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 CREDIT HOUR SEMINAR, posting 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.

You will be expected to;
1. Read 6 books (portions)
2. View 3 movies
3. Develop 2 Power Point Reports
4. Complete 1 or 2 exercises
5. Attend 2 off site field trips (either on your own or with the class)
6. Participate on Discussion Board

CURRENT EVENTS:
I may start each MODULE with an introduction of current topics from the newspaper or periodical sources. You will be encouraged to either refute or support the article and show how it impacts architecture. Class participation will be a portion of your evaluation. This is a very important part of this seminar. In order to participate, you need to have more than opinions.

TEXTS:
There are six required texts. While that may seem like a lot of reading, it averages about one book every 3 weeks. Start reading COLLAPSE by Jared Diamond now.

COLLAPSE by Jared Diamond
Break Through by Ted Nordhaus & Michael Shellenberg
SMALL is BEAUTIFUL by E. F. Schumacher
Cradle to Cradle by William McDonough & Michael Braungart
Biomimicry by Janine M Benyus
Design on the Edge by D. Orr
SUGGESTED READINGS:

- A Guide to Smart Growth, Edited by Jane S. Shaw & Ronald D. Utt
- Green Architecture by James Wines (RECOMMENDED)
- State of Fear by Michael Crichton
- The Architecture of the Well-Tempered Environment, by Reyner Banham
- Gray World, Green Heart, by Robert L. Thayer, Jr.
- RED HOT LIES
- 1984
- 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.
- Environmental Overkill, by Dixy Lee Ray, And now for the conservative point of view.
- The Way Things Ought To Be, by "Need I Say"
- Trashing the Planet, by Dixy Lee Ray, And now for more of the story.

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.

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
GRAM (Grand Rapids Art Museum)
Kresge Foundation

- Erin Brockovich: View now
- A Civil Action: View now
- The 11th Hour: View now

GRADING POLICIES:

- Participation (POSTING / REPLYING). ≈ 35%
- Projects, Exercises & Assignments ≈ 55%
- Other ≈ 10%

You will be evaluated on the basis of projects, and DB participation. All work submitted must be of a professional quality. It is required that any and all work submitted is original and that you are the author.
A 15 point scale is used to designate the grade of a project.

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.

All late projects will be graded down one letter grade per class period late.
Graphics and clarity of presentation are an important consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:
I would start reading COLLAPSE now...
Research Oberlin College on the internet…
Research KRESE FOUNDATION in Troy, Michigan on the internet...

NOTE:
There is a lot of reading in this seminar. It will be important as the readings are necessary to support your position on the Discussion Board; 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.

It is important that a flow of dialogue is maintained; to that end, if you have any questions, comments and/or concerns, PLEASE contact me via CELL; 248 670 1130 or e-mail. Do not get lost.

After you have read the syllabus please e-mail me at ALLEN@LTU.EDU.

Respectfully, Will (Professor William Allen)

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