University of Toronto
Department of Geography and Planning
JPG1428H: Managing Urban Ecosystems
Course Outline
Winter 2017, Thursdays 10-12 SS2124A

Instructor
Tenley Conway, tenley.conway@utoronto.ca
St. G. Office and Office Hours: Sid Smith 5023, Thursdays 12:30 to 3 or by appointment

Course Description
This reading seminar focuses on the different ways people interact with and manage urban ecosystems. The course begins by exploring the characterization of cities as ecosystems. We will then examine the socio-ecological research and management goals that draw on and build from an urban ecosystem perspective. Management of urban climates, hydrology, and vegetation will be explored. The role of municipal policy, built form, residents and other key actors will be examined in-depth. Throughout the course, issues associated with bridging knowledge gaps between the social and natural sciences, unique characteristics of urban ecosystems, and the role of specific decision-makers will be considered.

Topics Covered through Weekly Readings and Discussion
- What is an urban ecosystem?
- Sustainability and Urban Ecosystems
- Urban Ecosystem's Metabolism
- Urban Ecosystem Services and Disservices
- Environmental Justice and the Urban Ecosystem
- Energy and Climate Change: Reduction and Mitigation
- The Role of Agriculture in Urban Ecosystems
- Green Infrastructure: Is it the solution?
- Urban Forests
- Urban Biodiversity

Course Requirements
Weekly required readings should be completed prior to the class. You will be required to write four short readings responses over the course of the term.

Students are also required to write a paper proposal (2 to 3 pages) and a final paper (20 pages), exploring a theoretical and/or empirical aspect of urban ecosystem management. Another option for the paper is to complete a case study/comparative study of management plan(s) or policy implementation. The final requirement is to give a presentation of your paper topic at the end of the course.

Evaluation
The final grade will be based on the following factors:

Class participation (attendance, class discussion)	20%
Four reading responses	10%
Paper proposal (due 4th week of class)	10%
Final paper (due 1 week after classes end)	50%
Paper presentation (week 11 or 12)	10%