

TXMI 6900, Spring 2010

Special Topics: Sustainability and the Built Environment

Instructor: Megan Lee, Ph.D., LEED AP

Location: Barrow Hall Room 216

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Office Hours: Wed 1:00-4:00; Tuesday 8:30-9:15 or by appointment

Course Description

This course will develop an understanding of sustainability in relation to the built environment for students in all disciplines and all years. The focus is on human relationships with the built and near environment with a specific focus on the indoor world and lifestyle choices. Students will focus on a holistic wellness approach to changing their daily perceptions and actions towards their indoor health, well-being and the health of the environment.

Course Objectives

1. To gain a holistic and interdisciplinary understanding of sustainability and the inter-relationship with humans and the built and near environment.
2. To examine and apply the sustainable living in our everyday lives.
3. To examine the health and well-being implications of humans living in the built environment
4. To explore the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment.
5. To empower students to apply sustainability within the confines of their own life and home to utilize fewer resources and limit use of non-renewable resources.
6. To examine sustainable design and building certification systems such as LEED and Energy Star and Earth Craft.
7. To foster awareness towards a holistic wellness approach to daily living.

Required Books for all Students

Barnett, S. (2008). *Green goes with everything*. New York: Atria Books.

Kopec, D.. (2009). *Health, sustainability, and the built environment*. New York: Fairchild Books.

Required Reading for Graduate Students

Jones, V. (2008). *The green collar economy*. New York: Harper Collins.

McDonough, W., & Braungart, M. (2002). *Cradle to cradle: Remaking the way we make things*. New York: North Point Press.

Tolle, E. (2004). *The power of now*. Canada: Namaste Publishing.

Communication

ELC will be utilized to communicate information concerning this course. Course announcements, lectures notes, project information, assignment grades and more will be posted on ELC. UGA email will be used for course communication. Students are responsible for checking their UGA email for communication regarding the course.

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities:

1. It is expected that you will attend class and participate in all class activities.
2. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
3. Student participation in discussions will enhance the atmosphere of learning and is highly encouraged.
4. You are responsible for all material and assignments that are discussed and shown in class. If you are absent it is your responsibility to get class notes from other students and to know when assignments are due. There will be no make-ups for missed assignments.
5. Final presentation/exam- if you cannot take the final presentation/exam at the scheduled time due to circumstances defined by university policy you may petition the instructor for a change of examination time (see the Schedule of Classes, Spring 2010).
6. Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should be aware of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, and no later than the first week of the term. Class materials will be made available in accessible format upon request.
7. All course projects and exams are to be completed individually.
8. "All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work."
9. "The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary."
10. "Late adds for this course will not be approved except on exceptional circumstances."
11. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis for the semester. If a student misses 2 classes without prior notification to the instructor (**before class begins with a phone call or email**), the students grade will be lowered by one letter grade. 3 missed classes without prior notifications, grade will be lowered by two letter grades, 4 missed classes without prior notification, grade will be lowered by three letter grades, etc...Plus/minus is considered a letter grade.
12. Late Arrival Policy - Along with attendance, student prompt arrival in class at start time will be noted on a daily basis for the term. If a student arrives late to class 2 times without prior notification to the instructor of each late arrival (**before class begins, date of late arrival phone call or email made prior to late arrival**), the students grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Each sequential late arrival without prior notification, the students grade will be lowered by two letter grades, etc...Plus/minus is considered a letter grade.

Overview of TXMI 6900 Course Assignments:

This course has two major semester long projects and four essay exams.

6900 Major Project #1 (Sustainable You Weekly Entries)

The objective of the assignment is to examine your relationship with sustainability and your near environment over 15 weeks. Please complete the Sustainable You Weekly Posts (15 posts @ 5pts per weekly entry). Assignments for each week will be posted and completed as weekly entries on the Sustainable You website (<http://sustainableyou.wordpress.com>).

Please note: 6900 will only be completing the weekly Sustainable You posts. 6900 students will not be completing the “Sustainable Living Magazine” like the 4900 students.

6900 Major Project #2 (Final Project) - See Assignment Handouts for full project details.

2) For your final project, you will pick one of the following 3 options (1) Research paper on a topic of interest for your thesis. The research paper will follow the traditional format of a research paper proposal including the Introduction, Literature Review, Theoretical Framework, Methods and Instrument section. Research paper for thesis use is usually around 25-50 pages in length.

Research paper detailed guidelines are on the 6900 Research Paper Assignment Handouts. Graduate student will work with course professor to develop a topic (unless you have a topic developed which you would use), and we will work together on your research paper.

6900 Essay Exams

Graduate students will have 4 essay exams throughout the semester. Three exams will be based on the required reading assigned for graduate students only (Jones (2008); McDonough & Braungart (2002); Tolle (2004).)

Instructions for Essay Exams: The final essay exam will be on May 4th in class and will cover the question “What is sustainability and the built environment?” There will be three (3) essay exams throughout the semester covering the assigned 6900 readings. You will be expected to read the book before the exam. You will have 24 hours to answer questions regarding the book using ELC, exam located under “Assessments.” The 3 book essay exams can be completed at any location of your choice and you may use your book as a reference. Once you begin the exam you will have 3 hours to complete the exam. You can not stop and start the exam. Once you start you must continue until completed in 3 hours.

See exam matrix on page 4.

Essay Exam #	Topic	Date Available	Points
Essay Exam #1	Tolle (2004)	Available Jan 26 th 4pm thru Jan 27 th 4pm	25 points
Essay Exam #2	McDonough & Braungart (2002)	Available March 16 th 4pm thru March 17 th 4pm	25 points
Essay Exam #3	Jones (2008)	Available April 20 th 4pm thru April 21 st 4pm	25 points
Essay Exam #4	Summary of course content "What is sustainability and B.E."	May 4 th (see syllabus for location and time). In class essay exam.	25 points

Course Points		Grading Scale
Essay Exam #1 Tolle (2004)	25 pts	94.5% – 100% = A
Essay Exam #2 McDonough, et al. (2002)	25 pts	89.5% – 94% = A-
Essay Exam #3 Jones (2008)	25 pts	86.5% – 89% = B+
Sustainable You Weekly Posts (15 posts @ 5pts per weekly post)	75 pts	82.5% – 86% = B
Final Project Wk 4 Proposal	20 pts	79.5% – 82% = B-
Final Project Wk 9 Progress Check	25 pts	76.5% – 79% = C+
Final Project Completed	50 pts	72.5% – 76% = C
Final Exam Essay #4	25 pts	69.5% – 72% = C-
Total Course Points	270 points	59.5% – 69% = D
		0% – 59% = F

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment completed by beginning of class	Assignment Due at beginning of class unless specified otherwise
TH Jan 7	Introduction to Course		
Week 1 Tues Jan 12	Intro to Environment Health	Kopec: Ch 1 Barnett: Introduction	
TH Jan 14	A Wellness Approach to Sustainable Living		Sustainable You Post #1
Week 2 Tues Jan 19	Human Body Overview	Kopec: Ch 2 Barnett: Ch 1	
TH Jan 21	Common Environmental Related Diseases & Conditions Assign: Final Project & Proposal	Kopec: Ch 3	Sustainable You Post #2
Week 3 Tues Jan 26	Common Contaminants in the Built environment	Kopec: Ch 4	Essay Exam #1 –Tolle (2004) Available Jan 26 th 4pm thru Jan 27 th 4pm
TH Jan 28	Consumption Hidden Cost of Consumption		Sustainable You Post #3
Week 4 Tues Feb 2	Final Project Proposal Short Presentations		Final Project Proposal Handout #2
TH Feb 4	Final Project Proposal Short Presentations		Sustainable You Post #4
Week 5 Tues Feb 9	Greenwashing	Read the 7 sins of Greenwashing http://sinsofgreenwashing.org/	
TH Feb 11	Climate Change	http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/	Sustainable You Post #5
Week 6 Tues Feb 16	Energy & Atmosphere	Kopec: Ch 6 (pp.147 – 160)	
TH Feb 18	Energy & Atmosphere	Kopec: Ch 6 (pp.161– 174)	Sustainable You Post #6
Week 7 Tues Feb 23	Energy & Atmosphere	Barnett: Ch 9	

TH Feb 25	Water Efficiency	Barnett: Ch 7	Sustainable You Post #7
Week 8 Tues March 2	Optional Extra Credit Opportunity (up to 5 extra credit points) Presentations & Critiques on your research paper "what you've learned" <i>*If you want to present you must sign up by 2/25</i>		
TH March 4	Optional Extra Credit Opportunity (up to 5 extra credit points) Presentations & Critiques on your research paper "what you've learned" <i>*If you want to present you must sign up by 2/25</i>		Sustainable You Post #8
Spring Break March 8-12			
Week 9 Tues March 16	Water Efficiency	Barnett: Ch 7	Essay Exam #2 – McDonough (2002) Available March 16 th at 4pm thru March 17 th 4pm
TH March 18	Final Project Midterm Presentations only required for those doing Option 3: Satisfying a Community Need (4900 only)		Final Project Handout #3 Sustainable You Post #9
Week 10 Tues March 23	Indoor Air Quality Home	Kopec: Ch 5 (pp. 115-131) Barnett: Ch 2	
TH March 25	Open Work Day (No Class)	Kopec: Ch 5 (pp.132-144) Barnett: Ch 3	Sustainable You Post #10
Week 11 Tues March 30	Indoor Air Quality Body	Barnett: Ch 4 & 5 (5 is optional)	
TH April 1	Indoor Air Quality	Barnett: Ch: 8	Sustainable You Post #11
Week 12 Tues April 6	Materials, Resources & Products	Kopec: Ch 9	
TH April 8	Materials, Resources & Products		Sustainable You Post #12
Week 13 Tues April 13	Certifications & Labeling Building & Design		
TH April 15	Certifications & Labeling Organics	Barnett: Ch 6	Sustainable You Post #13
Week 14 Tues April 20	Sustainable Communities	Kopec: Ch 10	Essay Exam #3 – Jones (2008) Available April 20 th 4pm thru April 21 st 4pm
TH April 22	Sustainable Communities		Sustainable You Post #14

<i>Earth Day</i>			
Week 15 Tues April 27	Green Collar Economy and Green Careers	http://www.sustainlane.com/green-jobs	Research Paper Due
TH April 29	No Class (on Monday Schedule)		Sustainable You Post #15
Finals Week May 4 Tuesday	Final Essay Exam #4 (given in class) 12pm -3pm Room: Barrow 216		

Assignment: The Sustainable You Website Discussion

Worth: 75 points (15 entries at 5 pts each)

Discussion Entry Due

At the beginning of each Thursday class.

The Purpose of the Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to assist in developing your knowledge and awareness of general sustainable issues and your relationship with sustainability and the built environment. Awareness to living sustainably is increasingly becoming an expectation of all individuals. By having diverse weekly discussion regarding various sustainable related topics will help develop your individual knowledge and awareness of sustainability in general with a special focus on daily living.

The objective of the assignment is to examine your relationship with sustainability and your near environment over 15 weeks.

Please note: 6900 will only be completing the weekly Sustainable You posts. 6900 students will not be completing the “Sustainable Living Magazine” like the 4900 students. Just to clarify so there is no confusion with the graduate students – See, 4900 has to complete the Sustainable you posts and turn each weekly post into a developed article for their Sustainable Living Magazine (The magazine is NOT an assignment the 6900 will complete).

Where can I locate the weekly question to be discussed?

www.sustainableyou.wordpress.com

Each week (labeled Week 1 through Week 15) the instructor will post a topic of conversation with suggestions for discussion from you. It is your responsibility to check the website weekly and post your comment for the week before the beginning of each Thursday class.

Type of discussion comments to obtain full points

Comments must showcase critical thought, reference to course textbooks and readings, access of other resources, creativity, and originality of thoughtful discussion. By developing topics of interest will assist in your career by having the ability to demonstrate diversity of sustainable information.

Comments such as “I agree with what was said above” do not include a thoughtful discussion and will not earn full points.

See following Page (page 10) for grading criteria of Sustainable You Entries.

Grading Criteria for Magazine Progress Checks on Sustainable You Weekly

Comment Response Type	Expectations of Answer	Points Earned of 5 possible pts
Excellent	Answer shows critical thought and understanding of weekly assignment. Demonstrates initiative to reference class resources and to seek outside resources and personal experience. High quality writing skills.	Range 4.75 to 5 points earned
Very Good	Answer shows some critical thought and basic understanding of weekly material. May use class resources and outside resources. High quality writing skills.	Range 4.00 to 4.75 points earned
Average	Answer the questions without critical thought and/or demonstration of understanding the material.	Range 3.00 to 3.75 points earned
Below Average	Answer lacks critical thought and does not show mastery of the assignment for the week. Poorly written.	0 points earned
Late Submissions	No late assignments accepted. The due date is by the beginning of class (12:30pm) on the Thursday of each week.	0 points earned