<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class code</th>
<th>ENVST-UA 9450002</th>
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| Instructor Details | Name: Richard Ingersoll  
Email Address: rji1@nyu.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday 9-10:30 am, or by appointment  
To be arranged:  
For fieldtrips refer to the email with trip instructions and trip assistant’s cell phone number |
| Class Details | Semester: Spring 2013  
Full Title of Course: Sustainable Urbanism in Europe  
Meeting Days and Times: Tuesdays 10:30-13:15  
Classroom Location: to be arranged |
| Prerequisites | none |
| Class Description | European cities are generally more sustainable in terms of resources and waste than their American counterparts. The ecological footprint, that is, the proportion of material and energy consumed for the daily needs of a single person, ranks a third to 50% less, while the quality of life rates higher. This difference derives partly from the pre-industrial origins of European cities and partly from a conscientious effort by politicians and administrators to encourage alternatives that reduce greenhouse gases. While laws, techniques, and design have a lot to do with the difference, lifestyle is perhaps the strongest factor: European habits of movement, dining, and work tend to weigh less heavily in the balance of entropy (the dissipation of energy and matter). During the semester we will pursue three methods of study. The first involves exploring in a critical manner the range of secondary sources concerning the history, social dimensions, and scientific premises concerning ecological awareness. The humanist aspect of ecological thought extends back to the ancient Roman philosopher Lucretius, while the legal, quantitative, and scientific parameters detailing energy sources and uses, transportation alternatives and efficiencies, hydrological and soil conservation, and residential patterns begin in the late 19th century but are almost always contemporary, often better served by internet. The second method requires each student to develop a case study, becoming an expert on one factor of sustainability in one |
particularly well organized European city, such as recycling in Stockholm, public transportation in Munich, solar energy in Freiburg, cycle paths in Barcelona, and so on. The third method involves participation in the tabulation of a full range of factors in an overall Urban Sustainability Index that can be applied to any city (including Florence), a project that began at the Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona and is open to fuller applications by this course and others like it.

The course includes three site visits in Florence: to the WWF wildlife Oasis at Campi Bisenzio, the new tram system, and the urban agriculture movement. There will be a weekend trip to Freiberg (Germany) one of the most demonstrably sustainable cities in the world, a day trip to the world’s first thermal energy plant at Larderello, and another day trip to Ferrara, the one Italian city where bicycles outnumber automobiles. The class will meet twice weekly, once for lecture and once for seminar.

Desired Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should:

- A comparative knowledge of the issues and ethics of sustainability
- A critical purview of urbanism in 20th-21st-century Europe
- active research on the application of sustainable policies

Students will come away with an improved awareness of the physical and social impact of European policies, strategies, and designs executed in the name of sustainability. They will also analyze ways of life at very close range, including the measurement of their own ecological footprint, before and after. The seminar component of the course concentrates on the student’s research and will prepare them to communicate and debate about the complexity of the problems and the complexity of the solutions. Students will explore details in the move toward sustainability, which has required a great deal of creativity applied to policy-making and design interventions in European cities. The three methods will be valuable in approaching the question of sustainability elsewhere. The participation in the Sustainability Index is meant to channel the broad scope of the course toward a useful quantitative application in a comparative system. Although the material of the course comprehends issues pertaining to environmental sciences, politics, urban planning, and architecture, it maintains on a strong humanistic approach that necessarily cuts across fields.

Assessment Components

Attendance and participation 10%

1) a critical analysis of a scientific or historical text pertaining to the awareness of sustainability (20%).

2) Teams of students will choose one European city of proven good reputation for sustainability and present their analysis, using innovative graphics; each student must specialize in a factor, knowing its global as well as local dimensions (30%).

3) Students will also be required to make two short presentations during
seminars or site visits (20%).

4) There will be midterm test (10%)

5) For the final each student will present a strategy based on research and examples considered during the course (20%).

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<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
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| **Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays/exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

| **Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy

| **Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement

| **Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research

| **Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible

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| A=94-100
| A-=90-93
| B+=87-89
| B=84-86
| B-=80-83
| C+=77-79
| C=74-76
| C-=70-73
| D+=67-69
| D=65-66
| F=below 65

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| The grades reflect the student’s ability to write and to speak about the issues discussed in class.

| The midterm will consist of five essay questions based on the lectures and reading.

| The oral presentations must be supported with an annotated outline and bibliography and will be judged in terms of clarity of presentation and capacity for synthesis.

| The papers involve secondary and primary research (such as interviews) and must include bibliography and footnotes.

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<th>Attendance Policy</th>
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| **Attendance:** Attendance is expected and required of all students. Any unexcused absences will negatively impact upon your course grade

| **Absences:** |
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student.

**Absence Due to Illness**
- If you are sick, please see a doctor (contact the OSL for information).
- Only a medical certificate from a local medical professional will be accepted to justify an absence due to illness.
- Within 24 hours of your return to class you must bring this note to the Office of Academic Support, located on the ground floor of Villa Ulivi. We will review the medical certificate and we will notify your faculty via email about your justified absence due to illness.
- Absences for short term illness without a medical certificate are not justified and count as unjustified absences. We will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness. We will not notify your faculty about these absences.
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences.

**Due to Religious Observance**
- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

**Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity**
- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by NYU Florence or La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

**Late Submission of Work**
- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date.
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

**Plagiarism Policy**
- **PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:**
  The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.
In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, The faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school. Please consult the “Academic Guidelines for Success” distributed on your USB key at Check-in and on the NYU Florence Global Wiki.

For a detailed description of some possible forms of plagiarism and cheating please consult the Community Compact that you signed at Orientation, a copy of which is on the above mentioned Wiki and USB key.

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<th>Required Text(s)</th>
<th>All required readings are on the website for the course or can be obtained from professor with a USB key</th>
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| Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library or available on line) | Historical studies  
|---|

**Contemporary analyses**


**Design Culture**


Nigel Saunders, *Geothermal Energy*


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<th>Internet Research Guidelines</th>
<th>The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.</th>
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- Website: Bill McKibben 350.org
| Additional Required Equipment | Art supplies or other equipment for class would go here. If none are required please list N/A |
| Session 1 | “Layers of Urban Development in Europe during the Industrial Age”  
Seminar: Plan, Adaptation, and Revision. case study, maps, plans, creative interpretations, how to read cities  
Reading: AW 16.1. Herbert Girardet, Creating sustainable Cities; Ingersoll “Proliferation of the City”  
Meeting of volunteers at Malcantone after first class 18:00 |
| Feb. 5 |  |
| Session 2 | A History of Ecology consciousness  
Seminar: De Rerum naturam, from Lucretius to Haeckel and Rudolf Steiner  
Feb 16, First site visit: WWF Oasis, Campi Bisenzio |
| Feb. 12 |  |
| Session 3 | Class meets at Malcantone  
Activism and the Environment since 1960, from Rachel Carson to the German Green Party  
Seminar: successes and failures  
Reading: Jared Diamond, Collapse; Bill McKibben, The End of Nature; and Eaarth; Club of Rome, Limits of Growth  
Feb. 23 Day trip to Larderello, geothermal plant |
| Feb. 19 |  |
| Session 4 | The Garden City Paradigm  
Seminar: case studies in UK, Sweden, Holland, Italy  
Readings: Ebenezer Howard, Tomorrow; Fishman, Robert (1982) Urban Utopias in the Twentieth Century |
| Feb 26 |  |
| Session 5 | Sprawl and advanced consumerism  
Seminar: second site visit, tram to Scandicci  
Readings: Ingersoll, “Eurosprawl”, T. Sieverts, Cities without Cities |
<p>| Mar. 5 |  |</p>
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<th>Session 6</th>
<th>Mar. 8</th>
<th>day trip Ferrara</th>
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| Session 7 | March 12| Transportation, urban form, and energy budgets. 1800-2000  
Seminar: contradictory imperatives, speed up development, slow down movement  
Weekend day trip: Ferrara |
| Session 8 | March 19| Midterm reports |
| Session 9 | April 2 | Sustainability Index for European Cities. Wacknagel's “Ecological Footprint”  
Seminar: quantitative approaches to often immeasurable factors.  
| Session 10| April 9 | Conservation of water and land; renewal of brownfield sites  
Seminar: third Site visit to Malcantone  
Readings: Ingersoll, “Agricivismo” |
| Session 11| April 16| Energy use, waste, and alternatives. Geothermal, photovoltaic, eolian, biomass.  
Reading: Nigel Saunders, *Geothermal Energy*  
April 19-22, Weekend trip to Freiburg and Basel |
| Session 12| April 23| Sustainable Cities Index applied to Stockholm, Munich, Barcelona, Bolzano  
Seminar:  
Readings: Beatley, Timothy, *Green Urbanism, Learning from European Cities*  
Reducing consumption, changing lifestyles  
Seminar: technology versus propaganda  
Readings: Lovins, *Natural Capitalism*; McDonnough, *Cradle to Cradle*; Thackara, *In the Bubble.* |
| Session 13| May 7  | The political panorama in the shadow of ecological catastrophes.  
Seminar: Kyoto Accords, Rio Agenda 21, Durban 2011  
Presentations at Malcantone |
| Session 14| May 14 | presentations |
### Session 15
### May 21

#### Classroom Etiquette

[P lease use this standard text]

- Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings.

#### Required Co-curricular Activities

[Field trip and site visit dates may be consolidated here as well as listed under the appropriate class session above]

#### Suggested Co-curricular Activities

[Here you can refer students to the NYU Calendar of events or simply state the following]

“Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.”