UES 110A
SUSTAINABILITY: The American South & The World
Birmingham-Southern College
Fall 2017

Instructor: William Holt, Ph.D./J.D.  Office: Harbert 203C
Course: Tuesdays/Thursdays  Telephone: (205) 226-4834
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM  Office Hours: Mondays/
Location: Harbert 228  Wednesdays, 9 AM-11AM;
E-Mail: wholt@bsc.edu  or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This seminar focuses on urban sustainability in a comparative perspective from
the American South to the Global North and South. Originally an agriculturally
dominated region, the post-Civil War American South cities developed around
industry. Today, the American South’s urban areas are some of the largest and
fastest growing in the United States. The Global North represents urban areas in
North America and Europe. These urban regions emerged with the Industrial
Revolution. Urban areas in the Global South represent some of the world’s most
rapidly developing cities in Central and South America, Asia and Africa.

The seminar begins with an examination of the origins of sustainable
development and various perspectives around this topic. The second part of the
seminar looks at various concepts within urban sustainability: land use and urban
design, transportation, urban ecology, energy, environmental justice, economic
development and green building. The third section examines tools for sustainable
planning while the fourth part focuses on international differences in the Global
North and South. The seminar concludes by exploring possible future societies
based on sustainable development.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:
● Demonstrate competency on key issues and topics in sustainable
development.
● Think critically about contemporary sustainable development issues within a
  comparative context among the American South, Global South and Global
  North
● Conduct independent research and data analysis through library resources
  needed to develop a research paper comparing a sustainable development
  concept as a solution to a planning problem.
● Develop oral skills through class presentation of term research project.
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES (GP) STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
As a GP course students will be able to:
● Examine an element of global complexity in relation to aesthetic, cultural, geographic, historical, political, economic, societal, religious, or philosophical perspectives appropriate to the discipline
● Identify cultural differences among peoples within a world community
● Demonstrate how world views are shaped by fundamental differences in cultural values

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS
● Attend all classes and always arrive for class on time.
● Complete readings and assignments on time.
● Ask questions and participate actively and effectively in regular class meetings.
● Treat everyone in the class with respect, regardless of their viewpoints.

REQUIRED TEXTS
The following texts are required for this course:


These texts are available in the BSC Bookstore. Other materials indicated by an asterisk (*) on the syllabus are available electronically on Moodle.

GRADING & EVALUATIONS
Grading
You will receive a numerical score for each grade. The course will use the BSC grading scale (listed below) for all assignments and your term grade.

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Assignment Deadlines
Exam One                  Tuesday, September 19
Annotated Bibliography   Thursday, October 19
Exam Two                  Thursday, October 26
Research Paper           Thursday, November 9
Exam Three                Tuesday, December 5, 1PM-4PM

Evaluation
Your final grade in this course will be arrived on the basis of an average of your grades for the required components of the course, weighted, as spelled out below. Each assignment and activity will first be scored from 0 to 100 points. Required work not submitted will be scored as 0. Then your score for each component will be multiplied by a weighting factor to yield the points for that component. The total points will be your average for the course.

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<tr>
<th>% of Final Average</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Grade 0-100 pts.</th>
<th>Weighted Factor</th>
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<td>FINAL AVERAGE=TOTAL WEIGHTED POINTS</td>
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Class Participation
Class participation and interaction with instructors and students is one of the hallmarks of liberal arts education. This particular class is no different. Some of the concepts we will explore may be difficult to grasp at first; if every member of the class contributes and asks questions from a variety of perspectives, our learning experience will be enhanced. To participate actively means that you are engaging in readings, which will help you prepare for tests and exams.

Expectations for class participation:
• You should strive to contribute at least once in each class period.
• Participation will be judged on the quality and depth of your contribution and not just on how often you speak.
• When interactive activities are scheduled, make sure to prepare adequately so that you are able to participate in a well-informed manner.

**If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, would like me to call on you, or would like to discuss how you can contribute more effectively please contact me so we can discuss this as soon in the semester as possible.

Attendance
Class attendance is expected as part of your enrollment in this course. An attendance list will be distributed at each class. It is your responsibility to sign this list each class. This list will serve as your official attendance record for class. Students who are absent three days in succession will be reported to Student Affairs. Absences due to illness, family emergency or participation in a BSC-sponsored activity are considered excused but will require documentation. If you miss an in-class exam, you should expect to make up this work within a week of the class date.

Exams
The class includes three exams with each counting 15% of your term grade. The in-class exams allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of class readings, lectures, and other materials. You will receive exam review sheets a week prior to each exam. It is your responsibility to utilize these study guides. The class prior to each exam you will have a review period in which we will discuss any questions you have from these guides. You should not review old exams in your study preparation.

Research Project
In order for you to obtain experience with research and writing, you will develop a paper examining an issue concerning sustainable development. This project requires you to examine this issue in three urban areas: the American South, the Global North and the Global South. You will develop this paper over the term beginning with an annotated bibliography counting 10% of your term grade and culminating in your research paper totaling 35% of your term grade.

OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE COURSE
Backup
To avoid problems that arise when computers crash, laptops are broken or stolen, or pets consume the only existing paper copy of your assignment, obtain a flash or external hard drive on which to back up your work. I would suggest that you have 10 GB or more of storage space on your flash/hard drive, and that you consider obtaining more than one so that you can make multiple copies of your work.

Moodle
It is vital for you to familiarize yourself with Moodle for this course as soon as possible. We will use Moodle throughout the semester for posting readings and
announcements. Moodle is accessible via a link at the bottom of the BSC homepage http://www.bsc.edu.

Late Assignments
Assignments that are not accompanied by a valid excuse (e.g. illness or family emergency) will lose 10% of their graded value for each day they are late. For example, an assignment that received a 98 out of 100 points, but was turned in one day late would be graded as an 88 losing ten points for lateness.

BSC Honor Code
All assignments will follow the guidelines established under the BSC Honor Code. Plagiarism and Cheating are serious offenses and will be reported to the Honor Council. Appropriate penalties will be assigned for work that does not meet the standards of academic integrity. Please refer to your copy of the Honor Code as well as the following sources on plagiarism: http://plagiarism.org/index.html and http://www.turnitin.com.

BSC Resources for Writers
The Writing Center, located in the Humanities Center 102, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers. The Writing Center serves all writers, in any BSC course, at all levels and at all points in the writing process. Peer tutors spend thirty minutes to an hour per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have. Drop in during regular hours (M-Thurs, 3:30-10 or Sunday 5-10) or email writingcenter@bsc.edu to make an appointment. Visit the Writing Center website at http://www.bsc.edu/academics/arc/writing.cfm for more information.

Academic Accommodation
If you are registered for accommodations/academic adjustments, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations/academic adjustments that may be necessary. During this discussion, you are not expected to disclose any details concerning your disability, though you may discuss these details at your discretion. If you have a disability but have not contacted Angie Smith, the Coordinator for Academic Accessibility at BSC, please call 226-7909 or visit Student Development on the second floor of Norton Center to initiate the process. You may also contact her at awsmith@bsc.edu if you have any questions or need more information. Her office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 8:30-4:30 or Mondays and Fridays, by appointment.
COURSE OUTLINE

PART ONE: ORIGINS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPT

August 24  

Sustainability Concepts

August 29  
Field Trip-Southern Environmental Center (SEC) at BSC  
Class meets at SEC.

August 31  


September 5  


September 7  


Class Speaker: Rip Weaver, Aldridge Gardens


September 19 Exam One – in class

September 21 Library Workshop
Class Meets at BSC Library, Ground Floor Computer Room. Assignment distributed.

PART TWO: DIMENSIONS of SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

September 26 Land Use and Urban Design


October 5  
**Fall Break-class does not meet**

October 10  
Climate Change Planning


October 12  
Transportation


October 17  
Environmental Planning and Restoration


October 19  

**Energy and Materials Use**


**Annotated Bibliography**

**due in class**

October 24  

**Social Equity and Environmental Justice**


October 26  

**Exam Two – in class**

October 31  

**Economic Development**


November 2

Green Architecture and Building

The Greenhouses Effect—presentation in class.


November 7

Food Systems and Health

Frumkin, Howard, et al. “Physical Activity, Sprawl and
PART THREE: SUSTAINABLE PLANNING TOOLS & POLITICS

November 9


**Research Papers due in class**

**PART FOUR: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONALLY**

**The Global North and South**

**November 16**


**November 21**

**November 23**

THANKSGIVING BREAK – class does not meet
PART FIVE: VISIONS OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

What’s the Possible Future?

November 28


December 5
Exam Three-during BSC scheduled exam period, (Tuesday) 1PM – 4PM