

# PLAN 1900

## PLANNING FOR THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT



This course provides a comprehensive overview of critical current issues and trends that are impacting the human environment and its relationship to the natural environment at global and local scales. Moreover, it introduces students to the field of planning and its role in managing and building sustainable living environments.

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to craft a global and broad understanding of issues in planning for sustainable human environment. Specifically the course objectives and outcomes are:

- To understand the evolution and patterns of human settlement over time.
  - To comprehend the difficult challenges and the range of cumulative impacts that cities are having on the natural environment, globally and locally.
  - To introduce students to the various planning approaches for sustainable human environments.
  - To provide students with an overview of the field of planning, and its specialized subfields, and the role planners can play in shaping the human environment.
  - To provide students with a better understanding of advances in technology and how they can support more sustainable development.
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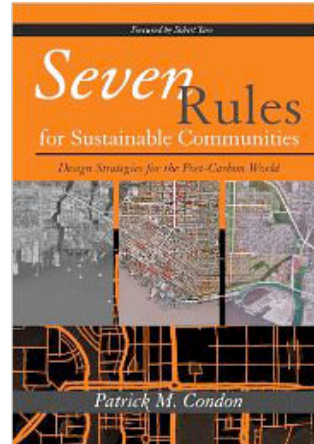
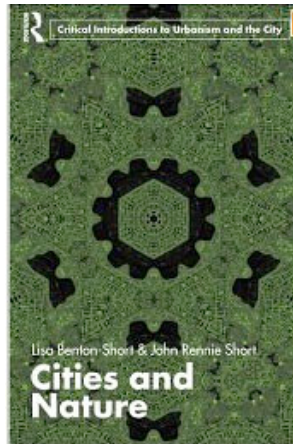
### COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

This class is scheduled twice a week for 1.25 hours and is organized around lectures, readings, video presentations, and written assignments, each of which complement and reinforce each other in meeting the course's learning objectives. Required readings establish the overall theme for each class and introduce key concepts, issues and/or arguments. Class lectures expand upon the readings, clarify key terms or issues, and present case study material to provide additional background. The written assignments provide the opportunity to deepen knowledge and understanding of key issues and concepts introduced in class readings and lectures.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS

There are two required texts for this course:

1. Benton-Short, Lisa & Short, John Rennie. 2008. *Cities and Nature*. New York: Routledge (Price: \$38.19)
2. Condon, Patrick M. 2010. *Seven Rules for Sustainable Communities: Design Strategies for a Post-Carbon World*. Washington, DC: Island Press. (Price: \$30.00)



## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (20% OF FINAL GRADE)

You are expected to attend classes regularly, read all assigned materials, and come prepared to participate in the discussion of readings. Absences will be counted from the first class meeting after the student registers, and there will be no more than one excused absence, barring exceptional circumstances.

The in-class participation grade will be based on the your attendance record and your capacity to engage in weekly discussions and relevant questions seriously and constructively. The focus of class participation is on preparedness, quick thinking, and the capacity to engage with the discussion on hand. You are expected to explain any challenge you might have with a question/topic/issue.

## ONLINE BLOG (45% OF FINAL GRADE)

Each week you will be asked to post a reading response, between 200 to 300 words in length, on an online blog. You can post pictures, articles, and other links *if relevant* as part of your response. Make sure to give credit for material that is not your own. You will create your own free blog account on [www.edublogs.org](http://www.edublogs.org) solely for PLAN 1900. Please use your ECU ID for your Username. Your blog will be your online journal for this course. It will be publicly available and can be shared with your peers, friends, and family. It will be your responsibility to moderate audience feedback and comments on your blog. The online discussion on blogs should remain respectful at all times.

Your write-up on the blog should respond to the readings of the week. It should NOT be a summary of the readings. Your blog writing should:

- Discuss the themes/issues/arguments that caught your attention
- Provide your own insight into the readings (not unsubstantiated opinion)
- Be specific and clear about your arguments and backs it up with logical reason
- Illustrate your points with examples from current or previous readings from class or elsewhere

Student responses will be incorporated into the class discussion. *The deadline for posting your weekly blog response will be at 2:00pm every Monday.*

*Each response will be given a letter grade. Blog postings will be evaluated based upon:*

- Clarity of writing (succinct with no spelling errors)
- Ability to argue logically
- Articulation of your thoughts and insights (i.e. able to make a strong case/point through examples)

**FINAL PROJECT – SUSTAINABLE PLANNING CARDS (35% OF FINAL GRADE)**

The objective of this assignment is to challenge you to synthesize material from this course and categorize it in a way that is meaningful to you.

A deck of cards has 52 individual cards divided into diamonds, spades, hearts, and clubs. The four suits are color-coded. Spades and clubs are black. Diamonds and hearts are red. Please use all the information that you cull from this class (lectures, discussions, readings, and video presentations) to create 52 Sustainable Planning Cards. Each card must measure 3 inch X 5 inch. Each card can be two-sided and may contain text and/or images. You must be selective as you won't be able to create a card for every topic. Be creative! *Sample projects from previous semester will be shown in class on Thursday, Oct 5.*

You must be able to *explain the logic of your categorization system in one – two pages*. The creativity and logic of how you categorize pieces of information will constitute 20% of your project grade; the content of the cards (accuracy, synthesis) will be 60% of your project grade; and the care in the creation and composition of your sustainable planning cards will constitute the final 20% of your project grade.

Please use this assignment as an opportunity for creativity and critical thinking. *The assignment is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, December 15, 2011. You will be required to present your project to the class. You must submit a hard copy of your logic write-up AND post it on your blog. There are no exceptions to the deadline.*

**COURSE THEMES AND READINGS**

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING
1	Tue, Aug 23	Introduction & Syllabus	
	Thurs, Aug 25	City and Nature	Short & Short, Chap. 1, pp.1-15

2	Tue, Aug 30	Environmental Issues in Cities	Short & Short, Chap. 2, pp.16-40
	Thurs, Sep 1	<i>The City</i>	
3	Tue, Sep 6	No Class (Monday Make-Up Day)	
	Thurs, Sep 8	The Industrial City	Short & Short, Chap. 3, pp.41-64
4	Tue, Sep 13	Contemporary Urbanization	Short & Short, Chap. 4, pp.65-96
	Thurs, Sep 15	<i>Bogota: Building a Sustainable City</i>	
5	Tue, Sep 20	Water Pollution in Cities	Short & Short, Chap. 8, pp.155-170
	Thurs, Sep 22	<i>Seoul: The Stream of Consciousness</i>	
6	Tue, Sep 27	Air Pollution in Cities	Short & Short, Chap. 9, pp.171-189
	Thurs, Sep 29	<i>A Garden in Cairo</i>	
7	Tue, Oct 4	Garbage in Cities	Short & Short, Chap. 10, pp.190-209
	Thurs, Oct 6	<i>Gray to Green</i>	
8	Tue, Oct 11	No Class (Fall Break)	
	Thurs, Oct 13	Sick Cities	Condon, Foreword & Chap. 1, pp.1-15
9	Tue, Oct 18	Streetcar City	Condon, Chap. 2, pp.17-38
	Thurs, Oct 20	<i>Portland: A Sense of Place</i>	
10	Tue, Oct 25	Interconnected Street System	Condon, Chap. 3, pp.39-65
	Thurs, Oct 27	<i>The Green Apple</i>	
11	Tue, Nov 1	Mixed Use System	Condon, Chap. 4, pp.67-78
	Thurs, Nov 3	<i>Melbourne Reborn</i>	
12	Tue, Nov 8	Location of Jobs & Homes	Condon, Chap. 5, pp.79-93
	Thurs, Nov 10	<i>Green Machine</i>	
13	Tue, Nov 15	Diversity of Housing	Condon, Chap. 6, pp.95-110
	Thurs, Nov 17	<i>Affordable Green Housing</i>	
14	Tue, Nov 22	Natural Areas & Parks	Condon, Chap. 7, pp.111-128
	Thurs, Nov 24	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
15	Tue, Nov 29	Green & Cheap Infrastructure	Condon, Chap. 8, pp.129-160
	Thurs, Dec 1	<i>China: From Red to Green</i>	
16	Tue, Dec 6	Sustainable Urban Development	Short & Short, Chap. 12, pp. 223-256
	Thurs, Dec 8	No Class (Reading Day)	
17	Thurs, Dec 15	FINAL PROJECT DUE	

## COURSE POLICIES

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on a combination of activities and assignments explained above. A total of 100 points is possible. Each point = 1% of grade. Grade breakdown and scale is given below.

### *Grade Breakdown*

Activities	Percentage
Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Online Blog	45%
Final Project – Sustainable Planning Cards	35%

### *Grade Scale*

Letter Grade	Points	Description	Elaboration
A	90-100	Excellent	Student work shows: integration of course readings, lectures, discussions, and video presentations; clear articulation of the thoughts of the writer; and are free of errors (written work). For students who go the extra mile.
B	80-89	Above average	Much better than just good. Very good quality of work in terms of thoroughness and presentation.
C	70-79	Average	Work is sufficient and acceptable. Could have done better.
D	60-69	Poor	Sub-par on all levels. Bare or minimal effort.
F	<60	Failure	

“A” students demonstrate a mastery of the material covered and provide insightful thought and reflection on assigned readings, papers, and class discussions. Grammatically correct writing is expected. “A” students are concise in their arguments, presentation formats, and writing, with an outstanding degree of organization. Numerous grammatical errors, misspellings, vagueness, unsubstantiated arguments, and conflicting language are likely to receive a “C” or lower grade. Students are not graded up or down based on their philosophy or personal/professional/political viewpoints. Students are encouraged to argue persuasively their views without fear that the instructor may or may not agree with them<sup>1</sup>.

**Incomplete Grade:** Incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor. This is possible when a student is otherwise passing but has not, due to circumstances beyond his/her control, completed all the work in the course.

**Attendance:** Your presence and participation is fundamental to meeting the objectives of this course. Absences will be counted from the first class meeting after the student registers, and there will be no more than one excused absence, barring exceptional circumstances. Students who register late or miss a class are expected to make up all missed assignments as determined by the instructor. This course will follow the Faculty Senate approved student attendance policy.

**Late Works and Missed Assignments:** Late work in general will not be tolerated. If you plan to miss a class, please post your online reading response within 24 hours of the missed class. Alternative arrangement can be made, but only with prior approval. Students are expected to keep track of assignment deadlines and grades. If you are missing a grade, please bring it to the attention of the instructor.

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<sup>1</sup> Weitz, Jerry. Syllabus for PLAN 4096, East Carolina University

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education. The ECU student handbook ([http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/policyhub/academic\\_integrity.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/policyhub/academic_integrity.cfm)) outlines the student code of conduct and academic integrity policy and procedures. As an instructor, I will not tolerate *acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat*. The copying of any work in whole or in part and/or quoting verbatim without citation is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students, whose work has been confirmed as plagiarized: a) will not receive any points for the plagiarized assignment, and/or b) in the case of more serious violation will be reported to the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities and receive a Fail (F) grade for the entire course.

**Inclement Weather and Emergencies:** In the event of inclement weather or other emergency, information about the status of classes at ECU is available by calling the ECU emergency information hotline (252-328-0062) and on the ECU emergency alert website (<http://www.ecu.edu/alert>).

**Students with Disabilities:** East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to Disability Support Services, located in Slay 138, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252-737-1016.

**Class Conduct:** It is important that we have a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, and we all share the responsibility for creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Behavior that disrupts the learning process may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class as specified in University policies.

Below are some of my *PET PEEVES* – these are common sense respectful behavior that I expect in class.

- Be on time to class. If you need to leave early, please do so without disrupting the rest of the class.
- Do not begin ‘end of class activities’-shuffling papers, putting away things-before class actually ends.
- Turn your cell phones and other audible devices off or put them on vibrate mode while in class. Do not answer phones or text during class.
- Use computers (if you have to) only for class-related activities. Believe me, instructors can tell when you are surfing the net. Computer use for non-class related activity is disrespectful and distracting.
- Read the syllabus closely to check for assignments deadlines and course information. Do not ask for information that is already on the syllabus. I am happy to clarify something you did not understand
- Do not sleep in class.

**ECU Retention Policy**

GPA Hours at ECU (identified in Transcript in Banner Self Service) plus transferred credit hours	“Old” Retention Requirement All courses taken at ECU	New Retention Requirements Effective with Fall 2011 grades All courses taken at ECU
1-29 semester hours	1.6 GPA	1.8
30-59 semester hours	1.8 GPA	1.9
60-74 semester hours	1.9 GPA	2.0
75 or more semester hours	2.0 GPA	2.0

**Office Hours and Email Protocol:** Office hours will be held in Brewster A-211 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Questions about the course, readings, and assignments can be addressed through email as well: [mukherjia@ecu.edu](mailto:mukherjia@ecu.edu). Please give 48 hours for a response. Refer to the course (PLAN 1900) in the subject line.

**Final Note:** This course syllabus is subject to change with reasonable notice. Changes will be communicated via e-mail and/or verbally in class.