



LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES : SPRING 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 the 48 hours of the Module, they are late.

I will post on MONDAY by noon.

It is expected that you will initially post, reply will be within 24 hours.

It is expected that you reply to other POSTS within 24 hours.

That would require that you are pretty much finished by noon on WEDNESDAY unless otherwise noted.

You will be expected to;

1. Read about 4 books (portions thereof)
2. View 3 movies
3. Develop 2 Power Point Reports
4. Attend 2 off site field trips (or visit and record 2 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. Las semester "FRACKING" was a new topic; something that I had not planned, but became a topic of interest. You will be encouraged to either refute or support an article and show how it impacts architecture. Class participation is a portion of your evaluation, 15%. 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.

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.

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, by 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 & 1984

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

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:

EARTH	HUMANITY	RESULTS	SOLUTION
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

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

USGBC: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

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

GRAM / Grand Rapids Art Museum

Erin Brockovich : View ASAP

A Civil Action: View ASAP

The 11th 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 ≈ 60%

Man on the Street ≈ 10%

WN / WN ≈ 20%

Building with Historic Precedents ≈ 30%

Field Work ≈ 15% (site visits)

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 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 and there shouldn't be a problem.

FIELD TRIPS

I set up 2 field trips to buildings that are Sustainable.

1. AJL Center for Environmental Studies, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.

Tentatively set for February 25th @ 9:00 AM

2. GRAM, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan. **February 11th @ 10:00 AM**

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 site visits of your own choosing if you can not make either of the planned trips.

You will be required to make a brief PP Presentation of your visit.

There must be at least one photo of you at the sustainable structure.

RECOMMENDATION:

I would start reading COLLAPSE now...

Research Oberlin College on the internet...

CONTACT INFORMATION & OFFICE HOURS

	PROFESSOR WILLIAM ALLEN : 2011 SPRING TEACHING SCHEDULE				
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8					
9					
10					
11	POST ENV ISSUES				
12			OFFICCE		
1					
2	VIS COM 2 RM A 225 2:00 - 4:40 PM		VIS COM 2 RM A 225 2:00 - 4:40 PM		
3					
4					
5	OFFICE		OCC		
6					
7	ENV ISSUES T 329 7:10 - 9:00				
8					
9					
OFFICE T-433 / E-MAIL WALLEN@LTU.EDU					

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)

