

LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  
 COLLEGE of ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN  
 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES : FALL 2011

Professor William Allen  
COURSE SYLLABUS

**PURPOSE / DISCOURSE:**

We are all aware of the *environmental issues* facing us. As we move through the next century, the question often asked is, how will they affect us? The better question might be, how *will we*, as a profession, influence / respond to them? The issues for the most part are real. Some people contend that more emphasis is given the environment than can be justified due to the political currency they possess. There is only one planet earth. There are finite resources. The world's population continues to grow. Society has the ability to learn from observation, to ascertain causality, and to predict the probable outcome of its actions. We must, if we are to preserve our quality of life, be proactive, not reactive.

**OUR OBJECTIVES in this seminar will be three fold:**

1. Identify and understand *ENVIRONMENTAL issues* as they relate to Architecture.
  2. To understand the political and social nature of environmental issues.
  3. We will working within the framework of the environment, both social and physical, to identify solutions addressing those issues that affect the profession of architecture.
- My goal is not to indoctrinate you with my position, but rather to help you to define & support your own.

**FORMAT:**

A 2 hour Seminar, meeting once a week. SEMINAR: 1. a course of study pursued by a group of advanced students doing original research under a professor. 2. CONFERENCE. *This is according to The Merriam-Webster Dictionary.*

**POST / REPLY:**

**At the very heart of a seminar is discussion.**

**If you are posting your thoughts and replies AFTER 48 hours; they are late.**

**I will post on WEDNESDAY by noon.**

1. It is expected that you will initially post, reply within 24 hours.
2. It is expected that you reply to other POSTS within 24 hours.
3. That would require that you are pretty much finished by noon on FRIDAY unless otherwise noted.
4. Discussion Board participation is approximately 25% of your grade.

**You will;**

- 1. Read about 4 books (portions thereof)**
- 2. View 3 movies**
- 3. Develop 2 Power Point Reports**
- 4. Attend 1 off site field trip ( or visit and present one on your own)**
- 5. Participate on Discussion Board (d'BOARD)**

**CURRENT EVENTS:**

I may start a Module with an introduction of current topics from the newspaper, website, readings or periodical sources. Last winter "FRACKING" was a new topic; something that I had not planned to introduce, but became a topic of interest. You will be encouraged to either refute or support an article and show how it impacts architecture.

Discussion Board participation is a major portion of your evaluation. This is a very important part of any seminar. In order to participate, you need to SUPPORT your positions. Your comments should “add value” to the discussion.

### LEADERSHIP TRANSCRIPTS

The leadership transcript enables students to track co-curricular activities that are undertaken above-and-beyond the requirements of the LTU curriculum. The leadership transcript serves students by enhancing the leadership portfolio; providing the opportunity for a transcript of distinction; enhancing their resumes; and assisting in articulating leadership experience. It can be accessed by logging on to Banner Web and clicking the Student and Financial Aid tab. Leadership Activities is located at the bottom of the list.

### TEXTS:

There are 4 required texts. While that may seem like a lot of reading, it averages about one book every 3 weeks. Start reading now.

COLLAPSE by Jared Diamond

BREAK THROUGH by Ted Nordhaus & Michael Shellenburger

SMALL is BEAUTIFUL by E. F. Schumacher

BIOMIMICRY by Janine M Benyus

### SUGGESTED READINGS:

There is never enough time. However, I would encourage you to read both sides of issues such that you may be in a position to advance your thoughts. Here are a few interesting titles; and yes, I have read them all.

Cradle to Cradle by William McDonough & Michael Braungart

Design on the Edge by D. Orr

A Guide to Smart Growth, Edited by Jane S. Shaw & Ronald D. Utt

Green Architecture by James Wines (RECOMMENDED)

State of Fear by Michael Creighton

The Architecture of the Well-Tempered Environment, by Reyner Banham

Gray World, Green Heart, y Robert L. Thayer, Jr.

Humanscape; Environments for People, by Kaplan. Insight as to the why?

Gentle Architecture, by Malcolm Wells

Microclimate Landscape Design, by Gillespie and Brown

Climate Design, by Watson and Labs

Design With Nature, by Ian Mcharg (application of environmental considerations to land development ).

Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson. She kind of started it off.

RED HOT LIES

A Green History of the World, by Clive Pointing. Great read for those who are interested in *POLITICS* and the environment.

Brave New World

1984

### SUBJECTS:

We will look at ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES from *SOCIAL*, *PHYSICAL*, and *PERCEPTUAL* points of view. We will look at those issues from the *micro* to the *macro* aspects of the environment.

**Environmental Issues, as they impact the practice of Architecture, will be of primary focus.**

Think about:

<b>EARTH</b>	<b>HUMANITY</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>SOLUTION</b>
air	individual	pollution	zoning
land	family	progress	education
water	community	technology	conservation
vegetation	society	consumer	recycle
animals	government	explore	limits
climate		waste	technology

**PLACE TO GO; SITES TO SEE; THINGS TO FIND:**

[grist@grist.org](mailto:grist@grist.org)

<http://www.greenclips.com/>

[USGBC: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#)

Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies / Oberlin College, Ohio

[Erin Brockovich](#) : View ASAP

[A Civil Action](#): View ASAP

[The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour](#): View ASAP

**EVALUATION POLICIES:**

**Attendance (Participation) is required (posting and replying). ≈ 25%**

*This is a seminar; as such it is critical that you express yourself. I am not as concerned with your position on an issue, but rather how you present your position. Enter into discussion; challenge what is said.*

**Projects, Exercises & Assignments ≈ 65%**

MAN on the Street ≈ 5%

WN / WN ≈ 25%

Building with Historic Precedents ≈ 35%

**OTHER ≈ 10%**

You will be evaluated on the basis of projects, exercises & class **participation**. All work submitted must be of a professional quality; all sources noted. **It is required that any and all work submitted is original and that you are the author.** Plagiarism will result in an F in the course and may result in dismissal from the program.

A 15 point scale is used to designate the grade of a project.

A	B	C	D	F
15 14 13 /	12 11 10 /	09 08 07 /	06 05 04 /	03 02 01

A: Approaching professional quality: meets all criteria and exceeds in most areas.

B: Above average work: meets all criteria and exceeds in some areas.

**C: Average work: meets all the criteria.**

D: Below average work: fails to meet all the criteria.

F: Well below average work: fails to meet the primary criteria

Late projects / presentations / d'BOARD participation, will be graded down one full letter grade per week unless a written medical is provided at the time of late submission. If a project or assignment is due by 6:00 PM and it is posted at 11:00 PM, it is LATE. If you are having computer issues; as we all do, you can get one "pass" that is good for 24 hours.

**Keep your submissions below 20 MB.**

**If I ask for a Power Point Presentation, please do submit in ADOBE! Please do not submit a Power Point Show. I want to be able to view and share with the other students.**

**FIELD TRIPS**

I set up 2 field trips to Sustainable buildings.

AJL Center for Environmental Studies, Oberlin, Ohio /Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 AM / \$5  
Kresge Foundation, Troy Michigan / Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:30 PM / \$18

**Scheduled in process...** GRAM, Grand Rapids , Michigan

It is not required that you attend these trips as this is an on line course. However, it is required that you visit and photo document 2 sites of your own choosing if you cannot make the planned trip.

**You will be required to make a brief PP Presentation of your visit to share with the class. There must be at least one photo of you at the sustainable structure.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

I would start reading COLLAPSE now...

Research AJL Center for Environmental Studies at Oberlin College, Ohio, on the internet...

Take a look at Waste Not / Want Not project now. Keep a sharp eye out for materials that are "trash" and think about how you can turn them into an ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATION.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

As this is an on line course I have no office hours as such. Please know that you can e-mail me at [wallen@ltu.edu](mailto:wallen@ltu.edu). You may also call my cell phone just about any time before 8:00 PM Monday through Saturday. I welcome conversation and would rather you question before getting lost or confused.

**NOTE:**

There is a lot of reading in this course. It will be important as the readings are necessary to support your position in discussion; therefore, it is important that you get it done ASAP.

It is assumed that at the graduate level of your education you understand what constitutes cheating; what constitutes plagiarism. It is understood that neither will be tolerated. It is understood that either one is sufficient cause for failure of the course at a minimum, and / or dismissal from LTU.

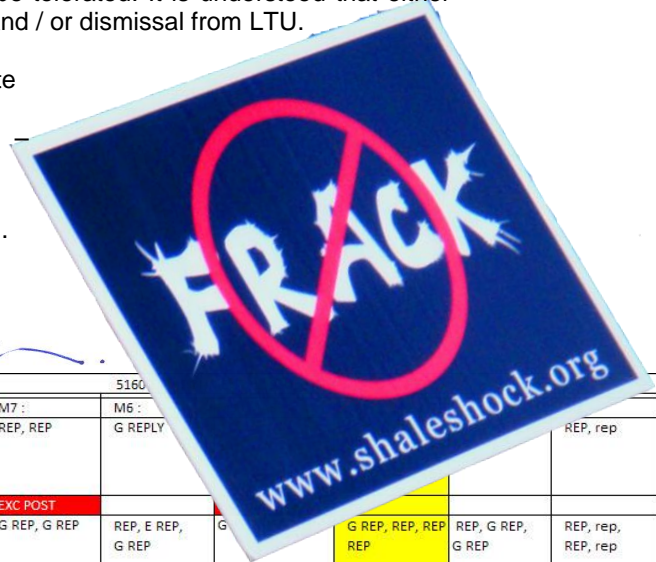
Man's greatest asset is the ability to observe, assess, anticipate and adjust.

Life is the greatest experience on the face of the earth — embrace it.

Pop some popcorn, rent a few movies and let the games begin.

Respectfully,

Will (Professor William Allen)



		VOTE	M 10 : HELP ME	M9 : SMALL JOHN	m8 :PP&F	M7 :	M6 :	5160				
20 R 7 P			REP., REP, REP		REP, G REP	REP, REP	G REPLY		REP, rep			
12 34	JODIE		POST		POST	EXC POST						
44 R 15 P			REP, REP, REP	REP, REP, REP	REP, REP, REP REP	G REP, G REP	REP, E REP, G REP	G	G REP, REP, REP REP	REP, G REP, G REP	REP, rep, REP, rep	
15 74	DUDE		E POST	G POST	G POST	EXC POST			PARENT POST			
31 R 9 P				REP	REP, REP, G REP	G REP, G REP	REP, G REP, REP REP, G REP		REP, rep	REP, REP	REP	REP, REP, REP
14 49	BIRDY			POST	POST				PARENT P	PARENT P	G PARENT P	
19 R 8 P			REP,	REP	REP, G REP	G REP	G REP, G REP	G REP		REP		
12 35	CODY		G POST	G POST	POST						G PARENT P	

PS, This is a copy of last semester's roster. You can see that I keep track of your participation on d'BOARD.