

**URBAN STUDIES COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2019**  
**URBAN STUDIES 591**  
**H(3-3)**

**Capstone in Urban Studies**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>
LEC 01	TuTh	11:00 – 12:15	ES 319
LAB 01	Fr	09:00 – 11:45	ES 319

Instructor: Victoria Fast	Office: ES 452
Telephone: 220 8353	Email: <a href="mailto:Victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca">Victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.**

**Official Course Description:**

Capstone course applying the broad interdisciplinary training of the Urban Studies Program to selected problems in Urban Studies. Collaborative research and analysis is stressed.

**Course Objectives:**

This is the capstone course for Urban Studies majors and minors, dealing with sustainability and what it means in an urban context. The “key to sustainability,” according to Gwendolyn Hallsmith, is to understand the city “as a whole system... one that is composed of numerous subsystems.” The variety of subsystems that shape cities do not operate independently, rather are mutually interactive, modifying each other over time. These subsystems—economic, social, environmental, cultural, political—operate at a variety of scales, reverberating back upon the city. However, planning interventions cannot be conceived as discrete actions, rather must be considered in terms of system-wide implications.

In this course, students will study Calgary’s community model as subsystems that have critical implications for planning sustainable cities. Rooted in urbanism and sustainability theories, students will complete an applied “Engaging Communities” project, where students will work individually and in groups to assess, explore, and engage Calgary communities. Students will apply data gathering, analytical, community engagement, critical reflection, professionalism, and grant writing skills to propose a tactical urbanism project for the community. Partnering with the Federation of Calgary Communities to support community-engaged learning, together we will build toward a meaningful vision for individual communities.

### Course Learning Outcomes:

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Students should be able to conceptualize and apply the multiple dimensions of sustainability to communities and environments .	1,2,3,4,5,7,8	3
Students should be able to conceptualize the multiple ways they are confronted with the word or concepts relating to sustainability on a daily bases.	1,2,3,4,5,7,8	3
Students should be able to apply concepts for maintaining and sustaining healthy communities and environments.	1,2,3,4,5,7,8	3
Students should be able to evaluate various scenarios for the future of cities including Calgary.	1,2,3,4,5,7,8	3
Students should be able to produce through collaborative group work a viable and useful community project focusing on a community in Calgary	1,2,3,4,5,7,8	3

**PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes:** 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills. **Levels:** (1) Introductory, (2) Intermediate, (3) Advanced.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of at least 90 Units (15.0 full-course equivalents) and admission to the Urban Studies Major or Minor.

### Learning Resources

Individual readings assigned weekly. Please check course website regularly for updates.

### Grading (Weighting)

Course Component	Weight
Assignment 1: tactical urban report	15%
Class presentation	10%
Exploring Communities final project	30%
Term Test	10%
Weekly Writing Blitzes	10% (1% per Blitz, up to 11%)
Weekly Labs	20%
Urban, Sustainability, and Community News	5%

**Notes:** It is not necessary to pass each course component in order to pass the course. There is no final examination for this course.

## GRADING SYSTEM

<b>A+</b>	4.00	>96	Outstanding performance
<b>A</b>	4.00	90-95	Excellent performance
<b>A-</b>	3.70	80-89	Approaching excellent performance
<b>B+</b>	3.30	77-79	Exceeding good performance
<b>B</b>	3.00	74-76	Good performance
<b>B-</b>	2.70	70-73	Approaching good performance
<b>C+</b>	2.30	67-69	Exceeding satisfactory performance
<b>C</b>	2.00	64-66	Satisfactory performance
<b>C-</b>	1.70	60-63	Approaching satisfactory performance
<b>D+</b>	1.30	56-59	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses
<b>D</b>	1.00	50-55	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses
<b>F</b>	0.00	<50	Failure. Did not meet course requirements

**Human Subjects:** Students will NOT participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects.

**Supplementary Fees** – not applicable.

*For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

### Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The university supports the belief that throughout their university careers students should be taught how to write well, so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their university courses and, where appropriate, faculty members can and should consider quality of writing as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance: [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing\\_support/overview](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview).

### Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar.

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy). Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Department Head (email: [geograph@ucalgary.ca](mailto:geograph@ucalgary.ca)).

### **Principles of Conduct**

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

### **Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct**

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html). Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html).

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

There is no restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor. Phones must be turned off during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional. The use of any calculators and/or devices during examinations will not be allowed.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally. Grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office.

### **Policy Regarding Rounding of Final Grades**

In an effort to be fair to all students in the class, your individual grade will not be rounded up, regardless of how close you are to a grade break. In short, the final grade breaks are hard breaks. This policy minimizes ambiguity and ensures the grading is as fair and clear as possible. For more information see the "Grade appeal and rounding policy" on D2L.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580, or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which provides detailed information about common academic concerns.

For guidance on course registration (add, drop, swap), information about paying fees, and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- Student Union VP Academic –403-220-3911, [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/)

### **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

### **Documentation for Absences or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

### **Campus Safewalk**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus, including the LRT station, parking lots, bus zones, and university residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

### **USRI Surveys**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference, so please participate in USRI surveys.