

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology
SOC 3460 (T02 and T03) and SOC 7160 (T01 and T02)

Building a Community Commons: Urban Permaculture in Practice

Summer/2013 (6 Credit Hours)

July 22nd – August 2nd, 2013

Instructor: Evan Bowness, MA
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Course Websites: www.sustainablesouthosborne.com/permaculture
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/>
Class Schedule: Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM + Optional Activities
Pre-Course Meeting: July 8th, 2013 @ 202 Isbister Building 7:00 – 9:30 pm
Class Locations: Room 202 Isbister Building
Riverview Community Centre, 90 Ashland Ave.
Lord Roberts Community Centre, 725 Kylemore Ave.
NOTE: A detailed schedule the exact location of each class will be distributed at the pre course meeting
Teaching Assistant: Sarah Carson. e: umcarsos@cc.umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: By appointment only.

Course Overview:

Welcome to *Building a Community Commons*! The course begins with an in-class introduction to ecological and social challenges (related to industrialization, global trade, resource scarcity, pollution, etc.). From there we'll discuss the possibilities of localized grassroots-solutions, and narrow in on food production and Urban Permaculture as a means of building community capacity and resilience. The remainder of the course is applied: as a class, we'll design an urban permaculture site, working through the processes of community consultation, finding funding, advertising and soliciting community participation. During the second week of the course, we'll build a community permaculture garden 'in the field' – this year's site is located at Riverview Community Centre. This course is unique in that it provides both students and the community a tangible and rewarding final product: an urban permaculture commons.

Course Readings

Required: Holmgren, David. (2002, 2011 reprint). *Permaculture: Principles & Pathways Beyond Sustainability*. Holmgren Design Services.

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

Recommended: Hopkins, Rob. (2011). *Transition Companion: Making Your Community More Resilient in Uncertain Times*. Green Books.

Recommended: Aranya (2012). *Permaculture Design: A Step-by-Step Guide* Permanent Publications.

Recommended: Mars, Ross (1996, 2003). *The Basics of Permaculture Design* Chelsea Green.

Community Partner Organization

Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative Inc.

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

The co-op has identified the following key activity areas: transportation, food, energy, education, conservation and the enhancement of biodiversity, and material (waste) management.

Website: www.SustainableSouthOsborne.com

Focus on Applied Learning

This is an applied course. Some of the class happens on campus in a classroom, other parts of the course happen out in the community. The core objective is learning to make change in the world and to change ourselves. This course provides an opportunity to 'adapt to energy descent' in a way that is more ecologically conscious, deliberate, mindful and respectful. A large part of this process will be outside 'building' an urban permaculture site – dress appropriately and we'll be 'applying' these skills, rain or shine. This course also involves action-oriented group projects. These projects will be used to promote the community partner organizations, the South Osborne Permaculture site, and the course itself in subsequent years. The required 'course work' will make a difference, so be sure to take it seriously!

Assignments and Grading

*Detailed descriptions of all assignments will be distributed in separate handouts.

SOC 3460: Evaluation for UNDERGRADUATE students:

- Written Reflection Assignments (40 %)
First WRA (20%): Due July 24th 2013.
Second WRA (20%): Due July 31st 2013.
- Group Project (40%)
Group Project – Part 1 (20%): Due July 26th 2013.
Group Project – Part 2 (20%): Due August 5th 2013.
- Participation (20 %)

SOC 7160: Evaluation for GRADUATE students:

- Course Paper (40%)
Course Paper Outline (20%): Due July 24th 2013.
Course Paper (20%): Due August 5th 2013.
- Group Project (40%)
Group Project – Part 1 (20%): Due July 26th 2013.
Group Project – Part 2 (20%): Due August 5th 2013.
- Participation (20 %)

Final Grades:

A+= 90-100%	C+ = 65-69.5%
A = 80-89.5%	C = 60-64.5%
B+ = 75-79.5%	D = 50-59.5%
B = 70-74.5%	F = Below 50%

Submission Guidelines for Written Assignments:

All written assignments are to be submitted through the course website. A handout detailing the procedure for uploading files will be distributed at the pre-course meeting. Follow the instructions carefully! Failure to do so will result in a loss of marks.

Other Considerations:

Conduct: Come to class having read the assigned readings for the week and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Be respectful to classmates and the instructor -- continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor 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 reevaluate, scrutinize and reflect on your thoughts and actions, which might otherwise go unquestioned.

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.

Note on VW Deadlines: The last day to drop the class with a 100% refund is July 23rd, 2013; the last day to VW with no refund is July 30th.

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, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance and at least three-weeks' notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

NOTE: Students should acquaint themselves with the online University of Manitoba Academic Calendar and Catalog: <http://umanitoba.ca/calendar> and refer to the section on General Academic Regulation: Section 5 - Academic Evaluation: Personation at Examinations (Section 5.2.9) and Section 8 - Academic Integrity - Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 8.1)