Spring 2016
SUST 134.002 – Creating a Sustainable Future:
Introduction to Environmental, Social and Economic Health

Instructor: Jessica Rowland
Location: Online
Materials: Required readings are available through *UNM Learn* - https://learn.unm.edu/
Email: Contact me by Course Messages in *UNM Learn* (preferred) or via jrowland@unm.edu
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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, green building, socially responsible business, microlending, environmental justice, smart growth 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 (the triple bottom line). We will examine challenges and examples of integrated, creative strategies on local, national and global levels.

Course Goals: This course is suited for students interested in applying the principles of sustainability to their everyday lives. The class is a springboard for students to engage in independent or collaborative projects that promote sustainability on campus and/or in their respective communities. Students should leave this class with a major mastery of one topic and a minor mastery of another topic. This means that students will be able to verbalize facts and background context about these topics, and demonstrate competency in how to take action and to influence others. Throughout the semester, students will hone their writing and public presentation skills, as well as their leadership skills.

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 9-12 hours per week on the course material
- learn how to navigate in *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 problems that prevent full participation

Instructor Response Time: I will routinely check the course for postings 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.

**Please note that the online course "week" runs from Monday to Sunday, with most major assignments due on Thursdays and/or Sundays by 11:59pm MST. Course content for the upcoming week will be accessible about 5 days in advance of the start of that week.*

Assignments: Your grade will be determined from the following:

Quizzes	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%	C/NC not allowed	

Quizzes (20%): This class requires your active participation. It is expected that you will fully engage with the readings, lectures, discussions and other assignments. Accordingly, four (4) quizzes will be given throughout the semester to ensure that you keep up with the material. Quiz format will be true/false, multiple choice, and short answer.

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 I lead for the on-campus SUST-134 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 Sustainability Experience Form on *UNM Learn* to document your community engagement. Be sure to fill out the form within two weeks of participating in each activity and submit it to the instructor. You will also share a brief overview of your experiences with the class, using the Kaltura Media tool to create a three- to five-minute presentation that includes photos and/or video footage.

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 will enable your household to reduce its ecological footprint by 20%, and will 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- to ten-minute overview of your project to the class using the Kaltura Media tool.

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 four (4) discussion forums with a small group of students. The small groups of 5-6 students are intended to make reading and responding to posts within the discussion more manageable.

There will be one discussion forum associated with each of the following course modules: 1) The Context of Sustainability, 2) The Environment, 3) The Economy, and 4) Social Equity. 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 MST, and two responses to your classmates' posts must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm MST. 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 mainly in short-essay format, 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 and video clips.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty: At UNM, academic honesty is considered one of the cornerstones of academic development. All UNM policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic honesty 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. 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. 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 with high-speed internet in order to successfully complete this course. Supported browsers for the *UNM Learn* platform include Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, and Chrome. Detailed information regarding supported browsers and operating systems is available here: http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/support/browsers. In addition, students must have access to a webcam or other recording device (smart phone, camera, etc.) in order to complete and share class projects on *Learn*.

If you experience any difficulties using *Learn*, please call Technical Support at 505-277-0857 (24/7) or use the "Create a Support Ticket" link on the Course Menu.

Communication: I 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 each week to apprise students of weekly happenings and upcoming deadlines. Assignment feedback will be communicated using course messages. 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 with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact Accessibility Services (505-277-3506) and inform the instructor as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner.

Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Topics	Materials	Assignments
I. The Context of Sustainability				
1	January 18-24	Course Orientation	-Syllabus -WCED, 1987 -UNCED, 1992 -Drexhage, 2010	**Complete** the course orientation: Due Jan. 24 **Post** your introduction: Due Jan. 24
2	January 25-31	Human Population Growth & Consumption	-Cohen, 2011 -Population Reference Bureau, 2015 -Video: *The Story of Stuff*	**Discussion #1**: Post due Jan. 28; Two responses due Jan. 31 **Community engagement**: Initial plan of action due Jan. 28
3	February 1-7	The Ecological Footprint	-Wackernagel, 1996 -Living Planet Report, 2014	**Community engagement**: Final plan of action due Feb. 7
II. The Environment (Planet)				
4	February 8-14	Climate Change & Global Energy Usage	-Vitousek, 1997 -NCA, 2014 -Brown, 2009 -Inman, 2013 -Video: *Crash Course on Peak Oil*	**Quiz #1**: Due Feb. 14
5	February 15-21	Renewable Energy	-Wald, 2009 -Smil, 2014 -US Solar Market Insight Report, 2014 -Huber, 2009 -Worldwatch, 2009	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Baseline footprint spreadsheet due Feb. 21
6	February 22-28	Water & The Industrial Food System	-Gleick, 2010 -Rogers, 2008 -Walsh, 2009 -NRDC, 2012 -UCS, 2013 -Little, 2014	**Quiz #2**: Due Feb. 28
7	Feb. 29 - March 6	Sustainable Agriculture & Permaculture	-Foley, 2011 -SARE, 2010 -Harland, 2009	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Revised baseline footprint spreadsheet due March 6 (if necessary)
8	March 7-13	Global Waste & Green Architecture	-EPA, 2014 -UN, 2012 -Vale, 1991 -Su Casa, 2008 -Architecture 2030	**Discussion #2**: Post due March 10; Two responses due March 13
X	March 14-20	***SPRING BREAK – no class***		Relax and have fun!

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

Week	Dates	Topic	Materials	Assignments
III. The Economy (Profit)				
9	March 21-27	From Growthmania to Green Economics	-Daly, 1973 -Korten, 2007 -Benyus, 2010 -McDonough, 2002	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Brainstorm footprint reduction plan due March 27
10	Mar. 28 - April 3	Socially Responsible Business & Ecosystem Valuation	-Patagonia, 2012 -Sturcken, 2014 -Goleman, 2009 -Leopold, 1949 -Hawken, 1997 -Economist, 2012	**Quiz #3**: Due April 3
11	April 4-10	Economic Approaches to Environmental & Social Challenges	-Conniff, 2009 -Sierra Club, 2008 -CCL, 2014 -Meyer, 2015 -Yunus, 2007	**Discussion #3**: Post due April 7; Two responses due April 10
IV. Social Equity (People)				
12	April 11-17	Environmental Justice	-Melosi, 2012 -JCPES, 2012 -Meiklejohn, 2003 -Gottlieb, 2009	**Community engagement**: 10 hours completed & presentation due April 14
13	April 18-24	Smart Growth & Sustainable Communities	-Smart Growth Network, 2006 -Newman, 1999 -Rabinovitch, 1996 -Dawson, 2006 -Hopkins, 2008	**Discussion #4**: Post due April 21; Two responses due April 24
14	April 25-May 1	Alternative Progress Indicators	-Talberth, 2008 -Speth, 2008 -McKibben, 2007	**Quiz #4**: Due May 1
V. Presentations & Course Wrap-Up				
15	May 2-8	Ecological Footprint Presentations	-Lappé, 2013	**Ecological footprint proposal**: Final proposal & presentation due May 5
16	May 9-15	**FINAL EXAM**		**Final Exam** due May 11

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