

Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment  
**Sustainable Development Seminar Spring 2006**

**EMS 620**

Moderated and taught by:

**Ronald Shiffman, FAICP** [ronyvette@mac.com](mailto:ronyvette@mac.com)

Wednesday Evenings  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

The purpose of the Seminar is to expose Pratt Graduate Students and other interested parties to the issues of **sustainable development** and the interdependence and interrelationship of **sustainable development** to global, national, regional and local programs, policies and practices. The participants will engage in a series of seminar discussions based on extensive readings as well as exposed to a series of lecturers that are leaders in the field and who over the course of the semester will weave together the physical, social and economic dimensions of the subject. Participants are expected to read in preparation for each of the classes, to engage the speakers in discussion of the topics immediately following the formal presentation by the lecturer.

Readings will be gleaned from a number of sources including the Internet, newspapers, books and assigned readings. [See below]:

**Schedule of Lecturers** *[Please note Time and Date since some are different]*

**Assignment:** Prior to the commencement of class on January 25, 2005 please read Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth by Williams E. Rees, Phil Testemale, Mathis Wackernagel (Illustrator). Also read the introductory chapters and preface to State of the World 2002 [ p.xix to p50] and introductory chapters to State of the World 2005. Also print out the glossary from [http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn\\_sub.php?content=glossary](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn_sub.php?content=glossary) and review and read the section of the Ecological Footprint at <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>

- **Wednesday, January 25, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Introduction to Seminar  
**Overview of Sustainable Development: A Global / Local Perspective, -- the need for sustainable strategies.**  
Ron Shiffman

Assignment: Go to the web site of the Urban Land Institute:

[www.uli.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NOLA&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=160&ContentID=40189](http://www.uli.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NOLA&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=160&ContentID=40189) and skim through the report entitled "A Strategy for Rebuilding New Orleans –A Draft Report." Also quickly review: "Moving Beyond Recovery to Restoration and Rebirth" and other Katrina related articles on the ULI web site. Also visit the web site of the American Planning Association at <http://www.planning.org/katrina/index.htm> and read the pertinent Katrina related articles. Similarly, please go to the website of the Brookings Institution; <http://www.brookings.edu/metro/katrina.htm> and read the relevant Katrina related articles. Also go to the web sites of the **Environmental Justice Center at Clark Atlanta University** and read their article entitled **KATRINA AND THE SECOND DISASTER: A Twenty-Point Plan to Destroy Black New Orleans**

- **Wednesday, February 1, 2006 6:00-10:00 PM at the Center for Architecture**  
**A Discussion of the Planning and Environmental Impacts of Katrina and its Impact on New Orleans**  
Prof. Ron Shiffman, **Moderator and Discussion Facilitator**; Prof. Jim Dart, AIA, NJIT and Roberta Brandes Gratz, **author and journalist, presenting. Other faculty and discussants** Prof. Carmi Bee, AIA, CCNY; Prof. Debra Gans, AIA,, PRATT. **Invited guests and respondents -- Majora Carter, Lance**

**Brown, Carlton Brown, ACORN, representative, Hilary Brown, Miriam Greenberg, Amy Lessen, Mathy Stanislaus, Munsun Park, and Rudy Bryant. [Not all invitees have confirmed],**

Assignment: Prior to the commencement of class on February 8, 2006 please read **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** --The Introduction and all of Part One p.1-p.65 .In addition, A series of two lectures, which are on Video Tape, are available in the Library reference room. They are [1] An Introduction to Ecological Economics with Gaylord Nelson, Herman, Herman and John Cobb, Jr. and [2] Conversations for a Sustainable Society with Amory and Hunter Lovins, Dennis Meadows, Dana Jackson, Michael Power, Robert Gilman, David Orr, and Claudine Schneider. Also review any handouts and any article you can on smart growth strategies go to Smart Growth Network: [www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org) ., also read [http://www.rose-network.com/resources/images/Spring\\_04\\_News.pdf](http://www.rose-network.com/resources/images/Spring_04_News.pdf) and peruse <http://www.rose-network.com/>.

- **Wednesday, February 8, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Sustainable Development a Place-Based Perspective**  
Munsun Park, Planning Associate, Jonathan Rose Companies

Assignment: Prior to the commencement of class on February 15, 2006 please read **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p.67-140 also go to and review thoroughly <http://www.envisionutah.org/> and then download read and review

[http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/planen/fnp/download/LUP\\_summary\\_2001\\_mon.pdf](http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/planen/fnp/download/LUP_summary_2001_mon.pdf) .

- **Wednesday, February 15, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**The Ecological Infrastructure –**  
**Stephen Goldsmith\***, Rose Architectural Fellowships  
Formerly Planning Director, Salt Lake City Utah and Participant in Envision Utah
- **Saturday, February 18, 2006 11:00 AM –5:00 PM**  
**The Ecological Infrastructure – The European /US Berlin and New York Construction, Planning & Architecture Now**  
To be held at the Center for Architecture  
LaGuardia Place  
A comparison of development along the Spree in Berlin and the East River in New York  
**Saskia Sassen, Peter Zlonicky, Matthias Heyden, Ray Gastil, Amanda Burden, Liz Diller, Moderator:Ron Shiffman**
- **Wednesday, February 22, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**The Ecological Infrastructure – The European Context: Participatory Processes in Berlin**  
**Matthias Heyden, Architect**  
**Wednesday, February 22, 2006 8:00-10:00 PM**  
**The Ecological Infrastructure – The European Context**  
**Peter Zlonicky, Landscape Architect/ Planning Consultant – University Of Hamburg**

Assignment: Prior to the commencement of class on March 1, 2006 please read **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p.179- 198 also review any handouts and peruse Green Roofs: Ecological Design and Construction” published by Earth Pledge Foundation [p.9 –p24 and peruse the rest of the book. Also visit [www.newcivicworks.com/](http://www.newcivicworks.com/) and review carefully.

- **Wednesday, March 1, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Green Building and Infrastructure Strategies**  
**Hillary Brown\***, Architect/Principal – New Civics Works

Assignment: Prior to the commencement of class on March 8 and 15, 2006 please read **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p. 141-156 also review any handouts and catch up on previous reading assignments. Visit <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm> and read about Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Please read/download the guide at

[http://www.crossroad.to/text/articles/la21\\_198.html](http://www.crossroad.to/text/articles/la21_198.html) and visit <http://www.ssbx.org/> and explore the site in depth and carefully.

- **Wednesday, March 8, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Sustainable Development a Place Based Context /Agenda 21** –Applying the lessons to New York City and other places  
**Ron Shiffman with Majora Carter**

**Assignment: Prior** to the commencement of class on March 15, 2006 continue reading **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p293- p316 plus read and go to <http://www.earthpledge.org/WPAPERS/WPAPERS.HTM> and read the Sustainable Cities White Paper series which are all available at the Earth Pledge Web site.

- **Wednesday, March 15, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Developing Green Communities  
**Larissa Ortiz**, Formerly with Jonathan Rose Companies  
Project Planner, NYC Economic Development Corporation

**Assignment: Prior** to the conference on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> please read handouts and peruse the Earth Institute’s Web Site and become familiar with some of their relevant publications and pre-conference materials. Read in **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p.199-210 and 220-274

- **Wednesday, March 22, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
SPRING BREAK
- **Wednesday, March 28/29, 2006 Two-Day Conference**  
State of the Planet Conference '06: Is Sustainable Development Feasible  
Columbia University Earth Institute  
Roone Arledge Auditorium in Lerner Hall  
2920 Broadway [between 114<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> Streets]  
MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE –go to [www.earhinstitute.columbia.edu/sop2006/about.html](http://www.earhinstitute.columbia.edu/sop2006/about.html)

**Assignment: Read** in **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p. 157-178 and prior to the class on April 5<sup>th</sup> you should have completed reading both **Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution** by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins and **Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things** by **William McDonough, Michael Braungart.**

- **Wednesday, April 5, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Natural Capitalism: The Next Industrial Revolution and Place:  
Sustainable Land Use Policies – Eco Development Policies  
**Ron Shiffman with Jen Roth**, Planner New York Industrial retention Network
- **Wednesday, April 12, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Energy Policy and Sustainable Development**  
**Mike Bobker\***, Energy Consultant

**Assignment: Prior** to class on April 19, 2006 please read in **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** p. 87-110. and review any handouts and visit [www.transact.org](http://www.transact.org) and read a least one of their reports that are relevant to the topics discussed in this class [e.g., Second Nature [www.transact.org/report.asp?id=206](http://www.transact.org/report.asp?id=206) and/ or any other report[s]] also visit <http://www.nypirg.org/enviro/>. ]

- **Wednesday, April 19, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Development and Transportation Issues**  
**Gene Russianoff\*** – NYPIRG, Straphangers Campaign

**Assignment: Prior** to class on April 26, 2006 please read in **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** review again p 141-156 handouts and visit the web site of the Environmental Justice Center at Clark Atlanta University <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/> and read the section entitled “Learn About Environmental Justice “ and one of their reports in the section entitled “Katrina Update.”

**Wednesday, April 26, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Sustainability and Environmental Justice**  
Eddie Bautista\*, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

- **Wednesday, May 3, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Class Review and Discussion of Course and readings / Take Home exam Distributed
- **Monday, May 8, 2006 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Take Home Due

\* *To be confirmed*

### **Grading Policy**

Thirty percent [20%] of the grade will be based on class participation, forty percent [30%] of the electronic notebook, twenty percent [20%] on a 5-10 page topical briefing paper and thirty percent [30%] on the take home exam.

### **Assignments**

*Please see the assignments are due for each class. These are listed above prior to the class for which they are to be completed. I strongly suggest that you review the assignments beforehand and start on them in time to have them completed by the required date.*

1. Engage in class discussions – “dare to be dumb” and “think outside of traditional convention”. Be willing to challenge both faculty and your colleagues in class but do it in a polite, constructive and supportive manner.
2. Participants will be asked at the beginning of each class to raise current issues that they have been made aware of during the past week by reading newspapers and periodicals.
3. Participants taking the course for credit will be asked to keep an electronic digitized notebook/diary that should contain
  - a. a summary of each lecture, your impressions and key points made;
  - b. a summary of the articles and other assigned readings including a synopsis and commentary of the readings; and
  - c. any independent research you have been engaged in during the semester and
  - d. general impressions, observations, concerns and comments. These should be sent weekly to the list serve that will be established in conjunction with this seminar. An edited copy of your “digital notebook” should be emailed to me on Friday March 10, 2006 at the mid-point of the semester and the week prior to the end of the semester, Wednesday, May 3, 2006. In addition there will be a take home exam that will be handed out on May 3, 2006 and due back to me on May 8, 2006. There will be no extensions.
4. A briefing memo covering a commonly agreed to topic based on the students will be required by March 10<sup>th</sup> as part of the digital notebook submission. The briefing paper should be no less than 5 pages and no more than 10 pages in length. [e.g., a topic might focus on one of the aspects of the environmental considerations to be considered in planning for the rebuilding of New Orleans.]
5. Have fun, enjoy what you are doing and make sure you help to make this class an enjoyable and informative one.

### **Resource Links:**

- **American Planning Association:** [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)

- Aspen Institute Policy Programs: [www.aspeninstitute.org/csg/csg\\_ccb.asp](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/csg/csg_ccb.asp)
- Council For Urban Economic Development: [www.cued.org](http://www.cued.org)
- Center for Neighborhood Technology: [www.cnt.org](http://www.cnt.org)
- Center for Community Change: [www.ccc.org](http://www.ccc.org)
- **Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University:**  
<http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/>
- Future Search: [www.ctarrce.org](http://www.ctarrce.org)
- HUD, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: [www.hud.org](http://www.hud.org)
- Institute for Transportation Policy [www.itdp.org](http://www.itdp.org)
  - <http://www.itdp.org/RUL/index.html>
  - <http://www.itdp.org/ST/index.html>
- National Community Development Policy Analysis Network [NCDPAN]:  
[www.brook.edu/es/ncpan](http://www.brook.edu/es/ncpan)
- National Congress for Community Economic Development [NCCED]: [www.ncced.org](http://www.ncced.org)
- National Resource Defense Council:  
<http://www.nrdc.org/reference/default.asp>
- PICCED, the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development:  
[www.picced.org](http://www.picced.org)
- **Rocky Mountain Institute:** [www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org)
- Smart Communities Network: Creating Energy Smart Communities  
US department of Energy: <http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/buildings/gbintro.shtml>
- Smart Growth Network: [www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)
- Sustainable Development Gateway  
International Institute for Sustainable Development and the  
Sustainable Development Communications Network: <http://sdgateway.net/indepth.htm>  
<http://www.sdcn.org/>
- Sustainable Jobs Fund: [www.sjfund.org](http://www.sjfund.org)
- World Business Council: <http://www.wbcds.ch/>
- **World Watch Institute:** [www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)
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### Selected Readings:

Participants are expected to read in preparation for each of the classes and to engage the speakers in discussion of the topics immediately following the formal presentation by the lecturer.

- Selected readings will be handed out during the course of the semester.
- New York Times – The New York Times and other local newspapers should be read on a continuous basis. [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com),
- Wall Street Journal should be read on an continuous basis [www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)
- World Watch: Working for a Sustainable Community, a bimonthly Magazine of the World Watch Institute should be used as a reference and you should check the archives of past issues to find articles prior to any session concerning global and macro environmental issues. [www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)
- Sustainable Transport, a publication of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. Read prior to session concerning transportation and movement of people and goods. [www.idtp.org](http://www.idtp.org)

**Please purchase and read the following books during the course of the semester:** Others will be assigned as the course progresses.

- **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** edited by Stephen M. Wheeler and Timothy Beatley, Rutledge Urban Reader Series [ordered by the Pratt Bookshop] THIS WILL BE THE OFICIAL TEXT FOR THIS CLASS. Please purchase ASAP.
- **State of the World 2002 and 2005 - \$15.95** [Also available in PDF format for immediate downloading](#)

Featuring a Foreword by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, State of the World 2002 includes chapters on climate change, farming, toxic chemicals, sustainable tourism, population, resource conflicts and global governance, with a special focus on the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in August/September 2002.

- **Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution** by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins - \$17.95

In this groundbreaking blueprint for a new economy, three leading business visionaries explain how the world is on the verge of a new industrial revolution.

Most businesses still operate according to a world view that hasn't changed since the start of the Industrial Revolution. Then, natural resources were abundant and labor was the limiting factor of production. But now, there's a surplus of people, while natural capital--natural resources and the ecological systems that provide vital life-support services--is scarce and relatively expensive.

In this groundbreaking blueprint for a new economy, three leading business visionaries explain how the world is on the verge of a new industrial revolution. *Natural Capitalism* describes a future in which business and environmental interests increasingly overlap, and in which companies can improve their bottom lines, help solve environmental problems--and feel better about what they do--all at the same time.

Citing hundreds of compelling stories from a wide array of sectors, the book shows how to realize benefits both for today's shareholders and for future generations--and how, by firing the "unproductive tons, gallons, and kilowatt-hours," it's possible to keep the people who will foster the innovation that drives future improvement.

**Highly recommended --please contact the Rocky Mountain Institute.** 416 pages. ISBN# 0316353167 (Hard Cover), 0316353000 (Paperback). (1999) [see link above]

Also Download and peruse "[Natural Capitalism: Path to Sustainability?](#)" The text is from the Natural Capitalism PowerPoint presentation.

- **Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things** by [William McDonough](#), [Michael Braungart](#).

McDonough and Braungart (an architect and a chemist) are partners in a firm that creates ecologically intelligent designs for corporations. They argue for a shift from the cradle-to-grave model of manufacturing, in which most of the materials that go into making products end up as waste. They champion a cradle-to-cradle model, in which the materials are "circulated infinitely in industrial cycles ... without loss of quality or damage to our environment or ourselves." To order go to: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/search-handle-url/index=books&field-titleid=591257&ve-field=none/qid=/102-1500614-4252114>

- **Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth**  
by [Williams E. Rees](#), [Phil Testemale](#), [Mathis Wackernagel](#) (Illustrator)

An excellent resource book worth purchasing that describes the concept of the the "ecological footprint." Easy and quick reading. To order go to;  
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/search-handle-url/index=books&field-titleid=591257&ve-field=none/qid=/102-1500614-4252114>

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