

SOS 111: Sustainable Cities

Class Numbers: 67828

Credit Hours: 3

Semester & Year: Fall C, 2024: Monday, 8/22/2024 – Friday, 12/6/2024

Prerequisite: None

Instructor Information

Name: Bjoern Hagen

Office: Center for Planetary Health (ISTB 7), #304B

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduces technological, social, and cultural principles and innovations for cities under the notion of sustainability and sustainable development within the global, regional, and local contexts.

Course Description

This undergraduate course introduces the role of cities as they relate to global to local sustainability concepts and challenges. The course provides an urban perspective on environmental, socio-economic, and infrastructural sustainability problems and their consequences on natural systems and built communities.

Cities have a major role to play in achieving global sustainability as well as equal opportunity and fairness for its population. The course presents cities as complex and interconnected organisms that impact natural and socio-economic systems alike across temporal and spatial scales. By taking this course, students gain a better understanding of how cities can be a culprit, but also a major part of the solution to today's sustainability challenges. Students take an active role in assessing the sustainability of cities, identifying shortcomings or future needs, and communicating potential solutions.

ASU Gold Standards

This course fulfills the ASU Sustainability General Studies requirement. Students completing a Sustainability course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the earth and its ecosphere, including the measures that indicate their capacities and limits.

2. Trace historical impacts of a range of socio-economic, political or cultural choices on integrated human-environmental wellbeing.
3. Envision pathways toward futures characterized by integrated human-environmental wellbeing.
4. Articulate an approach to addressing contemporary questions or challenges that employs concepts or practices of sustainability.

Program Level Learning Outcomes (PLLO)

This course provides an introduction to many of the PLLOs at the School of Sustainability.

Core Sustainability Competencies

Course Outcomes (CO)

The Course Outcomes define the main knowledge and skills students will gain in this course. Each CO is aligned to one or more of the PLLOs.

- CO 1: Explain the role of cities within global sustainability challenges. (PLLO: A1, 2, 4; B3, 4; C2, 6; D3)
- CO 2: Define key sustainability concepts and summarize the history of global urbanization and sustainability. (PLLO: A 1, 2; B1, 2; C1, 2; D1)
- CO 3: Explain environmental and social justice issues in cities. (PLLO: A1, 2; B3; C1, 2)
- CO 4: Describe urban sustainable development strategies and policies. (PLLO: A1, 2; B4; C2, D2, 3, 4; E1,2)
- CO 5: Identify urban vulnerabilities, shortcomings, and potential solutions. (PLLO: A1, 2, 4; B1, 4; C6, D2, 3, 5)
- CO 6: Explain the role of cities within the Water-Energy-Food Nexus. (PLLO: A1, 2 5; B1, 3, 4; D3)
- CO 7: Connect local sustainability and individual behavior to global issues. (PLLO A1, 4; B2, 5; C1, 3; E1)

Communication

Canvas Inbox

All student/instructor communication will be directed through the Canvas Inbox. This ensures the security, privacy, and record of the communication. Note: You must have your primary Canvas email address set as your asurite@asu.edu, not firstname.lastname@asu.edu or a personal email account.

Course Communication Policy: Three Before Me

This course uses a "three-before-me" policy regarding student/instructor communications. When course-related questions arise, please check these three sources for an answer before emailing the instructor with your question:

1. Course Syllabus
2. Canvas Announcements
3. Community Forum: This is a discussion forum in Canvas used for general questions about the course. You are encouraged to respond to your classmates' questions and comments.

Course Textbook and Materials

Required Textbook(s)

Hagen, B. & Pijawka, K. D. *Sustainability for the 21st Century: Pathways, programs, and policies* (3rd or 4th ed). Kendall Hunt.

Purchase/Download Options:

- Purchase hard copy from [ASU Bookstore](#)
- Rent ebook from [Kendall Hunt Publishing Company](#) (180 day rental - Instructions will be provided on how and where to access the ebook.)

Additional Course Technology

Yellowdig

This course uses Yellowdig for online discussions.

Computer Requirements

A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. will not be sufficient for completing your work in online content and quizzes/exams. While you will be able to access course most content with mobile devices, you must use a computer for some assessments.

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Microsoft Edge](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free)
- A webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker
- Microsoft Office ([Microsoft 365](#) is free for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream video

See [Technology and time; Important factors for ASU Online students](#) for additional information.

Course Delivery and Access

This is a hybrid course. This means that both in-person and online components are being incorporated. On Mondays, lectures will be **in-person starting at 1:30 pm to 2:45pm at Poly AGBC 112**. The second weekly lecture will usually be found online on the Canvas site. All in-class lectures on Mondays require attendance. All lectures, in person and online, are mandatory. Examinations will contain questions from both in person and online lectures as well as from documentary films.

Mondays will be primarily for live lectures but may also be used for Q&A sessions on readings and lectures, study sessions for exams, and assignment feedback/questions. Questions can be taken after class, as well: feel free to stay in the classroom after class and ask the instructor questions.

Online lectures are pre-recorded video lectures. Once online lecture videos are made available on Canvas student can access the videos at any time. Students do not need to access online lectures at specific days or times. Attendance for online lectures will not be taken, but all lecture content and assigned textbook readings will be part of the Mid-term and Final Exam.

Course Grading & Assessments

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

Points	Grade
97 to 100	A+
93 < 97	A
90 < 93	A-
87 < 90	B+
83 < 87	B
80 < 83	B-
77 < 80	C+
70 < 77	C
60 < 70	D
Below 60%	E
	EN - Failing for Not Participating
	EU - Student Stopped Participating
	XE - Academic Dishonesty

Assessment Weights

Your assessments for this course will be weighted as follows:

Assessment	% of Grade
Attendance In-Person Classes	10%
Yellowdig Discussions	15%
City Group Discussions	25%
Envisioning the Sustainable City - Outline	5%
Full Papers	30%
Exams	15%
TOTAL	100%

Assessment Activities

Exams (15%)

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course. Both exams are online and will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions and a study guide will be provided about 10 days prior. The exam is based entirely on the readings and lectures. The exams will not be on the content of the assignments, although the information in the assignments will help you to put the concepts into context. You are encouraged to take notes during every lecture.

Attendance (15% total)

Attendance will be taken for all Monday Lectures (15%)

Yellowdig Discussions (15% total)

In these discussions, you will respond to one or more of the course resources and discuss your personal interpretation and understanding.

City Group Discussions (25% total)

In these discussions, your group will research and discuss specific aspects of your assigned city and how the module's topics and concepts might apply there.

Note: All deliverables will be individually graded - there are no graded group projects. You will be evaluated on your participation and contributions to the group discussions.

Outline for the Envisioning the Sustainable City Paper (5% total)

For the 'Envision the Sustainable City - Full Paper you will need to submit an outline earlier.

Full Papers (30% total)

Throughout the course you will be required to submit two larger papers. The first individual paper is the 'Researching Urban Sustainability Solutions' paper. The second individual paper is the Envision the Sustainable City - Full Paper.

Submitting Assignments

All time frames used in class follow Arizona Mountain Standard Time (MST). Arizona does not observe daylight saving time (DST) from March through November; therefore, the time in Arizona will not align with other places that are on MST for half the year. Use a [Time Converter](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. If you are located in time zone other than Arizona MST, go to your account on the Global Canvas Navigation bar (black background) and edit your settings to reflect your actual time zone. This will adjust the due dates and times in your courses (here is [more information](#) about this).

All assignments, *unless otherwise announced*, MUST be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email (unless asked to do so).

Attendance and Absences

Attendance is required. Every class is important. Attendance will be taken randomly during class and you will be required to sign your name on a roster. Attendance is YOUR responsibility. If you do not sign the roster you will be absent for the day. No exceptions will be made.

Excused Absence: Absences may be excused ONLY in case of emergency. It is preferable that the student notifies the instructor before class. A signed medical excuse or a written notification of a family emergency must be submitted. All written documentation needs to have your name and the exact date of absence on it.

Please follow the appropriate university policies to request absences or accommodations related to [ACD 304-04 Accommodation for Religious Practices](#) and [ACD 304-02 Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities](#).

The students are expected to communicate with the instructor regarding any absences. Faculty will communicate with students regarding any changes in their attendance practices.

Late or Missed Assignments Policy

Notify the instructor BEFORE an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and the assignment will not be submitted on time. Published assignment due dates (Arizona Mountain Standard time) are firm. Please follow the appropriate University policies to request an accommodation for religious practices or to accommodate a missed assignment due to University-sanctioned activities.

Unexcused late assignments are accepted for a limited time and penalized by 10% for every day late. Assignments being submitted 5 days after the due date or later will not be graded and will receive 0 points

Exams and Yellowdig discussion posts cannot be submitted late.

Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the School of Sustainability per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades](#). Undergraduate students, please see additional instructions for [undergraduate College of Global Futures courses](#). Graduate student grade appeals are initiated within the school offering the course (please email CGF@asu.edu for more information about initiating a grade appeal for a graduate course in the College of Global Futures).

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. Feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available and students can access it through myASU as well. See [Student FAQs](#) for more information.

Community of Care

The health of the Sun Devil community is a top priority. This situation has raised many questions. If you have an issue that is not addressed [here](#), please call 1-855-278-5080 or use the live-chat option at uto.asu.edu/ExperienceCenter/chat.

Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

[ACD-401 Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#), prohibits discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and veteran status. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employees or expulsion of students. Contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at (480) 965-6547, if you feel another student is harassing you based on any of the factors above; contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at (480) 965-5057 if you feel an ASU employee is harassing you based on any of the factors above.

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As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

Disruptive Student Behavior

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per the [SSM 201-10 Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#) and [SSM 104-02 Handling Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Individuals on Campus](#) policies.

Appropriate online behavior (also known as netiquette) is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board posts may be deleted by the instructor.

Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services

Course content, including lectures, are copyrighted materials. Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the conduct of the course (see [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#) for more information).

Plagiarism Statement

From ASU's Writing Programs: "Plagiarism is stealing. Whenever you borrow a phrase, sentence, paragraph — even an idea stated in your own words — from any outside source (news writing, magazine, TV show, book) without giving credit to that source, you have plagiarized. Plagiarism is cheating yourself and someone else. The consequences are severe including failure for the assignment, probable failure for the course, disciplinary referral to the dean and possible expulsion from the university. Academic integrity is expected of every individual: <https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>."

Generative AI Use

Generative AI is a technology that automates part or all of the writing/content creation process for users. Popular examples of such technologies include ChatGPT (OpenAI), Google Bard (Google), Claude (Anthropic), Wordtune (AI21 Labs), and a growing number of other tools. In this course, you may use generative AI technologies provided that the use is accounted for in the Works Cited section of your assignment. Instructions on how to cite generative AI output can be found at the [MLA Style Center](#) or the [APA Style Center](#). If you have questions about how to use generative AI to complete your assignments effectively and responsibly, please schedule a meeting with me during office hours and I will be happy to address them.

Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Students have the responsibility to understand and follow ASU's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Academic Integrity Policy](#). You may face ethical decisions during your time as a student. If you're not sure whether or not something is permitted, it is your responsibility to ask questions or find out by doing more research using the links above. Any violations in this course are subject to sanctions and will be reported to the School of Sustainability and the college or school of your major.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts [incident reports](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Integrity (also known as cheating, copying others' work, uploading your work online to encourage cheating by others, or even reusing your own work) falls under the Student Code of Conduct. Possible sanctions for violations include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), suspension, and expulsion.

Beware that some websites promote themselves as tutoring and educational resource sites, but may actually be sites that put you at risk for an academic integrity violation if you are using the services to submit work that is not your own or gain knowledge of what to expect on a quiz or exam.

Important: Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on grounds of suspected copyright infringement.

Accessibility

All students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. For information about the resources offered by ASU and the technologies commonly used in ASU Online courses, consult the following resource: [ASU Online Student Accessibility](#).

Students with Disabilities

All students requesting accommodations for disabilities must work with the [ASU Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services](#), the central location for establishing eligibility and obtaining services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

You may contact the ASU Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services at (480) 965-1234 or email directly at student.accessibility@asu.edu.

Inclusion Statement

Arizona State University is deeply committed to positioning itself as one of the great new universities by seeking to build excellence, enhance access and have an impact on our community, state, nation and the world. To do that requires our faculty and staff to reflect the intellectual, ethnic and cultural diversity of our nation and world so that our students learn from the broadest perspectives, and we engage in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues we are addressing through our scholarly activities. We recognize that race and gender historically have been markers of diversity in institutions of higher education. However, at ASU, we believe that diversity includes additional categories such as socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran status, nationality and intellectual perspective.

We welcome and respect individuals with all kinds of visible and nonvisible differences. We highly value the strengths and benefits of the diversity that students bring with them.

[The topics that we're covering in this class are sometimes socially challenging or politically charged. I challenge you to base the discussions on the disciplinary content in the course instead of your personal political/religious/spiritual beliefs, to ensure the conversations are useful to the instructional goals. I ask that you engage in discussion with respect, care and empathy for the other members in the classroom.]

Additional Information and Resources

- [College of Global Futures](#) – this course is offered through the College of Global Futures at Arizona State University. Questions about the course should first be addressed with the instructor.
 - [Career Services](#) – offers assistance to students in choosing their major, setting career goals, interviewing and job hunting strategies. Students pursuing a degree program through the School of Sustainability also have access to a [sustainability career advisor](#).
 - [Counseling Services](#) – professional counseling and crisis services for students experiencing emotional concerns, problems in adjusting, and other factors that affect their ability to achieve their academic and personal goals. Support is available 24/7 between campus locations and EMPACT's 24-hour ASU-dedicated crisis hotline.
 - [Financial Aid and Scholarship Services](#) – offers information and applications for student funding such as grants, loans, scholarships and student employment.
 - [GPA Calculator](#) – students can use this calculator to project their GPA.
 - [Libraries](#) - offers 24/7 access to librarians through "Ask a Librarian" online chat and help by librarians in person at the Reference Desk during most hours the libraries are open.
 - [Tutoring and Writing Centers](#) – provides students with academic support services such as tutoring, peer advising, computer assisted instruction, writing support, and supplemental instruction
 - [Contact Arizona State University](#) – provides frequently asked question resources and contact information for new questions.
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Technical Support Contact Information

If you are experiencing technical issues, visit the [My ASU](#) “Service Center” tab for immediate support, to review answers to frequently asked questions, or to submit a request for service.

The number for immediate assistance is 1-855-278-5080 with staff available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to help direct your call. Also see [ASU's Contact Us](#) page. Known issues and system outages will be shared on [ASU's System Health](#) site.

Students also have access to several [computing sites](#).

Syllabus Disclaimer

All syllabi are subject to minor changes to meet the needs of the instructor, school, or class. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes. Please check your ASU email and the Announcements on the course site often.