
SOC 3460/7160: Building a Community Commons

Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba

Summer Term/2014 (6 Credit Hours)

Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Evan Bowness, MA	Cell #: _____
Contact:	evan.bowness@umanitoba.ca	
Office:	301-I Isbister Building / ph: (204) 474-8875	
Office Hours:	By appointment only.	
Course Website:	via https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com (D2L)	
Pre-Course Meeting:	Monday, July 7, 7:00 – 9:00 PM Room 202 Isbister Building (Fort Garry Campus)	
Class Schedule:	July 21 - August 1 Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM (some days longer) + Participation Activities (see below)	
Class Location:	Riverview Community Centre (RVCC), 90 Ashland Ave. Note: Always arrive at RVCC 15 minutes before class begins	
Teaching Assistant:	Sarah Carson. e: umcarsos@cc.umanitoba.ca	

Course Overview:

Welcome to *Building A Commons!* This community-based experiential-learning course is about grassroots organizing. We'll visit ecological garden sites and work on a design for the 'Darling Permaculture Park' – the vision of a future food forest commons in the South Osborne Community. We'll host a film screening and community consultation open house, and learn about how to garner neighbourhood support. We'll write grant applications and make short promotional videos. And we'll install a permaculture demonstration site 'in the field' – this year's project is an expansion of the South Osborne Community Orchard. The course is set up to build on what students in the course started last year, and then you'll pass off the torch to next year's students.

Course Readings

Required: Hemenway, Toby. (2000 , 2009 reprint). *Gia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture*. Second Ed. Chelsea Green.

Other required readings will be made available through D2L.

Community Partner Organization

Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative Inc. (SSOCC)

SSOCC is a non-profit community-service cooperative with the vision of a culture of sustainability and resilience in the neighborhood and beyond.

Website: www.SustainableSouthOsborne.com

Learn everything you can about this organization before the course starts.

Experiential Learning

This class is 'applied' in nature. The core objective is making change. There are a few ways in which you'll 'learn by doing':

We will be outside 'building' an urban permaculture site – rain or shine, dress appropriately.

This course involves action-oriented group projects. Your projects will be used to promote the community partner organizations, the South Osborne Permaculture site, and the course in subsequent years.

There are also a number of course participation activities outside of the regular class time (see below).

Class Schedule

A detailed class schedule will be distributed during the Pre-Course Meeting. Note: There are evening sessions on **July 21 and 24**, and **July 22** is a field trip to the Harvest Moon Learning Centre in Clearwater MB (we will be returning later in the evening).

Assignments and Grading

- Group Project (40%)

Part 1 (20%): Due July 26
Part 2 (20%): Due August 8

- Participation (40 %)

Self-Evaluations (10%): Due July 25 and August 1
Peer-Evaluations (10%): Due August 8
Course Participation Activities (20%)

SOC 3460: Evaluation for UNDERGRADUATE students ONLY:

- Journal (20 %)

Part 1 (10%): Due July 25
Part 2 (10%): Due August 4

SOC 7160: Evaluation for GRADUATE students ONLY:

- Journal (10 %)

Part 1 (5%): Due July 25
Part 2 (5%): Due August 4

- Individual Project (10 %)

Proposal (5%): Due July 25
Project (5%): Due August 8

Note: Detailed assignment descriptions will be distributed at the Pre-Course Meeting.

Final Grades:

A+= 90-100%	C+ = 65-69%
A = 80-89%	C = 60-64%
B+ = 75-79%	D = 50-59%
B = 70-74%	F = Below 50%

Note: Rounding up is at instructor discretion

Course Participation Activities & VolunteerSpot

This course involves 'Participation Activities' that take place outside of the regular class time and count for participation marks (20% of your final grade).

There are 3 mandatory activities (each worth 5%). They include: a session in the People Garden, a Film Making workshop, and a day of site prep at the Community Orchard. There are also a number of 'Option' activities to pick from (you need to select at least 4 of these to get the remaining 5%).

To get marks for the participation activities, you have to sign up for them using VolunteerSpot (see below). You also have to leave a signature when you complete the activity in one of the Course Participation Activity Binders.

IMPORTANT: Unless you do both sign up through VolunteerSpot and leave a signature in the binder, you won't get credit. It's as simple as that – and there are no exceptions to this.

How to use VolunteerSpot:

1. Go to our VolunteerSpot page: <http://vols.pt/BMC2Sd>
2. Follow the links to each of the Course Participation Activities.
3. For each one, enter your email address (you will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot).
4. Sign up! Choose your spots (don't forget to click 'Save'). VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation. Easy! You'll also get a reminder e-mail two days before each activity that you've signed up for so be sure to watch your e-mail account.

Note: there are various dates to choose for each activity, but space is limited. So it's in your best interest to sign up for these sessions early.

Submission Guidelines for Written Assignments:

All written assignments are to be submitted through D2L – see the assignment descriptions for specific submission instructions. **DO NOT HAND IN HARD COPIES OR E-MAIL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS.**

Other Considerations:

Conduct: Come to class having read the assigned readings and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Be respectful to classmates and the instructor – disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify me at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

Keep an Open Mind: Sociology can be a frustrating business – it often requires us to face the root of misconceptions that we hold about the social world. Be open to taking on a diversity of perspectives. Challenge your own thinking. Recognize that society shapes culture and consciousness, and expect to evaluate, scrutinize and reflect on your thoughts and actions which might otherwise go unquestioned.

Late/ Missed Assignments: Assignments submitted after the deadline without permission from the instructor will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends and holidays.

Extensions: I am open to granting extensions for assignments where they are warranted. Note that documentation (such as a doctor's notes) will usually be required. I will not entertain requests for extensions after the fact – you have to make your request in advance of the deadline in question.

Unclaimed Term Work Disposal: Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

Missed Sessions: Unexcused absences will not be tolerated – unless you've cleared it with me or if you have documentation of an emergency, if you miss a class you will be subject to a penalty of at least 10%. This will be strictly enforced.

Note on VW Deadlines: The last day to drop the class with a 100% refund is July 22nd, 2014; the last day to VW with no refund is July 29th.

Special Needs: Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should discreetly identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

Religious Holidays: The University recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance with at least two weeks' notice.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html>. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.
