SUST 467 Building Sustainable Communities

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Catalogue Description: Course will teach students the physical design elements that are necessary to create physically, socially and economically sustainable communities.

Instructor: Roxanne Qualls  
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Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

Course will teach students the physical design elements that are necessary to create physically, socially and economically sustainable communities. Physical form, density, public/civic space, transportation and infrastructure are among the basic elements necessary for creating environmentally and socially sustainable communities and cities. All directly impact energy usage, carbon footprint, employment opportunities, business development and social cohesion. Students will learn about the public policy choices and investment decisions that either support the creation of sustainable communities and cities, or undermine such efforts.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Understand the basic elements of good urban/community form and their relationship to sustainability.
- Understand the relationship between sustainable physical design, place making and the creation of socially sustainable communities.
- Understand the relationship between public investment decisions in transportation and other infrastructure and their impact on sustainability.
- Learn about new tools that are being used to create environmentally and socially sustainable communities.

Course qualifies for elective for Economics, Sustainability, and Society (ECOS) and Sustainability: Economics and Management (SUST) majors. Graduate level course qualifies as elective for MBA degree-- Values Based Leadership Concentration and the general business concentration.

Grading:

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- 40% - Class participation
- 30% - 4:300 word reflection papers on the weeks readings and presentations
- 30% - An individual or team project that looks at initiatives/developments in the region and analyzes their environmental and social sustainability.

Readings: Examples

“A Citizens Guide to LEED for Neighborhood Development: How to Tell if Development is Smart and Green,” Rami and Associates and the Natural Resources Defense Council
Selections from *Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change*, Peter Calthorpe

**Grading:**
Final grades will be based on:
- 40% - Class participation
- 30% - 4-300 word reflection papers on the weeks readings and presentations
- 30% - An individual or team project that looks at initiatives/developments in the region and analyzes their environmental and social sustainability.

Students taking the course for graduate credit will have additional requirements and assignments appropriate to the subject matter. When possible, options will be given to apply assignments to the organizations for which they work. For example, requirements could include longer papers or presentations, case studies, additional academic sources in references and bibliographies, etc.