

Winter 2016

LA 410/510

Sustainable Design Principles and Practices



Photo Credit: Christian Ender



Photo Credit: Time

Time Tuesday and Thursday
16:00 pm – 17:50 pm

Location Lawrence Hall, Room 231

Credits 4

Instructor Kory Russel
Assistant Prof. Landscape Architecture and Env. Studies
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Course Description *Sustainable Design Principles & Practices* is a team-project course that examines what it means to design sustainable systems from economic, environmental and social aspects. We will be looking specifically at the concept of waste and how waste is often the result of limited outlooks and design failures. Sustainability means changing how we think about waste and thinking more holistically about closing loops. Readings and discussions will focus on; (1) designing for abundance not just reduction, (2) human-centered design and research techniques, (3) designing systems that nudge users to make better choices. Students will work in teams using human centered design techniques to propose sustainable solutions to various waste challenges. The final project will be to write a proposal for the EPA's P3 sustainable design competition that proposes a design solution to some form of waste in modern society.

Eligibility This seminar is open to all undergraduate and graduate students however, preference is given to Landscape Architecture students.

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Prerequisite

None

Course Format

The course is a mixture of discussions based on readings, videos, and self-guided research; student presentations; lectures and a healthy dose of team-based work that explores aspects and techniques of sustainability and design. Students are expected to complete all readings prior to class and to actively participate in class discussion. Additionally, students will work in their respective teams on design proposals employing human-centered design techniques. Students will also be expected to set a meeting time outside of class for their teams to work together for 2 additional hours per week. Graduate students will be assigned additional readings/viewings as outlined in the course schedule as well as rotating leadership roles of their respective proposal teams.

Learning Objectives

by the end of the course students will:

- 1.) Identify qualities of a good definition of sustainability, how to measure it, and to develop their own personal definition.
- 2.) Identify and use quality team work and collaborative techniques
- 3.) Develop and apply leadership skills throughout the quarter (Grad students)
- 4.) Develop writing and proposal preparation skills and apply those in the final project
- 5.) Understand and use 15 distinct human-centered design (HCD) research methods and techniques
- 6.) Develop and demonstrate literature search and citation skills in the final project