

FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

HOD DOCTORAL PROGRAM

✧ ASSESSMENT CONTRACT ✧

KA*703 – SYSTEMS, SOCIAL, AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



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ASSESSMENT BEGIN DATE: 1 JANUARY 2008
ASSESSMENT COMPLETION DATE: 1 APRIL 2008
AGREEMENT IS FOR CREDIT

LEARNING GOALS:

Through the course of this study, I will:

- ▶ From a systems perspective, explore variations in two distinct human settlement scales: the "city" and the "village."
- ▶ Attempt to ascribe to each of these settlement scales intrinsic, defining socio-cultural characteristics or tendencies, especially as these may influence or affect the phenomena of "community."
- ▶ Research the anticipated effects of "peak oil" on the "city" settlement pattern in particular.
- ▶ Determine necessary systemic adjustments to the "city" settlement pattern in a post-fossil-fuel era.
- ▶ Propose retrofit design solutions that establish "community" as high criteria.

READINGS: TEXTS, JOURNALS, WEB RESOURCES:

From a curriculum design and content perspective, this study of the potential for community within the contrasting contexts of "city" and "village" will be founded primarily upon the foundational works of Lewis Mumford, influenced by the Chicago School of Urban Ecology, and adapted to introduce current thinking in the fields of Urban Planning and Urban Sociology. Upon this sturdy foundation of understanding will be overlaid the current issue of fossil fuel depletion, with prescriptive solutions.

Texts:

- ▶ Appelbaum, R. (1978) *Size, growth, and U.S. cities*. New York: Praeger
- ▶ Burgess, E. and D.J. Bogue, eds. (1964) *Contributions to urban sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- ▶ Calthorpe, P. and S, Van der Ryn (1991) *Sustainable communities: A new design synthesis for cities, suburbs, towns*. New York: Random House, Inc.

- ▶ Calthorpe, P. (1993) *The next American metropolis: Ecology, community, and the American dream*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press
- ▶ Campbell, C.J. (2004) *The coming oil crisis*. London: Independent Publishers Group
- ▶ Duany, A. (2000) *Suburban nation: The rise of sprawl and the decline of the American dream*. New York: North Point Press
- ▶ Heinberg, R. (2003) *The party's over: Oil, war, and the fate of industrial societies*. Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers
- ▶ Heinberg, R. (2004) *Powerdown: Options and actions for a post-carbon world*. Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers
- ▶ Jacobs, J. (1961, 1992) *The death and life of great American cities*. New York: Vintage Books
- ▶ Jacobs, J. (1969) *The economy of cities*. New York: Random House
- ▶ Kunstler, J.H. (1993) *The geography of nowhere*. New York: Touchstone
- ▶ Kunstler, J.H. (2001) *The city in mind: Notes on the urban condition*. New York: The Free Press
- ▶ Lynch, K. (1960) *The image of the city*. Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ▶ Macionis, J.J. and V.N. Parillo (2004) *Cities and urban life, 3rd edition*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall
- ▶ Mumford, L. (1938) *The culture of cities*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company
- ▶ Mumford, L. (1961) *The city in history: Its origins, its transformations, its prospects*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World
- ▶ Mumford, L. (1934, 1963) *Technics and civilization*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World
- ▶ Mumford, L. (1963) *The highway and the city*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World
- ▶ Mumford, L. (1974) *The pentagon of power: The myth of the machine*. Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich
- ▶ Park, R.E., et al. (1925) *The city*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- ▶ Park, R.E. (1952, 1968) *Human communities: The city and human ecology*. Glencoe, IL.: Free Press
- ▶ Sanderson, S.K., ed. (1995) *Civilizations and world systems: Studying world historical change*. Walnut Creek, CA.: Altamira Press

Journals:

- ▶ Urban Affairs Quarterly
- ▶ Urban Design International
- ▶ Urban Ecology Series
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Ecological Economics

Web Resources:

<http://www.peakoil.net> - Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas

<http://culturechange.org> - a Project of the Sustainable Energy Institute

<http://www.odac-info.org> - the Oil Depletion Analysis Centre

<http://www.postcarbon.org> - Post Carbon Institute

<http://www.energybulletin.org> - No nonsense reporting

DVD Documentary:

"The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream" - Toronto, Ontario: Electric Wallpaper Film Company

LEARNING PLAN AND DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

Overview Phase: During this phase, I will become familiar with the available literature. I will begin by reading *Cities and Urban Life* - a leading up-to-date textbook for urban sociology and urban studies - so that I can become functional with prevailing terminology and theories. From there I will move on to the Mumford texts and those associated with the Chicago School of Urban Ecology. With the integration of this new "urban" knowledge into my pre-existing understanding of the "village" pattern, I will approach the recent books and articles on oil decline and its implications. I've already begun scanning the websites and recording useful data. I also will research in depth the listed journals to discover if there's been some recent publishing in this systemic, trans-disciplinary theme that I am investigating in this HOD*703 study. Finally, I will write the first part of a paper addressing some aspect of the admixture of Urban Sociology, Urban Planning, and Urban Ecology.

In-depth Phase: For the completion of this phase, I will write at least a 40-page scholarly paper detailing the results of my findings. This paper will be, in essence, a synthesis of

concepts, language, and proposals from the fields of Urban Sociology, Urban Planning, and Urban Ecology - as it may be applied to establishing and promoting "community" in a post-fossil-fuel era. Contrast of potentials at "city" and "village" scales will be explicit. This paper will be suitable for publication.

Applied Phase: For my demonstration of learning, I will use my nonprofit - Village Design Institute - to present a Design Course applying principles of Sustainable Community Design toward the retrofitting of the "city" pattern in preparation for the coming effects and consequences of "peak oil." Finished product will be in the form of maps and/or site plans that may be presentable to City Council and Planning.

SPECIFIC SCHOLAR-PRACTITIONER SKILLS TO WORK ON:

- 1) Awareness of alternative perspectives
- 2) Synthesis of ideas
- 3) Appropriate use of reference format
- 4) Appropriate use of primary and secondary references

EXPECTATION OF FACULTY ASSESSOR:

- 1) Clear and explicit communications regarding faculty expectations at the outset of this study
- 2) Reasonable expediency in evaluating materials at the scheduled completion of this study
- 3) Honest, critical, growth-directed objectivity when evaluating materials