



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University

Built Environment

SUSD0004

Sustainability and Habitability



Course Outline – Term 3, 2020

Disclaimer

Information within this document is subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle closer to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

1. COURSE STAFF

Course Contact	Paul Osmond
Email	p.osmond@unsw.edu.au

2. COURSE DETAILS

Credit Points	6 units of credit (uoc)
Workload	Approx. 150 hours including class contact hours, weekly individual and group online learning activities, readings, class preparation, and assessment activities.
Teaching Times and Location	Find details in timetable http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au

Description

This course provides an overview of the complex interrelationships between human beings and the built environment which underpin habitability (liveability, quality of life) as a dimension of sustainability. Frameworks to describe, explain and interpret these human / built environment relations and interactions at different scales are introduced and applied, drawing on current research. The course discusses the potential for policy, planning, design and management of the built environment to influence habitability across the domains of health and wellbeing; safety and security; comfort and amenity; and access, equity and community engagement. The course is structured around lectures, readings and class seminars; assessment is based on both individual and group work. SUSD0004 is a core requirement for the Built Environment (Sustainable Development) graduate programs and is an elective for other graduate programs in Built Environment and other Faculties. It is a six unit of credit course.

Aims

Sustainability may be defined as the co-evolution of socio-economic, cultural and biophysical systems to enable adaptation to change indefinitely. If sustainability is the destination, sustainable development represents a particular approach to the planning, design and management applied by humans to reach this destination. Sustainable development implies at least a “quadruple bottom line”, integrating environmental integrity, economic justice, social equity and cultural development and diversity. Habitability (liveability, quality of life) represents one indicator of sustainable development. This course aims to develop a theoretical and practical understanding of the complex interrelationships between humans and the built environment and the potential for policy, planning, design and management interventions to influence habitability (health, security,

comfort, equity...) as a dimension of sustainability. SUSD0004 complements the other core courses in the Sustainable Built Environment program which deal with the materials, energy and urban ecology aspects of sustainability, and provides a “human ecosystems” focus for students from other postgraduate coursework programs. Develop the ability to investigate and critically assess an existing built environment; and independently develop initiatives and strategies to achieve greater sustainability in that built environment.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply appropriate frameworks, models and methods to describe and explain the interactions between humans and the built environment.
2. Interpret the impact of the interactions between humans and the built environment in relation to habitability/quality of life.
3. Investigate and critically assess a place (building, park, neighbourhood) in terms of its performance as a human habitat.
4. Contribute to a team-based, multidisciplinary post-occupancy evaluation of a building with reference to the relationships between building performance and occupant wellbeing, satisfaction and productivity.
5. Develop, discuss and justify appropriate participatory policy, planning, design and/or management interventions to support the achievement of a more sustainable and habitable built environment.

3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Weight	CLOs Assessed
1. Project - Critical investigation of a place - initial proposal and report	60%	1 ,2, 3, 5
2. Project - Building post-occupancy evaluation	40%	2, 4, 5

4. COURSE IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Feedback from students is an integral part of improving courses and teaching approaches. One of the primary mechanisms of feedback is myExperience, which we strongly urge all students to complete at the end of term. Course convenors use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. This is communicated in Moodle in the myFeedback Matters page.