



COURSE OUTLINE			
TERM: FALL 2022	COURSE NO: GEOG 355		
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Urban Ecology		
OFFICE: LOCAL:	SECTION NO:	CREDITS: 3.0	
E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca			
OFFICE HOURS:			
COURSE WEBSITE:			

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three instructional hours and an additional hour delivered through other activities, per week for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITE

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

To obtain a greater understanding of cities, this course will embrace an interdisciplinary approach to real world urban ecological problems by bridging the gap between natural and social sciences and Indigenous ways of being. Students will learn how cities function as social-ecological systems and explore relevant theories and knowledge from natural science ecology, planning, geography, and history. The course will include intensive engagement, discussion, and debate with the subject matter as we tackle many crucial urban issues of our time: sustainability, biodiversity, air quality, brownfields, food procurement, acoustic ecology, and climate change.

COURSE NOTES

GEOG 355 is an approved Science course.

GEOG 355 is an approved Science and Technology course for Cap Core requirements.

GEOG 355 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Parris, Kirsten M. 2016 [Ecology of Urban Environments](#) Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

Additional course readings will be provided by the instructor.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how and why humans are components of urban ecosystems.
- Develop a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of urban ecology and its relevance to science, society, and the environment.
- Report and categorize how urban ecosystems function, the response of plants and animal to urban environments, the ecology of community interactions in urban systems, and how urban areas affect local, regional, and global biodiversity patterns.

- Discuss, interpret, and synthesize primary literature on urban ecology.
- Effectively communicate with specific audiences regarding cities and their environs, and related innovations in environmental governance.
- Explore relationships between urban ecology and diverse human populations, including but not limited to population characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
- Make ecologically informed decisions about societal issues related to urban areas.

Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.
- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Apply concepts of sustainable development to address sustainability challenges in a global context.

Students who complete this Science and Technology course will be able to do the following:

- Apply numerical and computational strategies to solve problems.
- Assess the impacts of human activity on natural systems and articulate ways in which environmental sustainability may be achieved.
- Evaluate scientific information (e.g., distinguish primary and secondary sources, assess credibility and validity of information).
- Explain how scientific inquiry is based on investigation of evidence and evolves based on new findings.

COURSE CONTENT

The following information provides a general topic guide to the lecture topics for the course.

Weeks	Topics	Readings
1	Introduction	
2	Primary biophysical processes in cities	Chapters 1, 2
3	Population and species responses in cities; Indigenous impacts and responses	Chapters 3, 6
4	Global drivers and trade-offs in urban ecosystems	Supplemental reading.
5	Natural cities; unnatural energy	Supplemental reading.
6	Urban hydrology	Chapter 5
7	Climate change and cities	Chapter 2
8	Food procurement in cities	Chapters 2, 4
9	Conservation and preservation	Chapters 4, 7
10	Children and nature in the city	Supplemental reading.
11	Acoustic ecology and urban soundscapes in cities	Supplemental reading.
12	Conclusion: In search of the natural city	Chapter 8
13	Review week	
14-15	Final Exam period	

EVALUATION PROFILE

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Field trip assignment	10%
Term Assignment	30%
TOTAL	100%

NOTE: In order to pass the course, students must receive at least 50% on both the final exam and the term assignment.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments for in-person classes are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. Assignments for online courses are due by the date and time indicated on eLearn. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and participate in all course activities. If you encounter any issues with attendance, please contact your instructor.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Faculty may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may not use electronic devices during exams unless permitted by the instructor.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Tools for Success

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.