The seminar calls upon you to engage in theoretical and historical ideas that shape architecture and sustainable design. We will explore models, frameworks, tools, metrics, and techniques to quantify and qualify these models. The course will meet once a week and requires regular engagement with the material. In-class time will generally be devoted to actions rather than being lecture-based. Students will learn by doing. The course is intended to expand your ethos, design approach, and individual and collaborative practices to help develop and guide your practice philosophy in sustainability. This foundation will be guided by readings, presentations, use of tools and calculators that will help support your future design work in studio and practice. Invited colleagues who have volunteered time will also enhance this course.

Two key course goals:
1. To initiate critical discussion of sustainability theory among new MArch Track 2 graduate students, which builds upon the variety of experiences each student brings from her/his own life and past education through an analysis of sustainability in practice and theory as well as a critical formulation of definitions of sustainability.
2. To introduce the new MArch Track 2 graduate students to the values and themes of architectural education with a focus on sustainability that is central to the University of Oregon curriculum through a review and discussion of departmental focus areas.