

Supplementary Material  
*Spring, 2025*

**Allama Iqbal Open University**  
*Department of Nutritional Sciences & Environmental Design*

**ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
*Department of Nutritional Sciences & Environmental Design*

**Course: Sustainable Communities (9431)**  
**Level: PGD**

**Semester: Spring 2025**  
**Credits: 3(3+0)**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**REFERENCE BOOKS:**

1. Climate Responsive Design, Richard Hyde (2002), Spon Press, Taylor and Francis, London, New York
- 

**Unit 1: Conflicting Perceptions of Neighborhood**

- 1.1 Neighborhood and Community
- 1.2 Sustainable Development
- 1.3 The Death of Neighborhood
- 1.4 Accidental Turns

**Unit 2: Environmental sustainability in villages and Localities**

- 2.1 Historical Background
- 2.2 Locality Based forms in Modern Living
- 2.3 Think Globally, Act Locally

**Unit 3: Unsustainable Settlements**

- 3.1 Unsustainable Land Use Trends
- 3.2 Environmental Impacts of Recent Planning Trends
- 3.3 Reversing Current Land Use and Environmental Trends

**Unit 4: The Neighborhood as Ecosystem**

- 4.1 The Ecosystem Approach
- 4.2 Social Capital and Housing Mix
- 4.3 Access to Work and Services
- 4.4 Movement and the Public Realm
- 4.5 Local Resource Management
- 4.6 Functional Intergeneration

**Unit 5: Urban Form and Locality**

- 5.1 Dispersal versus Concentration
- 5.2 Location of Neighborhoods
- 5.3 Mix Use Development
- 5.4 Local Densities

**Unit 6: Design of Neighborhoods**

- 1) Traditional Concepts

- 2) Size and Identity of Neighborhoods
- 3) Social Identify and Home Zones
- 4) Open and Closed Neighborhoods
- 5) The Urban Continuum
- 6) Shaping Neighborhoods
- 7) The Open Spaces Network

**Unit 7: Community and Sustainability**

- 7.1 Designs for Living, Introduction
- 7.2 Complexity and Sustainability
- 7.3 Development of Community
- 7.4 Community Governance and Democratic Renewal
- 7.5 Capacity Building Through Community
- 7.6 Community Leadership

**Unit 8: Managing Resources Locally**

- 8.1 Sustainable Energy Resources in Sustainable Communities
- 8.2 Environmental and Social Responsibilities
- 8.3 Sustainable Food Strategies from Neighborhood
- 8.4 Planning for Non-Motorized and Motorized Transport Options
- 8.5 Managing Against Crime in Realities

**Unit 9: Towards Sustainable Communities**

- 9.1 Community Decision Making
- 9.2 Shifting Hearts and Minds
- 9.3 Reorientation of Planning System
- 9.4 Changing Government Policy

## **Course Brief**

In order to understand the course content it is vital to know its aims and objectives properly, let's go through its aims and objectives first.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To redevelop the concept of neighborhood and community.
2. To emphasize the importance of neighborhood and community in the modernized world.
3. To direct the neighborhood and communities to manage their resources locally.

### **Details of the Course**

This is three credit hours course and comprises nine units (The course outline and chapte unit-wise distribution are explained below for your reference.).

Units 1-3 focus on the significance of Eco-neighborhood in relation to Sustainable Development. Unit 3 in particular examines the un-sustainability of current development trends and provides a review of some of the important policy issues.

Units 4 and 5 are related to theories and principles of neighborhood planning and integrates the concepts of health, equity, freedom, and environmental concerns. A few global innovative projects are introduced for motivation and inspiration.

Units 6 to 8 highlight the obstacles and problems in planning sustainable neighborhoods.

Unit 8 specifically directs the communities to manage their resources locally.

Unit 9 directs with some steps and strategies to increase community decision making and addressing to national policies for facilitation and implementation.

### **Assignments**

The course includes two assignments, which are compulsory for successful completion of the whole course. Each assignment is of 100 marks and out of these students obtaining 50 marks will be declared passed.

**Assignments no. 1 and 2** are theory based assignments and must be submitted through the online Aaghi LMS portal before the due date. The schedule for submitting the assignment will be provided accordingly. The tutor will upload the assignment marks online on the Aaghi portal as well.

### **Final Examination**

At the end of the semester there will be a final examination, all the students will be expected to take this examination in the examination halls especially established for this purpose. For any queries, you can write to the course program coordinator. Suggestions for improvement will also be welcomed.

We wish you all the best.

**Programme Coordinator**

**Department of NS & ED**

**AIOU, Islamabad**

**ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
*(Department of Nutritional Sciences & Environmental Design)*

**WARNING**

- 1. PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM THE AWARD OF DEGREE/ CERTIFICATE IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
- 2. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

Course: Sustainable Communities (9431)  
Level: Postgraduate  
Credit: 3(3+0)

Semester: Spring, 2025  
Total Marks: 100  
Pass Marks: 50

**Please read the following instructions for writing your assignments.**

- 1. All questions are compulsory and carry equal marks but within a question, the marks are distributed according to its requirement.**
- 2. Read the question carefully and then answer it according to the requirements of the questions.**
- 3. Hand written scanned assignments are not acceptable.**
- 4. Upload your typed (in Word or PDF format) assignments on or before the due date.**
- 5. Late assignments can't be uploaded at LMS.**
- 6. Your own analysis and synthesis will be appreciated.**
- 7. Avoid irrelevant discussion/information and reproducing from books, study guides, or allied material.**

**Assignment No. 1**  
**(Units: 1-4)**

- Q.1 Differentiate Neighborhood and Community. What role does sustainable development play in shaping modern neighbourhoods? (20)
- Q.2 How have historical settlement patterns influenced modern approaches to sustainable village planning? (20)
- Q.3 What is an "unsustainable settlement"? What strategies can be used to reverse current unsustainable land use trends? (20)
- Q.4 How do public spaces related to a neighbourhood's sustainability? How can improving access to work and services contribute to sustainable neighbourhoods? (20)
- Q.5 How does the principle of "Think Globally, Act Locally" apply to sustainable community development? (20)

## **Assignment-2**

**(Units: 5-9)**

Course: Sustainable Communities (EDHN6006)  
Total Marks: 100

Semester: Spring, 2025  
Pass Marks: 50

- Q.1 Define urban form. What are the key differences between "disposal" and "concentration" in urban planning? (20)
- Q.2 How does the integration of open spaces enhance the sustainability of a neighbourhood? How does open space improve the quality of life in a neighbourhood? (20)
- Q.3 What does "community governance" mean? How does community governance impact the long-term sustainability of a neighbourhood? Discuss with examples. (20)
- Q.4 Why is local resource management important for sustainability? What are some effective strategies for integrating non-motorized transport into urban planning? (20)
- Q.5 What are some challenges in shifting public perception towards sustainable practices? What role does government policy play in sustainable urban planning? (20)

### **Marking Guide**

It is anticipated that the tutors mark the assignments carefully and follow a similar marking standard for all the students.

Please follow the guidelines below:

Assignment 1 .....100 Marks

Theoretical Understanding.....50

Practical Understanding .....50 Marks

Assignment 2 .....100 Marks

Theoretical Understanding.....50

Practical Understanding .....50 Marks

You are expected to stick to the guidelines provided to maintain the standardization and uniformity.