Purpose and Focus of USP 514
The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to examine the concept and practice of sustainable development in cities. The term “sustainable development” is used differently by diverse groups and organizations. In this course we will use the term to encompass urban planning and policy approaches that can be used to minimize a city’s (negative) impact on the environment while providing urban residents with the infrastructure and services they need to sustain a high quality of urban life (Pinderhughes, 2004). The course will focus on ecologically and socially responsible planning and management of cities related to: water supply and management, waste minimization and management, energy production and use, transportation, building and open space, food production and consumption. Readings will focus on theory, practice, case studies and application. Major questions addressed in the course include:

1. What ideas are conveyed in the term “sustainable development”?
2. What ideas are conveyed in the term “sustainable cities”?
3. What qualities should characterize a sustainable city?
4. How can ecological and economic considerations be merged in a way that fosters cumulative and lasting advantages for cities?
5. How can cities effectively focus on economic development and poverty reduction while mitigating the negative impacts of urbanization?
6. What specific approaches exist to generate sustainable urban infrastructures?
7. What specific appropriate technologies exist to support sustainable urban infrastructures?
8. How can professionals working in urban institutions foster ethical and just polices and practices?
9. How can professionals working in urban institutions create and support polices and practices that promote sustainability?
10. How do we shift from ecological cities vs. economic cities to ecological cities as economic cities?
11. What can we learn from case studies of cities around the world that have demonstrated how economic sustainability and ecological sustainability can reinforce each other?
12. What are the most promising initiatives that would make living in cities more sustainable?
13. How can the lessons learned and successes of these cities be transferred to other cities?

Pedagogical Approach
My pedagogical approach and method of instruction emphasizes learning from texts and presentations, class discussion, critical thinking, self-reflection, and working in small groups. Class participation and reading of assigned materials are integral to the learning process. Written assignments are designed to provide students with an opportunity to stimulate critical thinking, strengthen research and writing skills, practice summarizing different perspectives on the themes discussed, and reflection on professional development in a written format. Oral presentations are designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop their communication and public speaking skills and, to share knowledge and ideas about the issues and themes discussed in class with others.

Required Texts
2. The World Bank, Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities, (2010). Insert title into Google search engine; this will bring you to Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities - ISBN link. Download to your hard drive. I strongly suggest printing required sections, taking detailed notes on each section, and bringing specific sections to class.

3. Additional Course Readings for Individual Sessions; Accessed on Internet using urls Provided in Syllabus. To access these required readings, insert the url included in the syllabus into your search engine; this will bring you to the article, which you should download to your hard drive. You may want to print them out as you will be required to refer to each article in class.

Assignments and Approximate Weight in Determining Grades

To do well in this class, students are expected to regularly and consistently attend class, keep up with all assigned readings, be prepared to participate in class discussions, participate in class discussions and presentations, complete assignments and hand them in on their due dates. Grading weights are approximate because grades will reflect progress made during the course. Full descriptions of each assignment will be handed out in class at least three weeks before their due date.

Class participation – (attendance, reading, class participation, homework) 25%
Assignment #1 - 25%
Assignment #2 - 25%
Assignment #3 - 25%

Class Schedule, Topics, Assigned Readings

August 27
I Introduction
This session will focus on reviewing the syllabus, course assignments and grading policies, as well as on identifying contemporary urban planning and policy issues of concern to students in the course. We will address the following question:

1. What challenges top the to-do list of cities around the world?"

Homework Assignment #1: Due August 29th
This assignment is designed to: (1) have you begin reading the required materials for this course (2) increase your understanding of factors that effect sustainable urban development, and (3) strengthen your research, writing and oral presentation skills.

1. Using the instructions provided in the syllabus, download a copy of “Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities.”
2. Choose one of the six case studies included in the report (pages 167-251).
3. Write a two-page summary of this case study and be prepared to present it in class on Aug 29th.
4. Your written summary should be typed, double-spaced, and double-sided.

August 29
II Sustainable Development
This session will focus on examining core course concepts. The 4 questions below will frame our class discussion:

1. How have different institutions and organizations defined the term “sustainable development”?
2. What do we mean when we use the term “sustainable cities”?
3. What do we mean when we use the term “ecological cities”?
4. What can we learn from cases studies of ecological cities?

Required Reading:

1. Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities: Chapter One and Case Studies on pages 167-251

September 3

III Urban Challenges

This session will focus on the challenges urban administrators face as they as they seek to adopt approaches that allow them to effectively address solutions to urban problems and seize new opportunities. The following 2 questions will frame our class discussion.

1. What challenges do urban administrators face as they deal with processes of urbanization?
2. What principles can be used to provide scope and direction for urban administrators as they try to adopt new approaches?

Required Reading:

1. Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities: Chapter Two


Videos:


Homework Assignment #2: DUE September 5th

This assignment is designed to prepare you for our discussion of urban infrastructures (water, waste, energy, transportation, building, food)

Take a walk through your neighborhood. Identify as many examples of infrastructure as you can. After you identify these infrastructures:
• Describe the services these infrastructures provide
• Describe the size of these infrastructures and where they are located
• Describe how these infrastructures are supported by other infrastructures
• Describe the residents who live closest to these infrastructures

September 5
IV Urban Infrastructure
This session will familiarize students with the concept and functions of urban infrastructure, as well as specific infrastructures related to the delivery and management of water, waste, energy, transportation, building and food services. The following 7 questions will frame our discussion.

1. What do we mean by the term “urban infrastructure”?
2. Why is it useful to focus on water, waste, energy, transportation, food systems, and building?
3. What are the essential components and achievements of sustainable urban infrastructures?
4. How can cities effectively focus on economic development and poverty reduction and mitigate the negative impacts of urbanization?
5. How can ecological and economic considerations be merged in a way that fosters cumulative and lasting advantages for cities?
6. What specific approaches exist to foster sustainable urban infrastructures?
7. What specific appropriate technologies exist to foster sustainable urban infrastructures?

Required Reading

1. Alternative Urban Futures: Introduction and Chapter One


September 10
V Collaborative Design and Decision Making
This session will focus on the role of professionals in urban governance and the importance of collaborative design and decision-making. The discussion will address the following 5 questions:

1. How can cities enhance their administrative and technical capacity in order to adopt methods and tools that foster sustainable development?
2. How can we engage stakeholders in a collaborative process that fosters sustainable development?
3. How can we develop an overarching planning framework for sustainability and resiliency?
4. How can professionals working in urban institutions foster ethical and just polices and practices?
5. How can professionals working in urban institutions create and support polices and practices that promote sustainability?

Required Reading
1. Chapters Three, Four and Eight in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities
2. Case Two in Eco2 Cities in Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Stockholm, Sweden)
3. Case Six in Eco2 Cities in Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Auckland, New Zealand)

Homework Assignment #3: Due September 17th
This assignment is designed to prepare you for our discussion of urban water use, systems, and management.

Write down all the ways in which you use water on the day you complete this assignment. Remember to include all of the things you did, the food you ate, the infrastructures and technologies you relied on. Be prepared to discuss your list in class.

September 12
Open Session

September 17 and 19
VI Sustainable Urban Water Management
This session will focus on how we can promote more sustainable practices related to water management and use. The discussion will revolve around the following 7 questions.

Questions
1. What are basic characteristics of water as it relates to urban water management issues?
2. What are the impacts of urbanization and industrialization on natural waterways? For example, the cutting down of forests for logging, industrial agriculture, livestock industries, development of urban sewage systems, etc.
3. Approximately 1/3 of people in the world do not have access to “clean” water; what are the impacts of lack of access to “clean” water?
4. How can we increase efficiency and conservation of water?
5. What alternative water management systems and technologies are available to deal with the and commercial water use and sewage?
6. What would a sustainable water management strategy look like?
7. What can we learn from existing examples (case studies) of sustainable water management?

Required Reading
1. Alternative Urban Futures: Chapter One
2. Case Three in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Singapore)
3. Sector Note 2: Cities and Water in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities

Videos:
September 24 and 26
VII Sustainable Urban Waste Management
This session will focus on urban waste issues and how we can foster sustainable waste management and resource recovery. The discussion will examine the following 5 questions.

Questions
1. What are basic characteristics of waste as it relates to urban waste management issues?
2. Why and how have urban planners in the “industrialized world” developed waste management systems and technologies?
3. What are the environmental and social impacts of these waste management systems and technologies?
4. What alternative systems technologies can be put into place?
5. How viable are these alternatives?

Required Reading
1. Alternative Urban Futures: Chapter Two
2. Case Four in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Yokohama, Japan)
3. Sector Note 4 Cities and Waste in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities

Videos:


E- Waste http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s12j83LCHss&feature=relmfu

Homework Assignment #4: Due October 1st
This assignment is designed to prepare you for our discussion of urban transportation systems and management
Find a newspaper or magazine article that focuses on an urban transportation issue in your city; be prepared to present a summary of the article in class.

October 1 and 3
VIII Sustainable Urban Transportation Management
This session will examine a range of issues critical to sustainable urban transportation. The discussion will revolve around the following 5 questions:

**Questions**
1. What are basic characteristics of urban transportation systems?
2. What are the environmental and social impacts of fossil fuel dependency in the transit sector?
3. Are all social groups affected equally?
4. What can be done to reduce reliance on fossil fuels the transit sector?
5. How can mass transit, bicycling, and walking be promoted in urban transit systems?

**Required Reading**
1. Alternative Urban Futures: Chapter Four
2. Case One in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Curitiba, Brazil)
3. Sector Note 3: Cities and Transport in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities

**Videos**


*Right Rides Brooklyn* - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0Ymq_TMdDY&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0Ymq_TMdDY&feature=related)

October 8 and 10
IX Sustainable Urban Energy Management
This session will focus on the role and environmental and social impacts of different energy sources. The discussion will revolve around the following 6 questions:

**Questions**
1. What are the major characteristics of energy?
2. What energy sources are used to provide energy in cities?
3. What do we mean by the concept “renewable energy”?
4. What energy systems and technologies are considered “renewable” and why are they considered renewable?
5. What economic and social policies would need to be implemented to promote widespread use of renewable energy?
6. Which countries are at the forefront of using renewable energy; what can we learn from these countries?

**Required Reading**
1. Alternative Urban Futures: Chapter Three
2. Case Five in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Brisbane, Australia)
3. Case One in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities (Curitiba, Brazil)
4. Sector Note 1: Cities and Energy in Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities


Videos


Video on Global Climate Change Impacts you wanted me to find


October 15 and 17
X Building

Homework Assignment #5: Due October 15th

Conduct research on the LEED Building Standards addressing the following questions: What are these standards? What are they supposed to accomplish? Why were they developed? For whom were they developed? Who developed them? How are they used? Are they supported by public policies and laws?

Take notes on what you learn and bring them to class (double spaced, typed). Be prepared to share what you learned with others in class.

This session will focus on principles, goals, and elements of green building. The discussion will address the following 3 questions:

Questions
1. What are the fundamental principles of green building?
2. What appropriate technologies are available to promote and support green building?
3. Why are the LEED standards so popular among green developers and builders?
Required Reading


Videos:


October 22
OPEN SESSION

October 24, 29, 31
XI Sustainable Food Systems

This session will focus on the benefits and problems associated with industrial agriculture, the reasons that food policy advocates promote sustainable agriculture as an alternative to industrial agriculture, and the role that urban agriculture can play in feeding urban populations and alleviating poverty. The following 6 questions will frame our class discussion:

Questions
1. What were the impacts of settled agriculture on human settlements and the natural environment?
2. What are the benefits and problems created by corporate industrial agriculture?
3. What does the term “sustainable agriculture” imply?
4. How does “sustainable” agriculture differ from “conventional” or “industrial” agriculture?
5. Does “sustainable agriculture” inherently imply that social equality will be promoted and supported?
6. What would an infrastructure that supports sustainable urban agriculture include?

Required Reading

1. Alternative Urban Futures: Chapter Five


Videos


Mari Gallagher - From Food Desert to Food Oasis: How Co-ops Can Make a Difference (CCMA 2011)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv_cmYd0JIM&feature=relmfu

6,000 lbs of food on 1/10th acre - Urban Farm - Urban Homestead - Growing Your Own Food
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcmTjZYrM&feature=related


Marine Stewardship Council- promotes best management practices and provides certification that fisheries are using best practices to make sure fish is sustainably sourced. (8:06)

November 5

XII Policies and Practices that Promote Sustainable Urban Development

This session will focus on approaches and strategies used to advocate (for) and implement practices and policies that promote and support sustainable urban development.

1. What practices have the most promise to promote and support sustainable urban development?
2. What policies have the most promise to promote and support sustainable urban development?
3. What can we learn about practices and policies from case studies of initiatives around the world?
4. What practices and policies in the Bay Area, California, and USA can provide guidance?

Required Reading

November 7
XIII Economic Development Strategies that Promote and Support Sustainable Urban Development

Required Reading:

Questions

1. What factors are critical to triple bottom line initiatives?
2. What can we learn from case studies of programs that promote triple bottom line practices?

Videos


November 12, 14, 19, 21
XIII Student Presentations

November 26 and 28
Thanksgiving Break: No classes

December 3 and 5
XIV Open Sessions
To ensure that the interests of students in the class are met directly, these two sessions will focus on issues, topics, and/or case studies selected by the class. We will decide which topics to cover in these sessions before the student presentations.

December 10 and 12
XV Summary Sessions

December DATE
Final exam

College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Policies

CHHS Withdrawal Policy: The last day to drop a class is September 9th, 2013 at midnight. From September 10th-November 22nd, 2013 you must submit a withdrawal petition. Withdrawal from a class after September 10th, 2013 will be considered for serious and compelling reasons only and must have accompanying documentation. The following reasons are not considered serious and compelling: Changing your major, poor performance, class not required for graduation/major, or more time needed for other classes. If you wish to withdraw from class due to unexpected changes in your work schedule, illness or family emergencies, documentation will be required, along with a copy of unofficial transcripts. If you are requesting a withdrawal, bring your petition and appropriate documentation to the instructor. From November 23rd-December 16th, 2013 you may not withdraw from a class or the University, except in the case of a serious documented illness or verified accident.
CR/NC Option: **October 21st, 2013** (by midnight) is the last day to request the CR/NC option. The Associate Dean will not approve requests for changes if you miss this deadline.

Late Add Policy: The period to add classes via permit numbers is **August 26th-September 9th (midnight), 2013.** The period to add classes by Exception (2nd set of permit numbers) is **September 10th-23rd, 2013.** It is your responsibility to procure a late permit number from your instructor and add the class. Faculty cannot add you into a class. After **September 23rd, 2013** a Waiver of College Regulations form must be signed by your instructor, Chair and CHSS Associate Dean to add. This will be approved only if there was an administrative error.

**Check your registration through MySFSU:** Sign up for CR/NC, drop and add classes by the appropriate deadline online through MySFSU. **ALWAYS** check your registration after making any changes and **BEFORE** deadlines to be sure you are registered properly for your classes. This is a student responsibility. Deadlines for all registration procedures, including withdrawals and requests for credit/no credit, are listed in the class schedule and will be strictly adhered to by the instructor, the Department Chair and the Associate Dean of College of Health and Social Sciences. This can be viewed on the Registration Calendar at the following website: [http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/regsched134.html](http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/regsched134.html)

**Disability Programs and Resource Center:** Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC, located in SSB 110, can be reached by telephone at 415-338-2472 (voice/TTY) or by e-mail at dprc@sfsu.edu.