This course consists of an overview of the history and theory of sustainable design, taking a broad view of sustainability that is inclusive of environmental, technical, social and economic frameworks. **Sustainability** and **sustainable design** are words that are much used in architecture and in our architecture department. The words have a variety of definitions, however, ranging from those that relate to the global economic system to those that relate to the LEED criteria for an individual building, from traditional farming techniques to a high-tech building façade system, from the life-cycle cost of an individual building to the way insulation is used on it, from a self-sufficient community to a world in balance. The purpose of this seminar is to gain an appreciation of the ways that the idea of sustainability has changed, of how sustainable practice has changed, and of why different approaches to the subject may benefit each other.

The course will be conducted as a seminar, with discussions based on a few selected readings each week, and guided by a small group of seminar participants.

In addition to participation in, and leading of the weekly discussions, PhD students and others who wish to take the course for 4 credits will be responsible for a well-researched term paper, the topic of which will be worked out with the instructor. Students taking the course for 2 credits will be responsible for a written summary of the readings and a brief synthesis of several readings, to be determined with the approval of the instructor.
A tentative week-by-week schedule of topics follows. All readings will be on course Canvas site.

Week 1. Thursday Jan. 6.
Introduction. Basic concepts and overview. What is sustainability; different definitions and contradictions. Discussion, based on preliminary short statements to be assigned in advance.

Week 2. Thursday Jan. 13. Interpretations of the traditional vernacular/pre-industrial world. Early writings; mid-20th century efforts.

Week 3. Thursday Jan 20. Complex systems and resilience.

Week 4. Cities: land use, density, infrastructure.

Week 5. Industrial production, agriculture and food


Week 8. Final class: preliminary final presentations.

Week 9. Thanksgiving: no class.