

PA 3382 / SOC 3382  
**Public Administration**  
Fall 2015

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**Contact Information**

**Instructor:** John McCaskill, Ph.D.

**Meetings:** Tuesday & Thursday: 2:30 pm – 3:15 pm CB3 1.306

**Office:** GR 2.204

**Email Address:** [john.mccaskill@utdallas.edu](mailto:john.mccaskill@utdallas.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm and by appointment.

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**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

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**Course Description**

This course will survey the following topics in public policy and environmental justice: climate change, loss of habitat and biodiversity, water security, and the effects of new technologies. We will examine policy issues in light of the challenges faced by societies to balance the needs of all stakeholders in terms of economic, social, and environmental impacts; e.g., the triple bottom line. Emphasis is placed upon gaining an understanding of the elements of environmental justice and their impacts on different sectors of society through multiple ethical paradigms.

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes.** Students will be able to:

1. Relate the study of sustainability to what they see in their day to day lives.
  2. Differentiate the basic concepts, structures, and key issues associated with the study of sustainability.
  3. Demonstrate improved ability to reason analytically and present analysis cogently both as individuals and as part of a group.
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**Required Textbooks and Materials**

Ostrom, Elinor. 2011. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*

\*Additional reading will be assigned in class.

USGBC. 2015. *LEED Core Concepts Guide*. This reference can be found at:

<http://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-core-concepts-guide>

**Recommended:** Study Bundle: *LEED Green Associate Exam Preparation Guide, LEED v4 Edition* and *LEED Core Concepts Guide*. This reference can be found at:

<http://www.usgbc.org/resources/study-bundle-leed-green-associate-exam-preparation-guide-leed-v4-edition-and-leed-core-con>.

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**Assignments & Academic Calendar**

Aug 25	Course introduction and syllabus distribution
Aug 27	Ostrom Chapter 1 “Reflections on the Commons”
Sep 1 & 3	USGBC Core Concepts Guide Sections 1 & 2 “Introduction to Sustainable Thinking”
Sep 8 & 10	USGBC Core Concepts Guide Sections 3 & 4 “Green Building”
Sep 15 & 17	USGBC Core Concepts Guide Section 5 & Conclusion; LEED Green Associates Handbook (all) “About USGBC and LEED”
Sep 22 & 24	<b>CPR Group Project Discussion &amp; Exam Review / Exam</b>
Sep 29 & Oct 1	Ostrom Chapter 2 “Self-organization and Self-governance in CPRs”

Oct 6 & 8	<b>Sustainability Tour / Speakers</b>
Oct 13 & 15	Ostrom Chapter 3 “Analyzing Long-enduring Self-organization and Self-governance CPRs”: <b>Reflection 1 due 10/13</b>
Oct 20 & 22	Ostrom Chapter 3 cont.: <b>Group Assignments 10/20</b>
Oct 27 & 29	Ostrom Chapter 6 “A Framework for Analysis”
Nov 3 & 5	Ostrom Chapter 4 “Analyzing Institutional Change”: <b>Submit Group CPR Selection 11/3</b>
Nov 10 & 12	Ostrum Chapter 4 cont.
Nov 17 & 19	Ostrum Chapter 5 “Analyzing Failures in CPR Governance”
Nov 24 & 26	<b>Fall Break!</b>
Dec 1 & 3	Sustainability Articles [found on eLearning] “CPRs are Everywhere!”
Dec 8	<b>CPR Analysis Group Presentations &amp; Write-ups Due</b>

### Grading Policy

Exam	25%
Reflection	15%
Group Presentation	25%
CPR Group Analysis Write-up	10%
Ostrom Chapter Summary	15%
Attendance	10%

A = 94-100	C+ = 77-79
A- = 90-93	C = 73-76
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72
B = 83-86	D = 65-69
B- = 80-82	F = <65

**Class Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to attend all classes and to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Students who do not attend classes and do not participate in class discussions may not receive an “A” for their final course grade.

**Exam:** The exam will consist of matching, fill-in-the-blank, and two short-answer questions. Students may use one 5” X 8” note card, *but not textbooks or other notes*, during the exam.

**Group Presentation and Write-up:** Groups of 4 to 5 students will utilize Ostrom’s 8 rules for governing a commons to analyze a “common pooled resource” of their choosing. Presentations should be 15 minutes. Write-ups should be 1,000 to 1,200 words in length and comply with the expectations and requirements stated in the “Writing Expectations” section. Specifics will be discussed in class on Sep 22.

**Reflections:** We will have guest lecturers and a campus tour relating to sustainability. You will need to submit a reflection of your thoughts regarding these activities. Your summary should be submitted in eLearning by 11:00 PM on the date assigned. The reflection should be 300-600 words in length and comply with the expectations and requirements stated in the “Writing Expectations” section.

**Reading Summary:** During this course, we will cover 6 chapters from the Ostrom text and you will need to choose 1 chapter to summarize. Your summary should be submitted in eLearning by the beginning of class on the Tuesday of the week they are covered in class. The summaries should be 300-600 words in length and comply with the expectations and requirements stated in the “Writing Expectations” section.

## **Writing Assignment Expectations and Requirements**

All assignments will be graded based on the student's ability to effectively communicate his or her understanding of a subject. Students must clearly demonstrate that they understand the assigned material and apply their own critical thinking to the course subject matter in order to place the theories and issues of sustainability in context. There will be no extra credit assignments.

All papers should be written in 12 point font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced. Margins should be 1 inch on all sides and the paper should include page numbers on the bottom center of each page. Please include your name, date, and title of the assignment in the header of your paper. Proper citation of all sources is required. The Public Affairs program requires that all written work follow the Turabian format, which can be found in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Kate Turabian's book, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Please use the Reference list style, which is found in chapters 18 and 19.

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## **GENERAL POLICIES**

For UT Dallas policy related to the following go to: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

**Field Trip Policies / Student Conduct & Discipline / Academic Integrity / Email Use / Withdrawal from Class / Student grievance Procedures / Incomplete Grade Policy / Disability Services / Religious Holy Days**

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*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.*