

***GEOG 425 Community & Regional Development:
Planning for Sustainable Communities***

Fall 2008 – Butte 209

Dr. LaDona Knigge

Office Hours: M/W 3:30-5:00 or by appt. Office: 533 Butte Hall

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NOTE: Please specify GEOG 425 in subject line in all emails.

SYLLABUS DATE: Oct 20, 2008

Syllabus in subject to change.

Much of this urban world is gray, paved with concrete and asphalt, and/or brown, polluted by industry, automobiles, and waste. The challenges of the urban present give rise to widespread trepidation and distrust in our ability to leave a legacy of healthy communities to future generations. Jennifer Wolch (2007)

Course Description:

This course explores the historical roots of today's sustainability movement and examines ways that geographers and planners can engage in creating more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable communities at multiple scales, from the local community to larger regional communities. Many of our communities and cities today are made up of fragmented landscapes characterized by homogenous residential neighborhoods and single use zoning, freeways, malls, commercial strips, and office parks that are disconnected or poorly connected by congested transportation infrastructure that requires over dependence on the automobile. A lack of affordable, appropriately designed and located housing, growing poverty and inequality, and environmental degradation and damage undermine the livability and sustainability of our communities, towns and cities.

There will be several guest speakers and field trips or field activities throughout the semester, including a day trip to Sacramento and Davis to tour sustainable sites.

Course Requirements:

- Field trips or visits to sites within Chico and the surrounding area
- Day trip to Sacramento & Davis, CA to visit Village Homes Community and other sustainable sites.
- In class activities and short papers
- Take home midterm exam
- Final project

Attendance and participation are expected and not rewarded. The success of this seminar depends on regular attendance and participation. Please notify me in advance if you know you will not be in class or email if you cannot attend due to illness or hardship.

All assignments will be completed on time. Late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by appropriate documentation.

The pace and amount of reading for this course will be intense.

Required Materials:

Wheeler, Stephen M., and Timothy Beatley, eds. 2006. The Sustainable Urban Development Reader. Edited by R. T. LeGates and F. Stout, The Routledge Urban Reader Series. New York, NY: Routledge Original edition, 2004. <http://www.routledge.com/books/The-Sustainable-Urban-Development-Reader-isbn9780415311878> (Do not purchase 2008 2nd edition. It was not in print in time to order for this semester).

Wheeler, Stephen. M. 2004. Planning for Sustainability: Creating Livable, Equitable and Ecological Communities. New York NY: Routledge. <http://www.routledge.com/books/Planning-for-Sustainability-isbn9780415322867>

Girling, Cynthia and Ronald Kellett. 2005. Skinny Streets & Green Neighborhoods: Design for Environment and Community. Washington DC: Island Press. http://www.islandpress.org/bookstore/details.php?prod_id=412

NOTE: Above books are available at CSUC Associated Students Book Store. Reserve books are available at the Meriam Library. A CD of The Sustainable Urban Development Reader is available on 2 hour reserve. PDF copies of Chap 1 & 2 of Wheeler are on library reserve and included in VISTA Readings.

ADDITIONAL READINGS ON ERes and VISTA:

We'll also read some web-based material and readings that will be made available on the electronic reserve (ERes) from the limited library loan service, through VISTA or handed out in class.

ERes can be accessed at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/library/llo/>

Course: GEOG 425

Password: YM7AA

Schiffman, Irving. 2001. "The Evolution and Use of Growth Management Techniques" *Alternative Techniques for Managing Smart Growth Second Edition*. Berkeley Public Policy Press: pg 1-16.

Schiffman, Irving. 2001. "Alternative Techniques and Property Rights" *Alternative Techniques for Managing Smart Growth Second Edition*. Berkeley: Berkeley Public Policy Press: pg 17-26.

Hayden, Delores. 1997. "Housing and American Life" In *Space, Gender, Knowledge*, ed. Linda McDowell and Joanne P. Sharp, pg. 269-277, Britain: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Excerpt from *Redesigning the American Dream: the Future of Housing, Work and Family Life*, (New York and London: W. W. Norton and Co., 1984.)

Riggio, Eliana. 2002. "Child friendly cities: good governance in the best interests of the child" *Environment and Urbanization* 14: 45-58.

Wolch, Jennifer. 2007. "Green Urban Worlds" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 97(2), 2007, pp. 373-384.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: August 26 & 28

Readings:

Wheeler: Chapter 1: Introduction

Wheeler & Beatley: Part I: Origins of the Sustainability Concept

- Introduction
 - Ebenezer Howard "The Three Magnets"
 - Lewis Mumford "Cities and the Crisis of Civilization"
 - Aldo Leopold "The Land Ethic"
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Week 2: Sept 2 & 4

Video [Designing a Great Neighborhood](#)

Readings:

Wheeler: Chapter 2: Sustainable development

Wheeler & Beatley: Finish Part I

- Jane Jacobs: "Orthodox Planning and The North End"
 - Ian L. McHarg: "Plight and Prospect"
 - Andre Gunder Frank: "The Development of Underdevelopment"
 - Donella H. Meadows et al: "Perspectives, Problems, and Models"
 - Herman Daly "The Steady-State Economy"
 - World Commission on Environment and Development (The Brundtland Commission): "Towards Sustainable Development"
 - United Nations: "The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development"
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Week 3: Sept 9 & 11

Readings:

Wheeler: Chapter 3: Theory of Sustainability Planning

Wheeler & Beatley: Part II: Dimensions of Urban Sustainability

- Introduction
 - Peter Calthorpe "The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream (1993)
 - Jan Gehl "Outdoor Space and Outdoor Activities" from *Life Between Buildings* (1980)
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Week 4: Sept 16 & 18

Tuesday: Guest Speaker: Irv Schiffman, Emetrius Professor in Political Science; Former commission member and chair of Chico Planning Commission

Readings:

Schiffman, Irving. 2001. "The Evolution and Use of Growth Management Techniques" Alternative Techniques for Managing Smart Growth Second Edition. Berkeley Public Policy Press: pg 1-16.

Schiffman, Irving. 2001. "Alternative Techniques and Property Rights" Alternative Techniques for Managing Smart Growth Second Edition. Berkeley: Berkeley Public Policy Press: pg 17-26.

Wheeler: Chapter 4: Planning and the Three Es

Wheeler & Beatley page 157-169 - Economic Development

- Introduction
- David Pearce & Edward B. Barbier "The Economic System and Natural Environments"
- Paul Hawken "Natural Capitalism"

Friday: Sierra Nevada Sustainable Brewery Tour 3:00 - 4:00

Meet at 3:00 at west parking lot near fuel cells (to right when entering the parking lot).

No Sandals or Flip-Flops - Wear closed-toe shoes!

Week 5: Sept 23 & 25

Child Friendly Cities and Public Participation

Readings:

W&B: Jacobs, page 220-224 "Seeing Change"

- Riggio, Eliana. 2002. "Child friendly cities: good governance in the best interests of the child" *Environment & Urbanization*. 14(2), pg 45-58.

[Child Friendly Cities Initiative](#)

[Childrens Urban Geographies LOOP Report](#)

In-class public participation exercise

Suggested videos making light of public participation process: Hitchhiker's Guide the the Galaxy - Episode 1, part 1 & 2

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgQQh_r_4UU

Week 6: Sept 30 & Oct 2

Sustainability & Equity:

Thursday October 2nd: Field Exercise #1 Due in Class

W&B: Environmental justice and social equity

- Intro pg 141-142
- Bullard, Robert "People-of-Color Environmentalism" pg 143-149
- Hayden, Dolores "Domesticating Urban Space" pg 150-155
- Lerner, Michael "A Progressive Politics of Meaning" pg 225-231

On Vista:

Hayden, Dolores (1997) "Housing and American Life" in Space, Gender, Knowledge: Feminist Readings Linda McDowell and Joanne Sharp, Editors pg 269-277. Excerpt from *Redesigning the American Dream: the Future of Housing, Work and Family Life*, pp 3-12 New York & London. W.W. Norton and Co. (1984).

Thursday readings:

Wheeler: Chapter 5: Issues Central to sustainability planning

W&B: Part 2: Dimensions of Urban Sustainability

Review from Week 3

- Introduction to Part 2: pg. 69-70
- Land use and urban design, pg 71-72
- Calthorpe - "The Next American Metropolis" pg 73-79
- Gehl - "Outdoor Space and Outdoor Activities" pg 81-85

Week 7: Oct 7 & 9

Dimensions of Urban Sustainability

Transportation and Traffic Calming: Automobiles, Pedestrians and Bicycles

- Introduction to Transportation, pg 87-88
- Cervero "Transit & the Metropolis: Finding Harmony" pg 89-96
- Newman & Kenworthy "Traffic Calming" pg 97-103
- Pucher, Komanoff & Shimek "Bicycling Renaissance in North America" pg 104-109

Project for Public Spaces <http://www.pps.org/transportation/>

- Traffic Calming 101
<http://www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/casesforplaces/livememtraffic>

Thursday - Video: Edens Lost and Found: Seattle

<http://www.edenslostandfound.org/>

Saturday October 11: Field Trip to Sacramento and Davis

Week 8: Oct 14 & 16

Tools for sustainability planning

Readings:

Wheeler:

- Chapter 6: Tools for sustainability planning, pg. 85-101
- Chapter 12: Neighborhood planning, pg 181-215

W&B Part 3: Tools for Sustainability Planning

- Introduction, pg 199-202
- Maclaren "Urban Sustainability Reporting" pg. 203-210
- Wackernagel & Rees "What *Is* an Ecological Footprint?" pg 211-219

See Earthday Network Footprint Calculator website and calculate your ecological footprint: <http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.html>

Receive Take Home Midterm on Tuesday October 14th

No class on Thursday October 16th

Week 9: Oct 21 & 23

Urban Ecology & Restoration at the scale of local government

Turn in take-home midterm Thursday Oct 23rd

Readings:

Wheeler: Chapter 11: Local government planning, pg 152-180

Final Project Groups & Discussion

Week 10: Oct 28 & 30

Skinny Streets & Green Neighborhoods: Design for Environment & Community
Girling & Kellett

Readings

- Tuesday: Introduction, Chapter 1 & 2
 - Green Neighborhoods & Case Studies
 - Thursday: Chapter 3, 4 & 5
 - Green Networks, Gray Networks, Gray Fabric
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Week 11: Nov 4 & 6

Skinny Streets & Green Neighborhoods: Design for Environment & Community Girling & Kellett (Cont)

Readings:

- Tuesday: Chapters 6, 7 & 8
- Green Fabric, Urban Water & Getting to Green Neighborhoods
- Thursday: No Class due to Sustainability IV Conference

Nov 6 - 9 This Way to Sustainability IV Conference

Sat Nov 8: Eco-Chico Bike Tour 9:00 - 11:00

Week 12: Thurs Nov 13

No Class on Tuesday Nov 11 - Veterans Day

W&B: Urban ecology and restoration

- Introduction, pg 111-112
 - Whiston Spirn "City and Nature" pg 113-115
 - Beatley "Land Development and Endangered Species: Emerging Conflicts" pg 116-119
 - Riley "What is Restoration?" pg 120-122
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Week 13: Nov 18 & 20

Geography Awareness Week

Readings:

- Thursday: Wolch "Green Urban Neighborhoods" Vista

Video: Edens Lost and Found: Los Angeles

<http://www.edenslostandfound.org/>

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

No Class

Week 15: Dec 2 & 4

Final Discussions

Group Project Presentations

Week 16: Dec 9 & 11

Group Project Presentations

Finals Week: Dec 15 - 19

Final Writing Assignment Due

Assignments & Grading:

Field Activity and report:	15 points
Midterm	40 points
Final Project & Presentation	30 points
Exercises & final writing project	10 points
Field trips, in-class participation	5 points
Total	100 points

Other Information

The classroom should be a safe place where all ideas, as long as they do not include bigotry, intolerance or hatred, can be expressed freely and openly. Please listen to me and to other students, and frame your commentaries in the spirit of supportive and constructive criticism. Use non-sexist language when speaking and writing.

If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, you may receive an “F” grade for the assignment or for the entire course, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action. Please read the university’s guidelines on academic dishonesty below and see:
<http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat05/2StudentServices/01sjd.html>

If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The DSS phone number is 898-5959 V/TTY or FAX 898-4411. Visit the DSS website at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>.

Add/Drop information: Students are responsible for handling the paperwork for adding or dropping this class. After September 7, 2008, you will need special permission of instructor to add or drop classes. After September 21, 2008, you will need a compelling reason to add or drop any courses.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expects students to maintain a high standard of academic integrity. If you are unclear about a specific situation, ask your instructors. They will explain what is and is not acceptable in their classes.

If a student is thought to be cheating and charges are brought, a process is set in motion which can result in severe consequences, ranging from failure in an individual course to long-term suspension from the university and denial of a degree.

The examples below do not include all possible violations of the university's expectations, but they do give a good idea of behavior which will result in grade reduction, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

Plagiarism: Copying homework answers from your text to hand in for a grade; failing to give credit for ideas, statement of facts, or conclusions derived from another source; submitting a paper downloaded from the Internet or submitting a friend's paper as your own; claiming credit for artistic work (such as a music composition, photo, painting, drawing, sculpture, or design) done by someone else.