Fall 2020
SUST 1134.003 – Introduction to Sustainability Studies

Instructor: Jessica Rowland (*she/her/hers*)
Modality: Online (fully remote); Office hours available via Zoom, by appointment
Materials: All course material accessible on *UNM Learn*
Email: Contact me via Course Messages in *UNM Learn* (preferred) or at jrowland@unm.edu
Office: Castetter Hall 163B, UNM Main Campus; Program email: sust@unm.edu
Website: UNM Sustainability Studies Program

Course Description: This course provides a broad survey of various aspects of sustainability. We will explore topics such as climate change, renewable energy, water, agriculture, waste, green building, socially responsible business, ecosystem valuation, microlending, environmental justice, and alternative progress indicators, among others. The course will focus on how to create a sustainable future that supports environmental health, social equity and economic vitality (often referred to as the *triple bottom line*). We will examine challenges and examples of integrated, creative strategies on local, national and global levels.

Course Objectives:
The following are the objectives for the course. Each week will have specific learning objectives listed on its Overview Page. The activities in that module (i.e.: discussions, assignments, quizzes, etc.) are developed so that you can demonstrate you have met these objectives. Students will:

- Explain the facts and context of a variety of current sustainability-related topics and issues
- Use scholarly literature in sustainability writing, presentations and outreach
- Demonstrate problem solving by proposing creative, balanced solutions to sustainability challenges
- Apply the principles of sustainability to their everyday lives
- Engage in activities that promote sustainability on campus and/or in the community

Course Orientation: Students are expected to complete the tasks in the first week as a part of the orientation to this course. You will be held accountable for the use of the tools introduced in the orientation.

Expectations for Participation:
Students will:

- spend 6-9 hours per week on the course material
- use the *UNM Learn* platform with confidence
- address technical problems immediately
- stay up-to-date on course announcements and course messages
- observe course netiquette at all times
- keep instructor informed of class-related challenges that prevent full participation

Instructor Response Time: I will routinely check *UNM Learn* for messages Monday through Friday, and somewhat less frequently on the weekends. You can typically anticipate a 24-48 hour response time from me during the week, and a response to all weekend messages by noon on the following Monday. If you have an emergency or a pressing question or concern, feel free to contact me via UNM email or by phone (texts ok).

The online course week runs from Monday to Sunday, with assignments due on Thursdays and/or Sundays by 11:59pm MDT/MST. New course content will be available on Mondays at the start of each weekly module.

Assignments: Your grade will be determined from the following (100 points each; 500 points total):

Quizzes & Weekly Reading Check-in	20%
Community Engagement	20%
Ecological Footprint Reduction Proposal	20%
Discussion Posts & Responses	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

A+	> 99%	B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	< 60%
A	93-99%	B	83-87%	C	73-77%	D	63-67%		
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%		

Quizzes & Weekly Reading Check-in (20%): This class requires your active participation. It is expected that you will fully engage with the readings, lectures, discussions and other assignments. The instructor will pose a series of weekly reading "check-in" questions to which you'll respond with a brief paragraph detailing your thoughts. Additionally, two (2) quizzes will be given throughout the semester to ensure that you keep up with the material and understand the course content. Quiz format will be short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or multiple choice. *Note: During the course orientation, you will also 1) complete a syllabus quiz and 2) post a video or screencast introduction to the class Discussion forum.*

Community Engagement (20%): An important component of this class is your participation in sustainability-related activities in your community to gain hands-on experience and build connections with local organizations and experts. You will identify your major interests and design a plan of action to engage in activities related to these interests. Completion of ten (10) hours will satisfy this requirement. This semester - due to the ongoing pandemic safety measures - your engagement activities can take place online (i.e., sustainability-related webinars, virtual tours, interviews, advocacy work, trainings, certifications, etc.). You are welcome to expand the definition of "community" beyond your immediate geographic vicinity and into the larger virtual sphere. *Note: If you prefer to engage in safe, physically-distanced, community-focused activities in your neighborhood (e.g., local farming, mutual aid work, marches/protests, etc), I urge you to use your best judgment and stay as close to home as possible.*

Complete the Community Engagement Journal on *UNM Learn* to document your experience. Submit journal entries within two weeks of participating in each activity. You will also share a brief overview and reflection of your experiences with the class, using the Kaltura Capture tool to create a three- to five-minute presentation that includes screenshots, websites, photos and/or video of your project. *Students are expected to download and utilize the Kaltura Capture app to create videos or screencasts for this course.*

Ecological Footprint Reduction Proposal (20%): This project gives you the opportunity to apply principles of sustainability to your everyday life. You will begin by assessing your household's ecological footprint, using the Global Footprint Network spreadsheet calculator for the US. You will then determine a suitable course of action that could enable your household to reduce its ecological footprint by 20% in the future, and write a proposal that describes the reduction methodology and details the anticipated changes. Choose the footprint area(s) that interest you most and that your household can feasibly reduce. For example, behavioral shifts may include changing your mode of transportation, your method of food selection, your buying practices, your energy usage, etc. At the end of the semester you will turn in the final proposal and present a five-minute overview of your reduction strategy to the class using Kaltura Capture. (You may find that the current pandemic imposes certain constraints or opportunities for future footprint reduction – be sure to discuss and reflect on these in your proposal!) *Students are encouraged to post about their progress and any challenges that arise with the footprint project to the class Discussion forum, and to respond to classmates' accomplishments, questions and concerns.*

Discussion Posts & Responses (20%): Discussion is a critical element that contributes to understanding and integration of the concepts and topics covered in this course. To foster discussion, the instructor will provide prompts based on the lectures and reading materials that have been covered up to that point. During the semester, you will participate in two (2) discussion forums with a small group of students. The small groups of 4-6 students are intended to make reading and responding to posts within the discussion more manageable.

Discussion posts must be 300-500 words in length and supported with references (both class readings and literature that you find through your own research). Discussion responses will be thoughtful and contribute something original, or build upon what has already been said; they should not be repetitious. Questions should be raised to stimulate further discussion within your group. During the week of the discussion forum,

your initial post will be due on Thursday by 11:59pm MDT/MST, and two responses to your classmates' posts must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm MDT/MST. Late posts and responses will not be accepted.

Final Exam (20%): The final exam is a timed two-hour test that will consist of essays and short answer questions. It will be cumulative and will cover material from assigned readings, lectures, interactive websites, and short videos. The exam is designed to give you the opportunity to synthesize concepts from throughout the semester, provide well-supported recommendations for future action, and reflect upon your personal interests in sustainability.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty: At UNM, honesty is considered one of the cornerstones of academic development. All UNM policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Students should communicate and act, both in class interactions and in assigned coursework, in a manner directed by personal integrity, honesty, and respect for self and others. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, 1) plagiarism: claiming credit for the words or works of another, taken from any source – print, Internet, or electronic database – or failing to cite the source, 2) fabricating information or citations, 3) facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, or 4) submitting the work of another person or 5) submitting work previously used for another course. Any incident of blatant academic dishonesty will result in the instructor reporting the student to the Dean of Students Office and potentially a failing grade in the class or expulsion from the university.

Technology: Students must have reliable access to a computer or mobile device with high-speed internet in order to successfully complete this course. Supported browsers for the *UNM Learn* platform include Firefox, Safari, and Chrome. In addition, students must have access to a webcam and microphone or other recording device (smart phone, camera, etc.) in order to complete and share class projects on *UNM Learn.*

If you experience any difficulties using *UNM Learn*, please call Technical Support at 505-277-0857 (24/7), email learn@unm.edu, or use the "Create a Support Ticket" link on the Course Menu. Do not contact the instructor about technical difficulties, unless it concerns an assignment deadline.

Note: Using a tablet as your primary device for this course is not recommended. UNM Learn has not been optimized for mobile computing, and the mobile app does not contain the full functionality of UNM Learn.

Communication: The instructor will communicate primarily within the *UNM Learn* course website, using both announcements and course messages. Do note that if an urgent matter arises, you are also welcome to contact me via UNM email or phone. Students are expected to stay abreast of the information contained in both announcements and course messages. Course announcements will be sent regularly from the instructor to apprise the class of weekly happenings and upcoming deadlines. Course messages will be used as needed for personal communication.

Assignment feedback will be given in the notes of each graded submission. Grades can be expected within 1-2 weeks of the submission deadline, depending on the nature of the assignment. As a courtesy to the instructor and your classmates, please observe proper netiquette in your course messages and in the discussion forums.

The instructor values student feedback; as such, it is strongly encouraged that students complete the mid- and end-of-course surveys (available in the Course Evaluations section on the *UNM Learn* homepage and via automated email from coursefeedback@unm.edu). Extra credit will be awarded for survey completion.

Assignment Deadlines: All assignments should be submitted through *UNM Learn* by the specified deadline. If you have difficulty using a tool to complete work, use the "Create a Support Ticket" link in the Course Menu immediately and notify your instructor as well. Assignments received after their deadline will not be accepted or graded unless an extension is approved in advance. Students who are unable to complete an assignment on time for any reason should notify the instructor by course message, email, or phone as soon as possible - but ideally 24-48 hours prior to the deadline - with the request. Requests for extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Deadlines for each assignment are listed in the Course Schedule below

and on the *UNM Learn* calendar, and will also be highlighted in weekly class announcements and overview pages of each weekly module.

Scheduled Maintenance and Unplanned Outages: UNM Learn has a weekly maintenance outage on Saturday mornings from 4:30 am - 5:30am, and may have other scheduled maintenance during the term. Detailed information about system availability can be found here. Announcements for periodic maintenance windows are posted in *UNM Learn* two weeks ahead of time to notify users of planned outages.

Due to the potential for personal emergencies, illness, technical issues, Internet outages, or other unexpected things that may prevent you from submitting assignments on time, do not wait until the last minute to submit your work. Leave yourself some time to get help if needed *before* the due date. Note that if there is an unplanned *UNM Learn* outage within three hours of a due date, the instructor will generally extend the due date by one day and will post a course announcement with specific details.

Tracking Course Activity: *UNM Learn* automatically records all students' activities including your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the assignments you have submitted, the number of discussion messages you have read and sent, etc. These data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty.

ADA Accessibility: Qualified students needing academic adjustments should contact Accessibility Services (arcsrvs@unm.edu, 505-277-3506) and inform the instructor as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Find out more information about the services available to you at the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC).

Campus Resources: UNM is committed to providing courses that are inclusive and accessible for all participants. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an accessible classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity. If you are experiencing any physical or academic barriers, or concerns related to mental health, physical health and/or COVID-19, please consult with me via email/phone or during virtual office hours and I can direct you to the appropriate campus resources and services.

Title IX: In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education. This means that any report of gender discrimination (which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence) that is made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). Please note that UNM has three offices where you can confidentially discuss any incidents or concerns: *LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center*, *Women's Resource Center* and the *LGBTQ Resource Center*. The staff in these offices are specially trained advocates and do not share information with the OEO without a student's signed permission.

Anti-Racism Commitment: The Sustainability Studies Program is committed to anti-racist education and we stand united with our university community to create safe, respectful, and critically-engaged learning environments for all. We are committed to undoing systems of oppression and challenging racism in our work, our studies, and our lives.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. The instructor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students - including members of our undocumented community - and the Administration's welcome can be found here.

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations, and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Topics	Materials	Assignments
I. The Context of Sustainability				
1	August 17-23	Course Orientation & Introduction to Sustainability	-Syllabus -WCED, 1987 -UNCED, 1992 -Drexhage, 2010	**Complete** the course orientation: Due Aug. 23 **Post** your introduction: Due Aug. 23 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Aug. 23
2	August 24-30	Human Population Growth & Consumption	-Population Reference Bureau, 2020 -Bradshaw, 2014	**Community engagement**: Initial plan of action due Aug. 30 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Aug. 30
3	Aug. 31 - Sept. 6	The Ecological Footprint	-Living Planet Report, 2018, ch. #1&2 -Perkins, 2017 -UN, 2019	**Community engagement**: Final plan of action due Sept. 6 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 6
II. The Environment (Planet)				
4	September 7-13	Climate Change & Global Energy Usage	-USGCRP, 2017 -Ripple, 2017 -Energy Information Administration, 2019 -Inman, 2013	**Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 13
5	September 14-20	Renewable Energy	-Wald, 2009 -BCSE, 2020 -US Solar Market Insight Report, 2020 -US DOE Bioenergy Basics website	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Baseline footprint calculation & reflection questions due Sept. 20 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 20
6	September 21-27	Water & The Industrial Food System	-Gleick, 2010 -Rogers, 2008 -Meyer, 2016 -CSS, 2019 -NRDC, 2012	**Quiz #1**: Due Sept. 27 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 27
7	Sept. 28 - Oct. 4	Sustainable Agriculture & Permaculture	-Foley, 2011 -SARE, 2010 -Harland, 2009	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Revised baseline footprint calculation due Oct. 4 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 4
8	October 5-11	Global Waste & Green Architecture	-EPA, 2019 -UNEP, 2015 -Valiño, 2017 -Barth, 2018	**Discussion #1**: Post due Oct. 8; Two responses due Oct. 11 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 11

**This reading list is subject to modifications at the discretion of the instructor.*

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III. The Economy (Profit)				
9	October 12-18	From Growthmania to Green Economics	-Daly, 1973 -Stiglitz, 2015 -Korten, 2007 -Benyus, 2010 -McDonough, 2002 -Goleman, 2009	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Brainstorm footprint reduction strategy due Oct. 18 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 18
10	October 19-25	Socially Responsible Business & Ecosystem Valuation	-Kelly, 2015 -Walmart, 2019 -Leopold, 1949 -Lovins, 2007 -Economist, 2012	**Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 25
11	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1	Economic Approaches to Environmental & Social Challenges	-Conniff, 2009 -CCL, 2014 -Meyer, 2015 -Yunus, 2007 -Karlan, 2015	**Quiz #2**: Due Nov. 1 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 1
IV. Social Equity (People)				
12	November 2-8	Environmental Justice	-Melosi, 2012 -EPA, 2016 -JCPES, 2012 -Gottlieb, 2009	**Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 8
13	November 9-15	Smart Growth & Sustainable Communities	-Smart Growth Network, 2006 -Arcadis, 2018 -Adler, 2016 -Litfin, 2013 -Hopkins, 2008	**Community engagement**: 10 hours completed & presentation due Nov. 12 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 15
14	November 16-22	Alternative Progress Indicators	-Wahl, 2017 -World Economic Forum, 2016	**Discussion #2**: Post due Nov. 19; Two responses due Nov. 22 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 22
X	November 23-29	***BREAK*** ***Thanksgiving week*** ***No new material***		
V. Presentations & Course Wrap-Up				
15	Nov. 30 - Dec. 6	Ecological Footprint Presentations	-Lappé, 2013 -Nijhuis, 2015	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Final proposal & presentation due Dec. 3 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Dec. 6
16	December 7-10	**FINAL EXAM**		**Final Exam** due Dec. 10

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