Fall 2019
SUST 1134.003 – Introduction to Sustainability Studies

Instructor: Jessica Rowland
Location: Course offered online; Office is in Castetter Hall 163B, UNM Main Campus
Materials: All materials available through *UNM Learn* - https://learn.unm.edu/
Email: Contact me via Course Messages in *UNM Learn* (preferred) or at jrowland@unm.edu
Phone: Office - 505.277.3431
Website: Sustainability Studies Program - http://sust.unm.edu

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

To declare the Sustainability Studies minor or to discuss the program, set up a meeting with Program Administrator Terry Horger via Lobo Achieve (thorger@unm.edu).

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
- learn how to navigate in *UNM Learn*
- 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).

**Note that the online course week runs from Monday to Sunday, with most major assignments due on Thursdays and/or Sundays by 11:59pm MDT/MST. Course content for the upcoming week will be accessible a day or two in advance of the start of that week.*

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. A weekly reading "check-in" question will be posed by the instructor 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. Quiz format will be short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or multiple choice.

Community Engagement (20%): An important component of this class is your engagement in sustainability-related activities in your community. You will identify your major interests and design a plan of action to participate in activities related to these interests. Completion of ten (10) hours of community engagement will satisfy this requirement. If you live in the Albuquerque area, you are invited and encouraged to join field trips that the instructor leads for the on-campus SUST-1134 class.

Sustainability events in which you can participate include field trips, work parties, tours, lectures, film screenings with discussion panels, workshops, and sustainability-oriented committee or organization meetings. It is required that you seek out opportunities in your community that fit your specific interests. Complete the Community Engagement Journal on *UNM Learn* to document your community experience. Submit entries to the instructor within two weeks of participating in each activity. You will also share a brief overview of your experiences with the class, using the Kaltura Capture tool to create a three- to five-minute presentation that includes photos and/or video footage. *Students are expected to download and utilize the Kaltura Capture app to create videos and screencasts for this course.*

Ecological Footprint Reduction Proposal (20%): You will begin by assessing your household's ecological footprint, using the Wackernagel et al. (2012) spreadsheet calculator. You will then determine a suitable course of action that could enable your household to reduce its ecological footprint by 20%, 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. *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 must be thoughtful and contribute something original, or build upon what has already been said; they should not be repetitious. Questions can 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, and two responses to your classmates' posts must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm MDT. A grading rubric is available on *UNM Learn* to help guide you in crafting meaningful discussion posts and responses. *Late posts and responses will not be accepted.*

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will be a timed two-hour test. It will consist mainly of short-essays, although there will also be some fill-in-the-blank and/or matching questions. The exam will be cumulative and will cover material from assigned readings, lectures, interactive websites, and short videos.

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) or use the "Create a Support Ticket" link on the Course Menu. *Do not contact me about technical difficulties, unless it concerns an assignment deadline.*

Communication: The instructor will communicate with you 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 as a whole 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. As a courtesy to the instructor and your classmates, please observe proper *netiquette* in your course messages and in the discussion forums.

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 email or phone as soon as possible - but at least 48 hours prior to the deadline - with a brief explanation as to why the extension is needed. Requests for extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Deadlines for each assignment are listed in the Course Schedule below.

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 (Mesa Vista Hall 2021; 505-277-3506) and inform the instructor as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner.

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.

Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Topics	Materials	Assignments
I. The Context of Sustainability				
1	August 19-25	Course Orientation & Introduction to Sustainability	-Syllabus -WCED, 1987 -UNCED, 1992 -Drexhage, 2010	**Complete** the course orientation: Due Aug. 25 **Post** your introduction: Due Aug. 25 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Aug. 25
2	Aug. 26 - Sept. 1	Human Population Growth & Consumption	-Population Reference Bureau, 2018 -Bradshaw, 2014	**Community engagement**: Initial plan of action due Aug. 29 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 1
3	September 2-8	The Ecological Footprint	-Living Planet Report, 2018, ch. #1&2 -Perkins, 2017 -UN, 2019	**Community engagement**: Final plan of action due Sept. 8 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 8
II. The Environment (Planet)				
4	September 9-15	Climate Change & Global Energy Usage	-USGCRP, 2017 -Ripple, 2017 -Energy Information Administration, 2017 -Inman, 2013	**Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 15
5	September 16-22	Renewable Energy	-Wald, 2009 -BCSE, 2019 -US Solar Market Insight Report, 2019 -NREL Biomass Basics website	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Baseline footprint calculation & reflection questions due Sept. 22 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 22
6	September 23-29	Water & The Industrial Food System	-Gleick, 2010 -Rogers, 2008 -Meyer, 2016 -CSS, 2018 -NRDC, 2012	**Quiz #1**: Due Sept. 29 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Sept. 29
7	Sept. 30 - Oct. 6	Sustainable Agriculture & Permaculture	-Foley, 2011 -SARE, 2010 -Harland, 2009	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Revised baseline footprint calculation due Oct. 6 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 6
X	October 7-13	***Fall Break:*** ***No online class this week***		

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

Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Topic	Materials	Assignments
8	October 14-20	Global Waste & Green Architecture	-EPA, 2018 -UNEP, 2015 -Valiño, 2017 -Barth, 2018	**Discussion #1**: Post due Oct. 17; Two responses due Oct. 20 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 20
III. The Economy (Profit)				
9	October 21-27	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. 27 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Oct. 27
10	Oct.28 - Nov. 3	Socially Responsible Business & Ecosystem Valuation	-Kelly, 2015 -Walmart, 2019 -Leopold, 1949 -Lovins, 2007 -Economist, 2012	**Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 3
11	November 4-10	Economic Approaches to Environmental & Social Challenges	-Conniff, 2009 -CCL, 2014 -Meyer, 2015 -Yunus, 2007 -Karlan, 2015	**Quiz #2**: Due Nov. 10 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 10
IV. Social Equity (People)				
12	November 11-17	Environmental Justice	-Melosi, 2012 -EPA, 2016 -JCPES, 2012 -Gottlieb, 2009	**Community engagement**: 10 hours completed & presentation due Nov. 14 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 17
13	November 18-24	Smart Growth & Sustainable Communities	-Smart Growth Network, 2006 -Arcadis, 2018 -Adler, 2016 -Litfin, 2013 -Hopkins, 2008	**Discussion #2**: Post due Nov. 21; Two responses due Nov. 24 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Nov. 24
14	Nov. 25 - Dec. 1	Alternative Progress Indicators	-Wahl, 2017 -World Economic Forum, 2016	**Weekly reading check-in:** Due Dec. 1
V. Presentations & Course Wrap-Up				
15	December 2-8	Ecological Footprint Presentations	-Lappé, 2013 -Nijhuis, 2015	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Final proposal & presentation due Dec. 5 **Weekly reading check-in:** Due Dec. 8
16	December 9-12	**FINAL EXAM**		**Final Exam** due Dec. 12

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