

Resilient Cities

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: SDNY 3041

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Instructor: Julia Miller

Course Description

This course is an introductory course on urban resilience and concepts in sustainability and its principles and the sustainable development of cities in the global, regional, and local contexts. The course will cover the environmental, socio-economic, and structural problems of contemporary cities and their consequences on natural systems and built communities. It provides a framework to examine the challenges of urbanism, issues facing cities, and an opportunity to evaluate and explore “solutions.”

Course Objectives

- To provide students with an introduction to the concepts of urban resilience and sustainability.
- To outline current environmental debates in relation to urbanism, locally and in the region, and relate that to the global context.
- To enable students to understand how cities approach issues connected with modern sustainability.

Learning & Development Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts of sustainability and urban resilience.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the methodology and approach of cities to issues related to sustainability.
- Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with the challenges of urbanism and possible solutions to contemporary environmental issues facing cities.
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills in sustainability for the purpose of informing and debating.

Methodology

Classes will comprise lectures and seminar-style discussion with periodic quizzes. Students will be required to prepare for class by reading ahead and completing the online quizzes.

Field Components

CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct, guided experience. Participation in the field activity for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City you are currently living in. Guidance on each of these components will be offered in class.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in co-curricular My Global Cities activities.

Course Prerequisites

Students who have completed university level units in subjects that require academic research and writing will be able to engage fully with the course. No prior understanding of the concepts of urban resilience and sustainability is required.

Required Reading / Materials

Students should purchase the course text: Bjoern Hage and K. David Pijawaka, Sustainability for the 21 st Century: Pathways, Programs and Policies, Kendall Hunt, 2017, second edition. Other readings will be available through CANVAS.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Participation	10%
Seminar Presentation	30%
Essay	30%
Final exam	30%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

Class Participation & Attendance

Participation is a vital part of the grade given for the course. CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Students are also expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must complete required reading and the online quiz BEFORE the class and come in on time. They should refer to the CSP Student Handbook for the procedure and rules regarding class absence.

Assignments

Seminar Presentations (30%)

Students, either solo or as a group of two or more, are required to undertake two (worth 15% each) 10-15 minute class presentations (followed by questions/discussion) based on one of the discussion questions listed for each seminar as outlined in CANVAS. The presenters are to submit a summary of the presentation argument (up to two pages—not including any bibliography).

Final Examination (30%)

Students must choose three questions from the list and write short essay-style answers. The exam will cover course material including lectures and readings.

Course Content

Unit 1

Course Overview

- Attitudes and approaches
- Introduction to Resilient Cities
- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 1, pp 5-15
- **Class**
 - Introduction to course
 - Review of assessment tasks
 - Allocation of topics for in-class presentations in the subsequent weeks

Unit 2

A History of Sustainability

- **Required Reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 2
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion ○ Online quiz

Unit 3

Urban Resilience

- **Required reading:**
 - Somwrita Sarkar, Peter Phibbs, Roderick Simpson, Sachin Wasnikm, “The scaling of income distribution in Australia: Possible relationships between urban allometry, city size, and economic inequality,” Environment and Planning, November 15, 2016.
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Student presentation
 - Online quiz

Unit 4

Climate & Cities: Mitigation, Adaption, Resilience

- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 8
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion

- Student presentation
- Online quiz

Unit 5

Climate & Cities: Mitigation, Adaption, Resilience

- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 8
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Online quiz

Unit 6

Sustainable Agriculture for Cities

- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 9
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Student presentation
 - Online quiz

Unit 7

Managing Water & Energy in the City

- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapters 11 and 13
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Online quiz

Unit 8

Field Class: Sustainable House

- Visit to sustainability campaigner Michael Mobbs' off-grid 19th-Century terrace house in the inner city

Unit 9

Sustainable Transportation

- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 12

- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Student presentation
 - Online quiz

Unit 10

Nature in the City: Garden & Biophilic Cities

- **Required reading:**
 - Hagen and Pijawaka, Chapter 10
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Online quiz

Unit 11

Resilient Sydney

- **Required Reading:**
 - Abby Lopez, et al, "Cooling the Commons" Western Sydney University, October 2016, westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1161470/cooling-the-commons-report.pdf
- **Class**
 - Lecture/discussion
 - Online quiz

Unit 12

Final Examination

- Conclusion/Evaluation

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).