 4.122A
Office Hours: Tuesday 10am to 12pm

Tel. 471-2709

Email: bbwilson@austin.utexas.edu

OVERVIEW:

Sustainable design increasingly pervades all aspects of contemporary life, from the buildings we build, to the clothes we wear, to the food we eat. The interdisciplinary course "Skyscrapers and Polar Bears: Perspectives on Sustainable Design" covers the connection between design and behavior, and the overall interconnectivity of sustainable and unsustainable measures across communities, cultures, borders, and generations. Students will work in interdisciplinary groups to research local historical examples of sustainable design and propose design opportunities for sustainable design improvement on campus and throughout the city. Weekly guest lecturers will enrich the discussion of the principles and methods of sustainable design through investigations of both theory concepts and tangible case studies. The course aims to build an understanding of the history of sustainable design as well as current trends and future trajectories, from the scale of cities and regions down to the scale of a single room.

The course will follow a lecture format, and attendance and active participation in discussion sections is also required. Assignments include a short individual paper and a related group project where students will research the history and current life of a space on campus, before proposing how to make it more sustainable.

REQUIRED READING:

McDonough, William and Michael Braungart, *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the way we make things*, New York: North Point Press, 2002.

NOTE: In addition to being available for sale on amazon.com and in the UT Co-op, this book will also be on reserve for two-hour check out in the Architecture Library.

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This course will require the full participation of every student in class discussions, personal assignments, and group work. Reading requirements are indicated in the course schedule below. Reading selections that are not included in the required text noted above will be available electronically via http://courses.utexas.edu

- 1. Five page paper 40%
- 2. Group research project 40%
- 3. Class participation- 20% (includes attendance and informed participation in class discussion)

The individual writing component is a (double spaced) 5-page paper discussing a place on or near campus that you believe has an interesting past, and a potentially interesting future. The group work will build off of these personal papers and will culminate in the presentation of a poster that details both your groups' historical analysis of this place and your proposal to make this place more sustainable in the future— specifics on both assignments will be handed out in class.

DISABILITIES

Please notify your instructor of any adaptation you may require to accommodate a specific physical need. You will be requested to provide documentation to the Dean of Students' Office, in order that the most appropriate accommodations can be determined. Specialized services are available on campus through the Services for Students with Disabilities, also found via the web at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Readings/Assignments
1		Perspectives on BUILDINGS and Sustainability	
	July 12	Introduction to the course, topic, assignments/ History and Definitions of Sustainability	Our Common Future Chapter 2/ Guy & Farmer Issue Individual Writing Assignment
	July 13	Sustainability at the Scale of the Building	Schor: Cleaning Closet/ Wang article
	July 14	Michael Garrison Guest Lecture	Cradle to Cradle part 1/ Ecological Footprint Tool
2		Perspectives on SITE and Sustainability	
	July 18	Discussion Topic: Visit American History Center	
	July 19	Urban Ecologies	Urban Ecology Podcast/ Cradle to Cradle part 2
	July 20	Designing for Urban Environments	TED Talk: Bjarke Ingels Green Metropolis
	July 21	Field Trip to Wildflower Center	LEED/SITES reading
3		Perspectives on COMMUNITY and Sustainability	
	July 25	Discussion Topic: Paper Writing Expectations / Form Groups	
	July 26	Triple Bottom Line Development	East Austin History
	July 27	Neighborhood Scale Sustainable Design	Ritchie Article Dittmar Article
	July 28	Jim Walker Guest Lecture	PAPER DUE Issue Group Project
4		Perspectives on CITY and Sustainability	
	Aug 1	Discussion Topic: Group Project Expectations	
	Aug 2	Field Trip to City Hall for Lucia Athens Guest Lecture*	Radiolab Cities Podcast
	Aug 3	Planning for Sustainable Cities	Olmstead/ Campbell
	Aug 4	Designing for Sustainable Infrastructure	Farr Chapter
5		Perspectives on REGION and Sustainability	
	Aug 8	Discussion Topic: Mock Presentations	
	Aug 9	Regional Approaches to Sustainable Planning	Calthorpe/ Green Building Rev Reading
	Aug 10	The Eco City / Region	Rechtschaffen Article Living Green Chapter
	Aug 11	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	POSTERS DUE

MAJOR COURSE DEADLINES

July 22 Personal paper due

August 8 Run Through Presentations in Discussion Sections

August 11 Final Presentations and Posters Due

*August 2: Lucia Athens Guest Lecture

Field Trip to City Hall— take a city bus (free with your UT ID card) down to 301 W. Second St. and meet in the City Hall Council Chambers by 2:50. At least three buses go directly from campus to downtown—find a schedule that works for you at www.capmetro.org

A warning about Plagiarism: Students should familiarize themselves with the UT policy regarding plagiarism at:

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php. In this class there is a zero tolerance policy toward appropriating ideas or text from other authors without providing reference to the source. Any offence will result in a grade of "F" for the course and referral to Student Judicial Services who may impose other penalties.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance and participation is a major part of your grade. By UT Austin policy, you must notify the instructors of any pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within three days after the absence.

Technology Policy: No cell phones, ipads, or other non-note-taking devices are allowed in class. Additionally, students who use these gismos or their laptops for non-class related activities will be marked absent and asked to leave for the remainder of that class.