

Environmental and Sustainability Planning

PLAN 31389 | Section 1 | Spring 2018
Mondays, 3:30 – 6:15pm | Robinson 311
Geography, Planning, & Sustainability
Rowan University

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12:30-2:30pm
& by appointment

Course Description

This course uses a sustainability lens to introduce basic environmental issues addressed by planners. Environmental planning is the application of natural science disciplines to the analysis of people's physical environment, and subsequently to the synthesis of plans that respect and incorporate the information from those disciplines. This course examines the constraints and opportunities presented by the natural environment to human use of the land, be they site-specific or regional in scale. This course also explores how various U.S. and global communities are incorporating sustainability into their environmental planning efforts. Students develop a basic understanding of the concept of sustainable development and how it can be applied to the design and development of communities.

Prerequisite: PLAN 31280 – Foundation of Community and Environmental Planning

Objectives

Upon completion of the course students will:

- Understand the fundamental concepts, constraints, and opportunities related to the environment and sustainability, and their application in local and regional environmental planning efforts and regulatory practices;
- Understand the kinds of professional expertise that must be assembled, engaged, and consulted by the planner to enable a truly comprehensive land use planning process that accounts for the above constraints and suitabilities;
- Gain knowledge about basic sustainable development concepts; and
- Develop an awareness of how personal life styles impact the environment and sustainability principles

Blackboard

Students are required to use Blackboard (<http://rowan.blackboard.com>) for submitting assignments and accessing resources and announcements, including possible syllabus or calendar changes.

Reading Materials

- Most readings will be from the following book:
Daniels, T. (2017). *Environmental Planning Handbook for Sustainable Communities and Regions*. Routledge.
- All required and recommended readings will be shared via Blackboard. These include book chapters and articles from academic journals, magazines, web sites, and blogs. This course syllabus includes foundational reading materials for each class; additional readings and other resources will be uploaded on Blackboard every week throughout the semester. Please check Blackboard on a regular basis.

Course Requirements

Class participation

This course is being offered as a part-lecture, part-seminar; it is therefore essential that everyone is fully invested in creating a meaningful and effective learning community. Class participation will be evaluated based on an individual's record of attendance, demonstrated knowledge of assigned readings through leading and participating in class discussions, and meaningful participation in class activities—inside or outside of the classroom. Attendance is mandatory and attendance will be recorded within the first five minutes of each session. Students must notify the instructor in advance if they will miss a class. Three or

more absences will result in automatic failure in this course. Two late attendances will count as one absence.

Environmental/sustainability blogs (<https://rowanenvplanning.wordpress.com>)

Each student will write 7 mini-blogs throughout the semester and publish them on Wordpress before class starts. Each week, students will select a current event, journal article, or newspaper article relevant to the broader environmental topic assigned for that class and will prepare a 500-word mini-blog reflecting on how the chosen topic impacts local, regional, or global sustainability. The objective of the blog writing is to develop the students' ability to relate the theories, concepts, and principles discussed in class readings to current events. If applicable, each blog should address the three core concerns of sustainable development: environment, economy, and society. Each week, several students will be asked to provide impromptu presentations on their blog topics in order to generate class discussion. Guidelines on blog writing style will be discussed in class. Grading of each blog will carry equal weight.

Quizzes

Students will take 8 quizzes throughout the semester. Quiz dates are included in the course schedule. Unless otherwise noted, quiz questions—mostly multiple-choice questions—will be based on the readings assigned for that particular class. Grading of each quiz will carry equal weight.

Environmental/sustainability diary

Students will keep a diary for 7 days, reflecting on their connection to the environment and their activities/life style related to sustainability principles. A template will be provided in class. Based on this diary, students will submit a 2-page essay summarizing their diary entries/ self-reflections.

Service project essay

Students are to provide 4 hours of volunteer service to any environmental/sustainability project organized by a municipality, nonprofit or for-profit organization, or our university, anytime between January 23, 2018 and April 22, 2018. At the conclusion of the work, students will write a 3-page essay reflecting on what they learned about the organization, about themselves, and about the service project. Each submission should include a picture of the student—an action shot. Please request another participant to take your picture. Essays must be submitted via Blackboard. More instructions will be provided in class.

Research paper

Each student will write a research paper on a topic assigned or approved by the professor. Papers will include 10 pages of text and additional pages for references, notes, and any figures and/or tables. Students will work on this paper throughout the semester and must meet specific deadlines: (i) proposing a topic and methodology on 02/12; (ii) presenting key research findings on 03/05; (iii) submitting a complete draft version of the paper on 04/16; and (iv) submitting final version of the paper and presenting in front of the class on 04/30. The draft paper will carry 40% of the grade allocated for this assignment. Students must revise their draft papers incorporating feedback received from the professor. Papers must be free of typos and grammatical errors, and follow a good structure with sub-headings for various sections. Students are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from Rowan's Writing Center. For final submission, students will attach a memo including their responses to professor's feedback. More instruction and guidance will be provided in class throughout the semester.

Evaluation

All course activities and assignments will be considered for the final grade, with the following weights. Specific grading policies and a rubric related to each assignment will be distributed via Blackboard.

- 10%: Class participation (The instructor will monitor student performance in each session)
- 21%: Environmental/sustainability mini-blogs (7 x 3% each)
- 24%: Quizzes (8 x 3% each)
- 10%: Environmental/sustainability diary
- 10%: Service project essay
- 25%: Research paper

Expected Responsibilities and Attitude

- **Field observation:** Students will need to arrange time for field observations/ field work for a few assignments.
- **Time allocation:** Students are expected to spend 5-7 hours (est. average) per week for this course outside of regular class sessions.
- **Communication:** For course-related correspondences, students must use their Rowan email accounts. Students are expected to check email every day and visit the Blackboard course page on a regular basis. In addition, Rowan emails will be used for conveying urgent or emergency notices (such as class cancellation due to inclement weather). Meetings with the instructor should be arranged via emails. Email is the preferred form of communication for any course or topic questions, or any issues that arise during the semester. Students may expect to receive a response in less than one business day (<24 hours during the work week, perhaps longer on the weekend or other announced period).
- **Technology use:**
 - Cell phones, tablets, and other devices should be off, silent, unused, and out of sight during all lectures and labs, unless otherwise specified. The use of such devices may negate credits for attendance and participation.
 - The lab computers should not be used unless specified by the professor, and should be physically stowed (screens off and pushed down, with keyboard and mouse placed to the side) when not required by the lesson. The use of computers for non-course-related tasks is not permitted during class sessions.
 - Laptop computers are not recommended. They are not permitted during exams, except in the case of special permission for accessibility. Working on other coursework or browsing to non-course websites is also not permitted. Students should not create an unnecessary distraction in class.
- **What to bring:**
 - Students are responsible for maintaining electronic back-up copies of data and assignments.
 - Students should bring reading or discussion materials to class.

Grading Distribution

Letter Grade	Score	Letter Grade	Score
A	93.3-100	C	73.3-76.5
A-	90-93.2	C-	70-73.2
B+	86.6-89.9	D+	66.6-69.9
B	83.3-86.5	D	63.3-66.5
B-	80-83.2	D-	60-63.2
C+	76.6-79.9	F	59.9 or lower

Submission and Grading Policies

- All submissions must include student name, date, and assignment number. Digital files must follow the following naming convention: <StudentLastName>_<AssignmentNameNumber>_<MonthDateYear>. Example: Meenar_ServiceProjectEssay_04232018. Not following this rule will result in a subtraction of 10% of the grade.
- Any assignment submitted after the deadline will be considered late, unless there is a reason beyond the control of the student. However, a student must notify the instructor prior to the deadline and ask for an extension with valid reason and documentation. Otherwise, points will be deducted from the grade obtained by the student for that late assignment (10% of the total grade per day that is late). The faculty deserves the right NOT to accept any late submission after a certain period of time (as noted on assignment handouts).
- Academic dishonesty will be treated according to the university policy. Please read Rowan's policy on plagiarism.

Tentative Schedule

Note: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this schedule is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Week	Dates	Lecture/Discussions /Activities	Due	Readings*
MODULE 1: Introductions to Environmental Planning and Sustainability				
1	01/22	Introductions Demonstration: Blogging with Wordpress	• Wordpress blog accounts	
2	01/29	Environmental planning and sustainability Environmental planning process Ethical issues in environmental planning	• Quiz 1 • Mini-blog 1: Why should we care about environmental planning and sustainability?	Introduction Chapter 1 Chapter 2 (p. 66-73 only)
MODULE 2: Planning for Sustainable Public Health & Equity				
3	02/05	Planning for sustainable water supply Planning for sustainable water quality	• Quiz 2 • Mini-blog 2: Water	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
4	02/12	Planning for climate change Greenhouse gas emissions	• Quiz 3 • Mini-blog 3: Climate change • Research paper proposal due	Chapter 4
5	02/19	Planning for sustainable air quality Planning for solid waste and recycling	• Quiz 4 • Mini-blog 4: Air OR Recycling	Chapter 3 Chapter 7
MODULE 3: Planning for Natural Areas & Working Landscapes				
6	02/26	Coastal zone management Planning for natural hazards and natural disasters	• Quiz 5 • Mini-blog 5: Natural disasters OR land preservation	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
7	03/05	Planning for working landscape: Farmland Ecovillages	• Research paper findings due	Chapter 14
8	03/12	Spring Break – no class		
MODULE 4: Planning for the Built Environment				
9	03/19	Brownfields redevelopment	• Quiz 6 • Mini-blog 6: Brownfields	Chapter 8
10	03/26	Greenfield development and site design LEED – LEED ND	• Quiz 7 • Mini-blog 7: Sustainable development/re-development	Chapter 20
11	04/02	Field trip: Camden green infrastructure projects	• Environmental/sustainability diaries due	
12	04/09	Work on research papers (no in-class meeting due to the AAG Conference)		
13	04/16	Planning for energy Regional development and transportation planning	• Quiz 8 • Final draft (complete) research paper due	Chapter 17 Chapter 19
14	04/23	Toxic substance and hazardous waste Final paper review	• Service project essays due	Chapter 21
Finals	04/30	Final research papers due + Presentations		

*** The readings (book chapters) listed here are from *The Environmental Planning Handbook*. Additional readings and other resources for most classes will be provided via Blackboard. Students are required to review Blackboard materials every week.**

Resources

Policy on plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another individual's ideas, words, labor, or assistance. All coursework submitted by a student, including papers, examinations, laboratory reports, and oral presentations, is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. When it is not, that assistance must be reported to the faculty. If the work involves the consultation of other resources such as journals, books, or other media, those resources must be cited in the appropriate style. All other borrowed material, such as suggestions for organization, ideas, or actual language, must also be cited. Failure to cite any borrowed material, including information from the internet, constitutes plagiarism. Academic cheating results when the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of individual courses are broken. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course that was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or undertaking the work of another person. **Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated.** According to Rowan University policy, students committing any act of academic dishonesty may fail the course, be suspended from the university, or both. The Rowan policy on Academic Issues is available on the Provost's web site.

<http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/conduct> [OfficeofTheProvostRowanUniversity.htm](http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/conduct)

Special needs

Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. Any student who has a need for accommodation due to documented disability should contact the faculty as soon as possible. Students seeking support around these issues can find more information and resources at

<http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/asc/disabilityresources>. *Academic Coaching* provides students in the EOF/MAP program with an academic coach for one-on-one weekly meetings to support students in the acquisition of academic skills such as note-taking, time management, organization, and studying and test-taking strategies. If interested, contact successcenter@rowan.edu. Further, students who anticipate an absence due to a scheduled religious observance should contact the faculty personally to make arrangements.

STARFISH

The Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish® is designed to make it easier for you to connect with the resources you need to be successful at Rowan. Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. Utilize the scheduling tools to make appointments at your convenience (i.e. Tutoring, Advising, Financial Aid, etc.). Additional information about RSN may be found at www.rowan.edu/rsn.

Emergency information

During an emergency situation, please check the Rowan website for updates on campus closing. Also check your Temple emails around 5 pm for announcement specific to this class. If I cannot make it to campus due to inclement weather, other emergencies, or illness, I will send an email and post an announcement to Blackboard.

Respect for diversity

Diverse backgrounds, embodiments, and experiences are essential to the critical thinking endeavor. Students are expected to (i) respect individual differences which may include, but not limited to age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender presentation, immigration status, national origin, race, religious and political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status; (ii) engage respectfully in discussion of diverse worldviews and ideologies embedded in course readings, presentations. And artifacts, including those course materials that are at odds with personal beliefs and values. Students seeking support around these issues can find more information and resources at

<https://www.rowan.edu/home/student-diversity/resources>.

Writing Center

Rowan's Writing Center tutors offer 30 to 60 minute sessions, including face-to-face appointments, online tutoring. It is a free resource for students, faculty, and staff. To learn more visit: <http://www.rowanwritingcenter.com>.

Tutoring service

Tutoring Services offers academic support in a variety of subjects in order to improve educational achievement. Tutoring is available free of charge to all Rowan University undergraduate students. Small-group or drop-in tutoring is available in most subject areas. To learn more visit: <http://www.rowan.edu/home/advising/current-students/tutoring-services>.

Conflicts in examination periods during finals week

<http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/documents/ConflictsinExaminationPeriodsDuringFinalsWeek.pdf>

Counseling and psychological services

Counseling & Psychological Services at Rowan University provides quality counseling for a variety of concerns to promote the psychological wellbeing and personal growth of a diverse student body. To learn more visit: <http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/counseling>