1. Welcome

Welcome to Ecodesign for Cities and Suburbs. In this course we will show you how ecodesign has already been used for exceptional projects in many places—from Hammarby Sjöstad in Stockholm to False Creek North in Vancouver, to Battery Park City in Manhattan—as well as many smaller-scale examples that can be adopted in any community. Cities and suburbs built according to ecodesign principles, can and should become normal, instead of being just a few special examples, transforming urban development into desirable, lower-carbon, compact and walkable communities and business centres.

As this course describes specific solutions to the vexing urban challenges we all face, you will see how these ideas might be applied in your own area. You will learn the conceptual framework of ecodesign, see many real, successful examples, and come to understand the tools, processes, and techniques for ecodesign policy development and implementation. Ecodesign thinking is relevant to anyone who has a part in shaping or influencing the future of cities and suburbs – citizens, students, designers, and public officials. At the conclusion of the course, you will have the tools and strategies necessary to advocate policies and projects for a neighbourhood or urban district using the ecodesign framework.
2. Course Outline

LEARNING GOALS

In this course you will learn about:

1. The principles of ecodesign and why it is important, as a response to the current disorganized urban growth model
2. Ways to adapt to a changing climate, and ways to mitigate climate change locally
3. Policies to balance auto and airplane transportation with walking, cycling, transit and high-speed rail
4. Ways of designing urban and suburban regulations to make cities more livable and environmentally compatible
5. Strategies for designing and managing the public realm, plus Innovative arrangements and processes for implementing ecodesign

DURATION & TIME COMMITMENT

The course will run for 6 weeks. Each module consists of 6-7 lecture videos, an unmarked review quiz after set of videos, weekly ecodesign labs and assignments.

Each weekly module will include approximately 1.5 hours of video content. You can be expected to spend 3-5 hours per week watching the videos, answering the unmarked review questions, completing ecodesign labs, interactive polls and assignments.

READINGS

There are no required readings for this course. However, this book *Ecodesign for Cities and Suburbs*, by the professors of this course, Jonathan Barnett and Larry Beasley, presents other examples and detailed explanations that complement the video lectures. You can reference the book throughout the course as it captures many of the key themes and elements we discuss.

Our book is optional, but it can help deepen your understanding of ecodesign. For each week we will also refer you to other optional resources: selected books, as well as materials we think would be worth your time and can be downloaded from the internet.
# 3. Course Schedule

Do be sure to check your time zone and convert the due dates. All the times and dates listed here are UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). If you are in a time zone that will switch from "daylight time" to "standard time" (or the reverse) during our course, be sure to check when that happens for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Opening Date</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 4, UTC 16:00</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 11, UTC 16:00 Interactive Poll Ecodesign Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 11, UTC 16:00</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 18, UTC 16:00 Interactive Poll Ecodesign Lab Assignment 1 Submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 18, UTC 16:00</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 25 UTC 16:00 Interactive Poll Ecodesign Lab Assignment 1: Peer Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 25, UTC 16:00</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 2, UTC 16:00 Interactive Poll Ecodesign Lab Assignment 2 Submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 2, UTC 16:00</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 9, UTC 16:00 Interactive Poll Ecodesign Lab Assignment 3 submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 9, UTC 16:00</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 16, UTC 16:00 Assignment 3 Peer Review</td>
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4. Grading Breakdown

There is one interactive poll in each module. Both of these learning activities are graded based on your completion of them. There are also 3 assignments for you to complete in the course, each assignment will be peer or self-assessed. The review questions following each set of lecture video are not graded. There will also be a multiple-choice final exam. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecodesign Interactive Polls - 25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: The place for growth patterns which give priority to walking and transit (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: The value of constructing adaptations to climate change which is already in progress (5%)</td>
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<td>Week 3: The potential impact of driverless cars on traffic congestion (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4: Is designing a neighbourhood to include housing for people with a wide range of income levels a good objective? (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5: The most important urban design consideration for the public realm in your city or region (5%)</td>
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### Ecodesign Lab Activities - 50%

| Week 1: Evaluating your community urban design and growth, discussion (10%) |
| Weeks 2: Sharing examples of whole urban districts, discussion (10%) |
| Week 3: Transportation choices and modes, discussion (10%) |
| Week 4: Liveable places, discussion (10%) |
| Week 5: Complete streets, response map (10%) |

### Ecodesign Assignments - 25%

| Assignment 1: A proposal to deal with the impact of climate change, peer assessment (5%) |
| Assignment 2: A proposal for improving local development regulations, self-assessment (10%) |
| Assignment 3: A proposal to develop a neglected part of the city, peer assessment (10%) |
5. More About the Learning Activities

OUR APPROACH: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Just as ecodesign involves experiential planning and engaging with people where they live, we have developed this course based on experiential learning, helping you link ecodesign principles and approaches to places where you live or which you know well. As you complete the course, you will be exploring your city, community or region and seeing how the conceptual framework of ecodesign, illustrated by real, successful examples, can provide the tools, processes, and techniques for policy development and implementation, which can have a positive impact on your community. By seeing these larger issues in a familiar context, you can try out the axioms and approaches used in ecodesign, expand your understanding of where you live, and as a policy maker, an urban planner or designer, a real estate developer, or a citizen, discover and make plans to improve your community. You will also have the opportunity to learn from your peers in the course about how they are tackling design, and development problems in their regions across the globe.

Note: Although exploring your community or city is valuable, please feel free to describe or explore a city or community that you are interested in or would like to learn more about.

Each week, you will be completing two or three different tasks, each task leading to the development of an ecodesign portfolio, a collection of your work in the course that documents your learning about ecodesign, and can be a reference in the future. The types of learning activities are outlined below.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

We have included review questions throughout the course to help consolidate your understanding of the concepts that we have discussed in the videos. These questions are ungraded and you can submit your answers as many times as you would like.
INTERACTIVE POLLS

Urban design issues are all around us and as an engaged citizen, policy maker, planner or designer we are often part of discussions about priorities and approaches to the design and development of our community. Interactive polls are activities that will give you a space to share your opinion and rationale about key questions we are facing at the community level and globally.

ECODESIGN LAB ACTIVITIES

Your city can be a lab that you can use as a way to consider the urban design challenges strategies and approaches that we explore throughout the course. In each module you will be completing a single graded ecodesign lab, using a city or region as a living design laboratory. These tasks will provide a space for you to share images, diagrams, and ideas for ecodesign and receive feedback from policy makers, designers, architects, and students from throughout the world. You will also be able to see how others have approached urban design challenges in their country, region and context.

There are three types of ecodesign labs in the course:

**Ecodesign Explorations:** For these ungraded activities, you will use your notebooks to explore and reflect on different aspects of your community in relation to ecodesign. These activities will not be submitted in the course, however you may wish to include them in your ecodesign portfolio.

**Ecodesign Discussions:** For these activities you will be sharing examples and discussing the application of ecodesign in different cities and suburbs. Some of these discussions are graded and others are ungraded. This is indicated on the activity itself and in the Planning Your Week unit each week.

**Ecodesign Response Maps:** For these activities you will be sharing examples and discussing the application of ecodesign using the response map to pin your location to a Google map. Some of these map activities are graded and others are ungraded.
ECODESIGN ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the course, you will be completing three ecodesign assignments. In these assignments, you will apply your knowledge of ecodesign and develop detailed plans for your city or a city you are interested in. These will be peer and self-evaluated based on the included criteria.

ECODESIGN PORTFOLIO

You will be developing your ecodesign portfolio throughout the course. This portfolio will allow you to collect artifacts showing your understanding and application of ecodesign during the course. At the end of the course, you can use your portfolio as a way to share your knowledge of ecodesign, and integrate ecodesign into your practice and contribute to your discussions about the application of sustainable and livable design in your community. This is an ungraded and optional activity that you may wish to develop throughout the course.

*What is an ecodesign portfolio?*

Your ecodesign portfolio is an organized collection of resources that you gather as you complete the course. You can use a binder, a document or a web-space to collect these materials depending on your goals. This portfolio will serve as an archive and a resource for you and is an optional course task. *Note the portfolio is ungraded and optional.*

*Why develop an ecodesign portfolio?*

As you complete this course and learn ways that environmental considerations can guide city design and make cities more livable, creating a portfolio will enable you to organize and share your understanding of ecodesign. This portfolio will become your private resource of examples, references and approaches to livable and sustainable design.

*What does your portfolio include?*

Your Ecodesign portfolio will include artifacts you create during the course, such as documents, images, diagrams, maps and videos. As you complete the course you will see a portfolio icon to indicate that this item should be added to your portfolio. The components of your portfolio will include:
- Ecodesign activities
- Ecodesign lab activities
- Resources and references
- Examples from around the world

**How will you put together your portfolio?**

This is up to you, just as urban designers collect and share their portfolios in different ways, you can decide how you would like to collect and share your artifacts. Your portfolio can range from a binder to a webspace you create to collect your work.

**How will you share your portfolio?**

At the end of the course if you are interested, you may want to share a link to your portfolio or a reflection on what you have put together. We have included a discussion board for this if you are interested.
6. Earn a Verified Certificate

Interested in using an edX certificate to bolster a college application or to advance your career? With an edX verified certificate, you can demonstrate to colleges, employers, and colleagues that you successfully completed a challenging edX course, while helping to support the edX non-profit mission.

To earn a certificate in this course, you just need to:

- Register for a certificate here: https://ecommerce.edx.org/basket/single-item/?sku=20B7D1E, and
- Achieve a score of 50% or higher

Once you receive confirmation that your verification is completed, you may request your certificate from your progress page. This may take 1-2 days.

Upon successful completion of this course, you can earn a verified certificate from the University of British Columbia and edX. Certificates can be uploaded directly to your Linkedin profile to highlight your accomplishments in this course.