

## **PLS 592---Sustainable Cities**

**Summer 2010**

**Milan J. Dluhy, Ph.D.**

**Office hours: Wednesday 3-5 pm or by appointment**

**Class will be located in the conference room of the Wilmington City Manager, Thalian Hall, first floor**

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**910 409-7420**

**Course Description: This course is a survey of the concept of sustainability in American cities. The focus will be on the policies and programs used in these cities and what factors influence their use.**

**Goals:**

- **To survey the knowledge base in this area**
- **To understand why some cities are more advanced than others in developing sustainability policies and programs**
- **To complete a set of recommendations to improve sustainability in selected cities**
- **To sharpen the presentation of material and recommendations to decision makers**

**Class Grade:**

- **Weekly assignments 30%**
- **Case studies 30%**
- **Final presentation 30%**
- **Class participation 10%**

**Books:**

***Simon Bell and Stephen Morse (2008), Sustainability Indicators, Earthscan: London.***

***Edward Blakely (2007), Planning Local Economic Development, Sage: Thousand Oaks, Ca.***

***Kent Portney (2003), Taking Sustainability Seriously, MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass.***

***Class Assignments and Schedule***

***May 19***

***Introduction***

***Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Productivity***

***Quality of Life and Sustainability***

***Sprawl as an Exemplar of Sustainability***

***May 26***

***What is sustainability?***

***What are the core ideas?***

***What systems are included in sustainability?***

***Read Portney 1-4, Dluhy paper, Bell and Morse, 1&2***

***Assignment: Using the reading and the internet, develop a definition of sustainability and maybe 5 core items that you would include in your conceptualization. Summarize in a power point presentation.***

## ***June 2***

***Developing indexes of sustainability***

***Review indexes of quality of life***

***Read Bell and Morse, 3,4,5***

***Assignment: Do not select index Sustainable. Select another one to present and give reasons for your selection. Present on power point.***

## ***June 9***

***What causes cities to be high on the indexes of sustainability?***

***Try to focus on the demographic and structural aspects of the city***

***We will focus on the politics later in the semester***

***Read Portney 5-8 and Dluhy paper.***

***Assignment: pick one city from the top of the sustainable index and do up a two page case study answering why that city is near the top? Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle are usually near the top of all indexes but it is your choice.***

## ***June 16***

***Economic Development and sustainability***

***Developing economic criteria for evaluating good projects***

***Which projects do you avoid***

***Is all economic development good?***

***Read Blakely 1-6, skim the rest***

***Assignment: Develop 5 criteria for evaluating economic development projects. In the review, use examples of how these criteria could be used on real projects not hypothetical ones.***

***June 23***

***Making services more efficient, effective, productive***

***Look at peer cities and best practice cities***

***Overhead***

***Recreation***

***Law enforcement***

***Fire/Rescue services***

***Waste water***

***Recycling plastics***

***Water reuse***

***Assignment: Using the internet identify 5 exemplary services that are consistent with sustainability. Give a power point presentation.***

***June 30***

***Developing an index of sustainability for Wilmington***

***Assignment: Start with the Wilmington peers but then expand to best practice, develop an index including 10 indicators with representation of the three systems. Work session will come up with a final list.***

***July 7***

***Politics and sustainability***

***Political Culture***

***Local Government structure***

***Public Regarding and Private Regarding***

***Building coalitions of support***

***Assignment: Select one of the cities near the top on the indexes and do a case study describing the political movement or leaders who have pushed sustainability. What are the main political factors?***

***July 14 and July 21***

***Final presentations on projects. Recommend 3 sustainable projects that Wilmington should use over the next 3 years. Give your justification. Make a power point presentation. Use the best cities for a frame of reference.***