

# Urban and Environmental Policy 101

## Society & Environment

### Fall 2023

#### Course Information

**Section 1 (Professor Peña): Tuesday and Thursday 10:05-11:30 am in Fowler 111**

**Section 2 (Professor McGuffie): Tuesday and Thursday 10:05-11:30 am in Fowler 112**

#### Office Hours

**Professor Joshua McGuffie (he/him)**

(Office location in the UEP Dept, 1882 Campus Rd, Room #103 or at the Tiger Cooler)

Tuesday 11:50 pm - 12:50 pm or by appointment. Please email to set up a time.

[mcguffie@oxy.edu](mailto:mcguffie@oxy.edu)

**Professor Karla Peña (she/her)**

(Office location in the UEP Department, 1882 Campus Room #205)

Tuesday 12:00-1:30 pm; Wednesday 10:30 - 12:00 pm or by appointment. Please email to set up a time. [penak@oxy.edu](mailto:penak@oxy.edu)

#### Course Overview

This course is an introduction into issues at the intersection of “urban” and “environment.” It is for those interested in learning more about these concepts and the path forward towards creating more just and equitable environments and cities. This course introduces students to the political, economic, and social aspects of the environment with a focus on the role of government, policy, and social change. This course explores the intersection of race, poverty, and inequity in the environment and introduces how issues of race, class, gender, and workers’ rights interact with the natural and built environments.

The course is designed for students considering a UEP major and provides foundational concepts to be explored in more depth through other UEP courses. The course is also intended for non- UEP majors who are interested in the topics and examining the urban and environmental linkages to other disciplines. The course is an opportunity for students to interact with others interested in asking and answering complex questions about our cities, the natural world, and our global context and exploring solutions for critical urban and environmental challenges.

## Classroom Community

This course is intended to provoke discussion and new understandings of the urban environment we live in. Toward this end, the course will grapple with discussions about inequity, power, race, class, and gender. We expect our class times and discussions to be a productive space for open, honest, and thoughtful discussion that recognizes and respects differences and acknowledges the broad range of knowledge we bring to the classroom and discussion. Please remember that our focus in this course is the issues, texts, course materials and presentations themselves, and not the personalities, identities, or opinions of other participants in the discussion.

The professors and students share the responsibility of creating the space and stimulating enthusiasm for learning. The professors are responsible for structuring and facilitating a space for learning and achieving course goals. Students are responsible for attending and participating in class, completing assignments in a timely manner, being prepared to discuss readings and material in class, and contributing to a robust learning environment and community. With this goal, students are also responsible for engaging in respectful, open, and thoughtful discussion with each other and the professors.

## Course Objectives

The goals of this course are to examine the idea of “environment” and how it relates to the urban context. Through readings, films, class exercises, and discussions, students will:

- Gain insights and critical thinking about cities, urban and environmental issues as well as understand the role of policy, organizing, and social movements in addressing these conditions.
- Develop analytic skills to make connections between the economic, political, social, and spatial aspects of cities and the environment, particularly related to jobs, health, economic development, housing, transportation and the built environment, neighborhood and regional planning, and community development.
- Progress in active reading, critical thinking, analytical writing, and discussion skills through the synthesis of sources, including lectures, videos, and discussion in class and with peers.

## Course Activities Schedule:

Readings, videos, and any prerecorded lectures must be completed by class meeting times:

These will be posted on our Moodle class page. Due to intellectual property and copyright concerns, any lecture videos can only be streamed and not downloaded. Please complete readings and watch any videotaped lectures for the day they are assigned. Readings will largely follow the syllabus but are subject to some changes. Please pay attention to the Moodle site for any changes to the schedule and/or the readings.

## Joint Classes:

Over the semester, we will hold joint classes where both sections of 101 will meet together because of guest speakers or scheduling issues.

## Important Note:

As the semester unfolds, additional joint sessions may get scheduled. Syllabus will be updated on Moodle.

## Course Requirements

- **Participation (25% of grade):** You are expected to do all of the course readings and videos for the date they are assigned and keep up with readings and assignments. This is a reading intensive seminar, discussions and online forum discussions are key. As such attendance and preparation is required. Your participation in class will also be evaluated based on your ability to contribute productively to the discussions and class exercises. Be mindful of your own contribution but also the overall discussion dynamic. Listen attentively to others, recognize when to “step up” and “step back” so that all class members can participate meaningfully. Focus on quality over quantity when participating. Your participation grade consists of the following subcategories:
  - **Large class discussions (10%):** Engagement in class discussions and full class synchronous meetings
  - **Small group discussions (15%):** Small group discussions will be conducted during class and guided by specific prompts. Groups will post their answers to the prompt on the Moodle Discussion Forum.
- **Your Local Neighborhood Observation Paper (15% of grade):** There is one paper assignment based on your observation walk in your community. Paper prompts will be passed out in class. Paper is to be **posted on Moodle by midnight Tuesday, September 26.**
- **Midterm Exam (20% of grade):** Midterm will be in class on **Tuesday, October 3.** More details will be discussed in class closer to the date.
- **Film Reflection Paper (10% of grade):** We will be watching the film [Manzanar Diverted](#), directed by Ann Kaneko. The film will be available online through the library. In response to the film, you will discuss prompts that will be provided with members of a small group. You will record the discussion using Zoom and post the recording to **Moodle by 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, October 24.**
- **Field Trip and Reflection Paper (5%):** The class will take a field trip at the end of October or beginning of November. The paper is due on **Tuesday, November 7** on Moodle by 11:59 p.m.
- **Event / Speaker Attendance and Reflection (5%):** Attend a public event or a presentation given by a public speaker broadly relevant to the course, on campus or off-campus and write a 1–2-page reflection for each about the event, integrating topic ideas and/or sources from class. Due **by Thursday, November 30** by midnight. Turning in these reflections early is encouraged. *Attending online events is permitted, but check with the instructor first.*

**Final Paper (20% of grade):** Final papers are **due during Finals week (specific date TBD).** You must upload your paper to Moodle. Papers should be between 5-7 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font. A paper prompt and grading rubric will be passed out and discussed in class

## Class Assignments

### Summary of Assignments and Due Dates

| Assignment                     | % of Grade | Due Date  |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Neighborhood Observation Paper | 15%        | Tuesday, September 26 <sup>th</sup> by midnight on Moodle                           |
| Midterm Exam                   | 20%        | Tuesday, October 3 details provided in class  |
| Film Reflection Paper          | 10%        | Post to Moodle by midnight, on Tuesday, October 24.                                 |
| Field Trip/Reflection          | 5%         | Reflection exercise due Tuesday, November 7. Details provided in a separate prompt. |
| Event / Speaker Reflection     | 5%         | Tuesday, November 30 by midnight on Moodle  |
| Final Paper                    | 20%        | Finals week. Specific Date TBD. Details provided in separate prompt. Post to Moodle |

NOTE: for Fall 2023, the last day of classes is Monday, December 4; reading days are December 5-6 2022.

### Late Assignment Policy

Timely submission of assignments is important for UEP 101. With the increased amount of digital communication and responsibilities for staff and faculty this semester, timely submission is even more crucial. Late assignments derail faculty's ability to provide timely grading and necessary comments to improve your work.

Late assignments should still be posted to Moodle. They will be marked down one letter grade (e.g., from B to B-) for each 24-period that they are late.

We understand that things come up and especially this semester. If there is a health or medical issue, family emergency, or a similar situation, we recognize that these types of life issues can sometimes arise unexpectedly. If you are unable to turn the assignment in on time or attend a synchronous class, please communicate to me and we will work out a plan. Similarly, if you must miss a synchronous class due to reasons of faith or conscience, please communicate with me as early in the semester as possible.

### Class Schedule, Readings, and Assignments

Readings and course materials should be completed for discussion for classes listed below. Please note that readings may change; check Moodle for the latest reading assignments. Although the reading links have been tested; some links may no longer work. When this happens, look up the title of the document. Oftentimes there are "snapshots" of the sites still accessible.

Also, review [this video instruction](#) to allow you to use Google Scholar and directly access Oxy Library holdings including online journal databases such as ProQuest. This will allow you to get

behind paywalls and access full texts of articles. Once you click on the video link, use the password oxycdla (caps sensitive). Follow the instructions. This significantly increases access to journal articles online in all fields, including full text pdfs for download.

## Course Schedule

### Introduction to Environment and Society

#### Tuesday, Aug. 29

##### **Introduction to the Course - Urban and Environmental Policy in a time of Climate Change.**

UEP INTAKE ASSESSMENT - please bring a laptop or tablet to class to complete this assignment:

[https://oxy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3kDhHAQHwVHE59Q](https://oxy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3kDhHAQHwVHE59Q)

#### Thursday, Aug. 31

##### **What and where is the environment?**

William Cronon. "The Trouble with Wilderness or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature."

Jenny Price. "13 Ways of Seeing Nature in Los Angeles" 2006. pgs. 1-26 on Moodle

Michael Brune – "Pulling Down Our Monuments" (July 22, 2020) [English version](#) [En Español](#) :

Hop Hopkins – ["Racism is killing the planet"](#) (June 8, 2020)

#### Tuesday Sept. 5

##### **Cultural Foundations of the Environment**

Lynn White, Jr. ["The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis"](#) in *Science*. Vol. 155, No. 3767 (March 1967), pgs. 48-54

Winona LaDuke. "Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Futures". The Winona LaDuke Reader. Voyageur Press. 2002. Pgs. 78-88.

#### Thursday, Sept. 7

##### **Inequality, Climate, and the Environment**

Boyce, James; [The Environmental Cost of Inequality](#); Scientific American; November 2018

Michele Morrone and Geoffrey Buckley. 2011. Chapter 1 in [Mountains of Injustice](#). Columbus, OH: Ohio University Press. pgs. 3-31

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2021 report for policymakers](#)

Althor, G., Watson, J.E.M., & Fuller, R.A. (2016). "Global mismatch between greenhouse gas emissions and the burden of climate change." *Nature Scientific Reports*. 6, 20281. Pp.1-6.

Optional:

Ma, Michelle; Racism in Cities Harms Animals and the Environment, Too; August 17, 2020; <https://www.futurity.org/systemic-racism-cities-biodiversity-2423582-2/> (This article references new study that you can read [here](#) if you'd like to see the full peer-reviewed paper by Schell et al in Science- optional)

## What is urban about the environment?

**Tuesday, Sept. 12**

### **Urban Framing**

David Harvey. 2008 "The Right to the City" *New Left Review* p.23-40.

<https://newleftreview.org/issues/1153/articles/david-harvey-the-right-to-the-city>

Jane Jacobs 1958 "Downtown is for People" in *The Exploding Metropolis*, pp.140-168

Davis, Michael. 1992. "Fortress L.A.," Chapter 4 in *The City of Quartz*, pp. 223-263

OPTIONAL:

Soja, Edward. 1989. "It All Comes Together in Los Angeles," Chapter 8 in *Postmodern Geographies*. Pp.190-221.

**Thursday, Sept. 14**

### **Reading the Urban and Environmental Landscape**

James Rojas. 2013 "The Enacted Environment of East Los Angeles" in *Places*

Kelly Lytle Hernandez. "Chapter 1" from *City of Inmates*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wSGnBLI2KLOfEf6o1Rn2K-olIc4IBY3q/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wSGnBLI2KLOfEf6o1Rn2K-olIc4IBY3q/view?usp=share_link)

Watch: *The House You Live In*; From *Race, The Power of an Illusion*;

<https://vimeo.com/133506632>

**Tuesday, Sept. 19**

**Possible Joint Session. Details TBA**

**Urbanization and Growth**

Harvey Molotch. (1976). The city as a growth machine: Toward a political economy of place. American Journal of Sociology, 82(2), 309-332.

Michael Bader, "[L.A. is Resegregating -- And Whites are a Major Reason Why](#)," Los Angeles Times, April 1, 2016;

Watch [John Oliver Argues for Reparations for Black Americans With LA's Manhattan Beach Case \(Video\) \(thewrap.com\)](#)

## Thursday, Sept. 21

### Your Neighborhood Walking Exercise – **NO CLASS, DO YOUR WALK TODAY**

Walking observation exercise. Refer to the prompts for the walk and for the associated readings. Make sure to take at least one photo you can use in your observation paper. Be prepared to share and discuss in class on Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

"[Place & Privilege: Telling Stories about Places that Aren't Yours.](#)" Progressive LA. 3/28/19,

Pulido L, Barraclough, L, and Cheng W; Introduction and Northeast Los Angeles chapters from *A People's Guide to Los Angeles*; April 23, 2012

### OPTIONAL

Jan Lin. 2019. "The Stages of Neighborhood Transition." Chapter 2 in Taking Back the Boulevard pp. 56-91, NYU Press: New York.

## Tuesday, Sept. 26

### **Movements for Environmental Justice/Race and the Environment**

Note: We will recap experiences from the neighborhood walks in class today.

Luke Cole and Sheila Foster. "Introduction" in From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement. NYU Press. 1991 pgs. 19-33

Pellow, David N.; "[Toward a Critical Environmental Justice Studies: Black Lives Matter as an Environmental Justice Challenge](#)"; *Du Bois Review*; August 15, 2016;

Gilio-Whitaker, Dina; "Environmental Justice Theory and Its Limitations for Indigenous People: in *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock*; 2019

## Environmental Health

## Thursday, Sept. 28

## Waste

Sintana E. Vergara and George Tchobanoglous, "Municipal Solid Waste and the Environment: A Global Perspective," *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, Nov. 2012, <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-environ-050511-122532>

Lebbie, Tamba S., et al. "E-Waste in Africa: A Serious Threat to the Health of Children." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 18, no. 16, 2021, pp. 8488-. *oxy.primo.exlibrisgroup.com*, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18168488>.

Khan, Sabaa Ahmad. "E-Products, E-Waste and the Basel Convention: Regulatory Challenges and Impossibilities of International Environmental Law." *Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law*, vol. 25, no. 2, 2016, pp. 248–60. Wiley Online Library, <https://doi.org/10.1111/reel.12163>

Liboiron, Max, "[How Plastic is a function of Colonialism](#)"; *Teen Vogue*; How Plastic Is a Function of Colonialism | Teen Vogue; December 21, 2018

Browse the work of Break Free from Plastic at <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/>

Optional:

"[Plastic Wars](#)." Frontline PBS, 2020

## Tuesday, Oct. 3

### Midterm Exam

## Thursday Oct. 5

### Farmworker Health

*Mid-Semester Evaluation/Check In*

Nash, Linda; "'Purity and Danger': Historical Reflections on the Regulation of Environmental Pollutants;" *Environmental History*, Volume 13, No. 4, October 2008; pp. 651-658

Guthman, Julie, and Sandy Brown. "Whose Life Counts: Biopolitics and the 'Bright Line' of Chloropicrin Mitigation in California's Strawberry Industry." *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, vol. 41, no. 3, 2016, pp. 461–82.

Méndez, Michael, et al. "The (in)Visible Victims of Disaster: Understanding the Vulnerability of Undocumented Latino/a and Indigenous Immigrants." *Geoforum*, vol. 116, Nov. 2020, pp. 50–62. *ScienceDirect*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2020.07.007>.

## Tuesday Oct. 10

## FALL BREAK! NO CLASS!

Thursday, Oct. 12

### Product Exposure and Occupational Health JOINT SESSION

Guest lecturers: Astrid Williams and Tianna Shaw Wakeman from Black Women for Wellness

#### WATCH Prof. Bhavna Shamasunder recording

Ami Zota and Bhavna Shamasunder. (2017). The environmental injustice of beauty: Framing chemical exposures from beauty products as a health disparities concern. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 217. 10.1016/j.ajog.2017.07.020.

Maslin Nir, Sarah; "Perfect Nails, Poisoned Workers"; May 8, 2015;

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/11/nyregion/nail-salon-workers-in-nyc-face-hazardous-chemicals.html>

Julia Wong. "US Nail Salons: the challenge to protect workers from toxic chemicals"; The Guardian November 28, 2017;

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/nov/28/us-nail-salons-the-challenge-to-protect-workers-from-chemicals>

Also look through Dr. James Todd's Interview on [Toxic Black Hair Products](#)

Lucero Herrera, Saba Waheed, Kean Flowers, Lisa Fu, Dung Nguyen, Caroline Nguyen; "A Survey of Nail Salon Workers and Owners in California During Covid-19" UCLA Downtown Workers Center;

<https://www.labor.ucla.edu/publication/a-survey-of-nail-salon-workers-and-owners-in-california-during-covid-19/>; 2020 (skim through data)

## Mobility

Tuesday, Oct. 17

### Transportation and the Development of Cities

Peter O. Muller. 2004. "Transportation and Urban Form: Stages in the Spatial Evolution of the American Metropolis"

Martin Wachs. 1996. "Evolution of Transportation Policy in Los Angeles" in The City. pgs. 106-157

Eric Jaffe. ["Buses Are for Other People."](#) The Atlantic. January/February 2015

Manuel Pastor. "A Vision for the Next Los Angeles: Transportation Equity and Just Growth" KCET. February 10, 2014

Thursday, Oct. 19



## Water

**Tuesday Oct. 31**

### **Water**

Michael Kimmelman and Adali Schell. "Remaking the LA River" New York Times. 2022  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/11/10/magazine/la-river-redesign.html>

Jim Robins. "Crisis on the Colorado," parts I - V. January 2019.  
<https://e360.yale.edu/series/crisis-on-the-colorado>

Metropolitan Water District. Drought 2023.  
<https://www.mwdh2o.com/how-we-plan/drought/>

Note: How do these water stories relate to the course film, *Manzanar Diverted*?

**Thursday, Nov. 2**

**Field Trip – details TBA**

## Food and Agriculture

**Tuesday, Nov. 7**

### **Food Systems – JOINT SESSION**

#### **Guest Speakers: Sharon Cech, Rosa Romero, UEPI**

City of Los Angeles, Good food purchasing pledge, read pgs. 1-6.  
[http://lacity.cityofla.acsitefactory.com/sites/g/files/wph281/f/mayorvillaraigosa33128314\\_1\\_10242012.pdf](http://lacity.cityofla.acsitefactory.com/sites/g/files/wph281/f/mayorvillaraigosa33128314_1_10242012.pdf)

Megan Horst, Nathan McClintock & Lesli Hoey (2017) The Intersection of Planning, Urban Agriculture, and Food Justice: A Review of the Literature, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:3, 277-295.

Gripper, Ashley; *We don't farm because its trendy; We farm as resistance, for healing, and sovereignty: Farming is not new to Black people*; *Environmental Health News*; May 27, 2020; <https://www.ehn.org/black-farming-food-sovereignty-2645479216.html>

**Thursday, Nov. 9**

### **Building a Healthy and Just City - JOINT CLASS OUTDOORS**

Workshop with James Rojas, Founder of *PLACE IT! (Ph.D. Urban Planning, MIT)*  
*Sponsored by the Remsen Bird Fund.*

Susan Fainstein. "Planning and the Just City" (in Marcuse, ed., *Searching for the Just City: Debates in Urban Theory and Practice*, 2009)

[Lerner, Jaime. "How to Build a Sustainable City" New York Times. December 7, 2015  
https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/07/opinion/how-to-build-a-sustainable-city.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/07/opinion/how-to-build-a-sustainable-city.html)

Other reading TBD.

## Housing

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**

### Housing and Where We Live

["The State of the Nation's Housing 2022"](#) Harvard Joint Center for Housing Policy. Pp. 1-38 [Skim]

Rebecca Solnit, "Gentrification's Toll: It's You or the Bottom Line," The Guardian, May 13, 2016

<http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/03/gentrification-climate-change-sierra-club-san-francisco>

Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH).

- o [Low Wage and Housing in Los Angeles County](#). 2021
- o [Busting 7 Myths of Affordable Housing](#). (infographic)

M.J. Aboelata, R. Bennett, E. Yañez, A. Bonilla, & N. Akhavan. Excerpts from [Healthy Development Without Displacement: Realizing the Vision of Healthy Communities for All](#). pgs 9-17. Prevention Institute. 2017

Peter Marcuse. "The Housing Change We Need" [Shelterforce](#). Winter 2008. December 22, 2008.

*Optional Reading:*

[Shelterforce: "Tenant Power Returns"](#) - *peruse any article that interests you*

**Thursday, Nov. 16**

### Community Land Trust

"How Community Land Trusts Could Make LA More Affordable." *LAist*, 2 Feb. 2021, <https://laist.com/news/community-land-trusts-los-angeles-affordable>.

Moms4Housing in Oakland

The Moms of Magnolia Street [Episode 1]: The Moms Take a Stand  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGt304OiFPc>

## Just Futures for Whom?

**Tuesday, Nov. 21**

### Rethinking Infrastructure

Removing dams on the Klamath River

Cassandra Profita. The world's largest dam removal will touch many lives in the Klamath River Basin. Oregon Public Broadcasting. November 18, 2022.

<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/11/18/klamath-river-dam-removal-southern-oregon-dams-northern-california-drought/>

Browse: Klamath River Renewal Corporation, <https://klamathrenewal.org/>

Removing dams on the Elwha River

Tiffany Royal. Freeing The Elwha: Lower Elwha Tribe Celebrates Dam Removal.

<https://nwifc.org/freeing-the-elwha-lower-elwha-tribe-celebrates-dam-removal/>

Removing hydroelectric dams on the Snake River

Listen to: *Think Out Loud*, July 20, 2022:

<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/07/19/think-out-loud-new-federal-reports-removing-snake-river-dams-to-help-fish/>

**Thursday, Nov. 23**

**No class. Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Tuesday, Nov. 28**

**Urban Design Justice**

Piazzoni, Francesca, et al. "What Design for Urban Design Justice?" *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability*, vol. 0, no. 0, June 2022, pp. 1–22. *Taylor and Francis+NEJM*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17549175.2022.2074522>.

Turhan, Ethemcan, and Marco Armiero. "Of (Not) Being Neighbors: Cities, Citizens and Climate Change in an Age of Migrations." *Mobilities*, vol. 14, no. 3, May 2019, pp. 363–74. *Taylor and Francis+NEJM*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17450101.2019.1600913>.

Whyte, Kyle. "Indigenous Climate Change Studies: Indigenizing Futures, Decolonizing the Anthropocene." *English Language Notes*, vol. 55, no. 1–2, Mar. 2017, pp. 153–62. *Silverchair*, <https://doi.org/10.1215/00138282-55.1-2.153>.

**Thursday, Nov. 30**

**Solutions, Connections, and Intersections**

Be prepared to discuss course themes in class as we conclude the semester.

**Event/Speaker Reflection due at midnight**

**Finals Week**

**Final Paper Due—Date TBD**

Use this link to access [Oxy's 2023-2024 academic calendar information](#).

## Course and College Policies

### Land Acknowledgement

Occidental College occupies the traditional territory and homelands of the Tongva people. Please click through to read more about the [Gabrielino-Tongva tribe](#) and about the practice of [land acknowledgement](#).

### Credit Hour Policy

UEP 101 is a 4-unit course. On average, you should expect to spend at least twelve (12) hours a week (including in-class time) on this course.

### Core Program Requirements

UEP 101 satisfies a [CPUD](#) requirement.

### COVID-Specific Policy

The most recent guidance on COVID-related policies can be found here:  
<https://www.oxy.edu/back-oxy>

“Your health and well-being, and that of our community, are essential. If you are feeling any symptoms of illness, please refrain from attending class until you receive a negative COVID test or it has been 10 days since your symptoms began. Please work with Emmons and the COVID Operations team to confirm when and how you can end your isolation. Similarly, if you have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please follow all applicable College policies, and wear a high-quality mask when around other individuals for 10 days.”

### Attendance and Participation

Participation is expected as the work that we do in class is critical to your understanding of the material and you will work together with your peers to consider the readings and may be able to provide feedback to peers.

Discussion and small group activities supply the opportunity for you to demonstrate your learning and put it into practice and allow your instructor the opportunity to assess whether you are grasping the relevant concepts. This is true for in-person, online, or hybrid modes of instruction.

However, if there is a medical issue or family emergency, please let us know. We recognize that other life issues can sometimes arise unexpectedly. If you must miss class due to an official Oxy event, or due to reason of faith or conscience, please let us know as early in the semester as possible.

### Student Support Services

The College provides a wide range of [Student Academic Support Resources](#).

- If you'd like to take advantage of the **College's Academic Coaching resource**, which offers one-on-one sessions focused on supporting your time management skills, online learning strategies, and other study skills, you may schedule an academic coaching meeting by sending an email to [academiccoaching@oxy.edu](mailto:academiccoaching@oxy.edu). Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.
- The **Center for Digital Liberal Arts (CDLA)** offers [library research consultations](#) and [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#) and [language learning](#). The **Writing Center** offers opportunities to work on all forms of writing for any class or other writing tasks such as personal statements, senior comprehensives, etc. We offer peer-to-peer consultations with knowledgeable Writing Advisers and sessions with Faculty Writing Specialists. See the [Writing Center website](#) for more information about hours and how students can sign up for appointments. Please contact the Writing Programs-Center Director, Julie Prebel ([jprebel@oxy.edu](mailto:jprebel@oxy.edu); x1307) for more information on how the Center can work with you.
- **Emmons Wellness Center** also provides important support services and can help you address issues of stress, medical and mental health, and overall well-being. For more information, see their website at <https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/resources-support/emmons-wellness-center>  
\*Emmons can also help you locate resources out-of-state.

## Mid-semester Progress Reports

For [Fall 2023](#) Mid-Semester Progress reports are available from October 9-22 and Advising Week is October 23-27.

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with the Student Handbook, in particular the section on [Academic Ethics](#). ([Link to the policy in the Student Handbook](#)). Whenever outside sources are used, they must be properly credited.

### Statement of the Shared Academic Integrity Commitment

Academic Integrity is a shared community value. It is built around trust and respect between members of the Occidental Community and embodies a commitment to honesty and integrity in every aspect of one's academic life.

All members of the Occidental community are committed to uphold the highest degree of academic integrity. Unless stipulated otherwise, the academic work done for all assignments is expected to be the student's own, and students give proper credit to the ideas and work of others.

Signing the Academic Integrity Commitment at matriculation and at the beginning of every semester represents a student's affirmation to uphold the shared values of honesty and integrity. When signing the Integrity Commitment associated with work in a

course, students are affirming that they have not cheated, plagiarized, fabricated, or falsified information; nor assisted others in these actions.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism consists of any form of passing off, or attempting to pass off, the knowledge or work of others as your own. It is a form of cheating. Examples of plagiarism include: unattributed quotations from a book, magazine, or article; copying from the notes or essays of others; the submission of work actually written or dictated by others; and unattributed use of other people's ideas. Remember, plagiarism includes information from books, newspapers, journals, and the Internet. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course and possible expulsion from the college.

Students should consult Occidental's student handbook for information on academic misconduct policy at the college:

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics/academic-misconduct>

### Title IX statement, and statement of role of faculty member as a mandatory reporter ([Link to Title IX](#))

In the event you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual or interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual harassment, as designated Responsible Employees, professors must notify the Title IX Office. They will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at Oxy and reporting options both on and off-campus.

If you do not want the Title IX Office notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

- o Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE ([survivoradvocate@oxy.edu](mailto:survivoradvocate@oxy.edu))
- o Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)
- o Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life ([young@oxy.edu](mailto:young@oxy.edu))

The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at:

<http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. If you would like to contact the Title IX Office directly, you can email Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at [afulcher@oxy.edu](mailto:afulcher@oxy.edu) or call 323-259-1338.

### Special Accommodations/Learning Differences

No matter the mode of course instruction, approved academic accommodations remain in effect. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester, or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at [accessibility@oxy.edu](mailto:accessibility@oxy.edu) to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

## Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience

Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website:

<https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

## Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

We strive to foster an inclusive classroom environment. Consistent with College policy on [discrimination, harassment, and retaliation](#), we seek to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community. Please reach out to us with any concerns. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester, or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at [accessibility@oxy.edu](mailto:accessibility@oxy.edu) to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>. You can also find more information on the website:

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/general-college-policies/discrimination-harassment-and-retaliation>

## Recordings

Online classes may be recorded by your instructor. This means that the audio-visual and chat portions of each class may be recorded and then stored on the College's servers. Recordings will be made available through Moodle (or another secure platform), but only for the express and sole use of those registered in the course. The recorded material will be removed at the end of the semester. No other recording of classroom instruction is permitted. The sharing, altering, or distorting of any audio-visual capture of a class session is not permitted. All content contained in the records shall be subject to the College's Policy on Intellectual Property.

## Equity & Justice in an Inclusive Learning Environment

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect, and we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, national origins, political affiliations, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, abilities, and other visible and nonvisible identities. The wide array of perspectives that each of us contributes to this class is a resource that will strengthen and enhance our intellectual community. All members of this class are expected to co-create and engage in a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. In this context, we may speak as individuals or we may choose to represent ourselves as a member of a group. You need not represent any group, only yourself, though you may choose to represent a group, if you wish. Additionally, part of equity & justice work is to

dismantle barriers to success for all people, particularly those who belong to groups that have been marginalized and minoritized. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your success or accurate assessment of achievement, or if there are ways we can improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally or for other students or student groups, please let your instructor know. Your suggestions about how to improve the value of justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity in this course are encouraged and appreciated.

## Grading Rubric

The goal of the class is for you to become thoughtful, curious, and critical thinkers about the urban environment. The perspectives and skills you gain in the class in the long-term matter more than any grade you receive. Grades however, are important indicators of your grasp of the course material. The following is a rubric for understanding what it takes to do well in the class. Assignment-specific rubrics will be provided with assignments.

**A: 93 – 100, A-: 90-92, B+: 88-90, B:83-87, B-: 80-82, C+:78-80, C: 73-77, C-: 70-72, D+: 68-70, D: 63-67, D-: 60-62; F: <60**

### Grade A:

Sophisticated and thoughtful reflections on course material; excellent depth of critical analysis; accurate and creative interpretation of course readings; well-constructed arguments; cogent, clear, and persuasive speaking and writing.

Participation—student participates frequently; demonstrates thorough preparation and a firm grounding in the course material; demonstrates an ability to analyze readings and to clearly articulate her analysis, an ability to understand the subtle logic of a range of positions, and an ability to synthesize course material over the semester. Student goes well beyond the requirements of the course.

### Grade B:

Good to Very Good reflection, analysis, and engagement with course ideas; accurate and creative interpretation of course readings; well-constructed arguments; solid speaking and writing skills

Participation—student participates regularly; demonstrates a good deal of preparation and a good handle on the course material; frequently offers interesting insights and intriguing interpretations of our sources; demonstrates an ability to connect readings/ideas across the semester student meets requirements of the course competently.

### Grade C:

Satisfactory; student can summarize course material and has made fair attempts at analysis; analysis and critique may require further development or coherence, thinking may still be a bit unnuanced, and/or ideas may be difficult to understand due to issues of speaking and writing

Participation—student participates regularly; demonstrates a good deal of preparation and a good handle on the course material; s/he can adequately summarize readings, but might not offer well- formed analysis and critique; every so often offers interesting insights.

**Grade D:**

Unsatisfactory; student reads course material but does not understand it at a satisfactory level; student completes course assignments but they do not evidence adequate understanding, analysis, or preparation.

Student often misses assignments and class discussions.

Participation—student participates occasionally, though s/he demonstrates inadequate preparation, makes comments that are not based on readings, and/or offers ideas with scant support. Student made some effort to meet minimum requirements.

**Grade F:**

Student fails to meet the minimum requirements of the course Participation—little to no participation