



## UBST 591: Capstone in Urban Studies Fall 2017

### COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Victoria Fast

Office: ES 452

Office hours: Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00

[victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca](mailto:victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca)

Section	Days	Time	Location
Lecture	Tuesday and Thursday	12:30 – 14:45	KNB 131
Seminar/lab	Monday	8:00 – 10:50	ES 342

**COURSE WEBSITE:** D2L @myUofC will be used to share course communication and contents.

**TA:** Sparkler Samar, [sparkler.samar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sparkler.samar@ucalgary.ca), office hours by appointment only.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Capstone course applying the broad interdisciplinary training of the Urban Studies Program to selected problems in urban studies. Collaborative research and analysis is stressed.

### PREREQUISITES

90 units (15.0 full-course equivalents) and admission to the Urban Studies Major or Minor.

### COURSE OBJECTIVE

This is the capstone course for Urban Studies majors and minors, dealing with sustainability and what it means in an urban context. The “key to sustainability,” according to Gwendolyn Hallsmith, is to understand the city “as a whole system... one that is composed of numerous subsystems.” The variety of subsystems that shape cities do not operate independently, rather are mutually interactive, modifying each other over time. These subsystems—economic, social, environmental, cultural, political—operate at a variety of scales, reverberating back upon the city. However, planning interventions cannot be conceived as discrete actions, rather must be considered in terms of system-wide implications.

In this course, students will study Calgary’s community model as subsystems that have critical implications for planning sustainable cities. Rooted in urbanism and sustainability theories, students will complete an applied “Active YYC” project, where students will work individually and in groups to assess, explore, and engage Calgary communities. Students will apply data gathering, analytical, community engagement, critical reflection, professionalism, and grant writing skills to propose a tactical urbanism project for the community. Partnering with the Federation of Calgary Communities to support community-engaged learning, together we will build toward a meaningful vision for individual communities.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Enhance critical thinking and reflection skills	1	3
Synthesize knowledge of urban studies theory in an applied setting	1, 2	3
Apply community engagement techniques	3, 6	3, 2
Generate a community specific proposal and grant applications	4, 5	3
Develop professional skills required to be success in the workplace	7, 8	3

PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills. Levels: (1) Introductory, (2) Intermediate, (3) Advanced.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Individual readings assigned weekly. Please check course website regularly for updates.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Course Component	Weight	Due Date & details
Assignment 1: site visit report	15%	<b>Week 5:</b> Complete a site visit and report.
Class presentation	10%	<b>Week 8.1 and 8.2:</b> Observe and engage your Community Association through their Board of Directors, and present your "Activate YYC" proposal.
Activate YYC final report & grant application	5% + 25%	<b>Week 11:</b> draft for review (5%) & <b>Week 13:</b> final (25%) Prepare a report for your community, and complete an Activate YYC proposal on behalf of your community.
Federation student evaluation	10%	<b>Ongoing:</b> Members of the Federation of Calgary Communities will evaluate the quality of your engagement and professional with them and with your assigned community.
Term Test	10%	<b>Week 12.2:</b> A short answer and critical thinking test to evaluate synthesis of course concepts.
Weekly Writing Blitzes	10% (1% per Blitz, up to 11%)	<b>Weekly:</b> A short weekly assignment, handed out in the first lecture of the week and collected during the second lecture of the week. You must be in first lecture of the week to receive blitz and second lecture of the week to hand in blitz to get credit.
Weekly Lab Participation	10%	<b>Weekly:</b> attendance, punctuality, participation, completion of lab exercise <i>when applicable</i>
Urban, Sustainability, and Community News	5%	<b>One time:</b> 5-minute presentation/discussion in lecture on relevant news story on any aspect of urban studies, sustainability, or community development.



**GRADING SYSTEM**

Grade	Grade Point Value	% grade	Description
A+	4.00	>95	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	86-94	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	80-85	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	77-79	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	74-76	Good performance
B-	2.70	70-73	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	67-69	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	64-66	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	60-63	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	1.30	56-59	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	50-55	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
F	0	<50	Failure. Did not meet course requirements

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

**POSTING OF GRADES AND PICKING-UP OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally.
- Grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access.

**POLICY REGARDING ROUNDING OF FINAL GRADES**

In an effort to be fair to all students in the class, your individual grade will not be rounded up, regardless of how close you are to a grade break. In short, the final grade breaks are hard breaks. This policy minimizes ambiguity and ensures the grading is as fair and clear as possible. For more information see the “Grade appeal and rounding policy” on D2L.

## **MISSING EXAMS**

As listed in the Deferral of final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar are illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you miss an assignment or examination and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will have one opportunity to make arrangements for the missed work. Without appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.

## **USRI**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

## **WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

## **HUMAN SUBJECTS**

Students will NOT participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects.

## **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE INFORMATION**

No restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor. Phones must be turned off during class time unless use is relevant to the class.

## **PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

The University of Calgary Calendar includes a statement on the Principles of conduct expected of all members of the University community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors and volunteers) whether on or off the University's property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html>

## **PLAGIARISM**

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students needing an accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. The procedure can be found at:

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

Students needing an accommodation based in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the appropriate Associate Dean or Department Head.

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

Students needing an Accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience).

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

*FOIP*: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STUDENT AND FACULTY REPRESENTATION**

SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca)

The students ombudsman office information can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

### **CAMPUS SAFEWALK**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.

### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca) you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)