

## Fall 2020

### SUST 1134.002 – Introduction to Sustainability Studies

<b>Instructor:</b>	Jessica Rowland ( <i>she/her/hers</i> )
<b>Modality:</b>	Remote scheduled ( <i>fully online with regularly scheduled remote class meetings</i> )
<b>Class Meetings:</b>	Via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45am
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Available via Zoom, by appointment
<b>Email:</b>	jrowland@unm.edu
<b>Materials:</b>	All course material accessible on <a href="#">UNM Learn</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="#">UNM Sustainability Studies Program</a>

**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:

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

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

Zoom Participation	20%
Quizzes & Reading Check-ins	20%
Community Engagement	20%
Ecological Footprint Reduction Proposal	20%
Final Exam	20%

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%		

**Zoom Participation (20%):** This class requires your active participation and teamwork. Your perspectives, knowledge, and enthusiasm are valuable and necessary to make the class a good experience for all involved. Please show up to the Zoom meetings ready to participate in discussions and activities. You are expected to prepare by engaging with the day's course material (pre-recorded lectures, readings, interactive websites, etc.) *prior* to joining the Zoom meeting. Additionally during the semester, each student will present one current event/news item relevant to the day's topic and lead a 5-10 minute discussion with the class.

All assigned materials will be available on UNM Learn, organized in folders that correspond to the topics on the course schedule. *Note that supplemental readings and resources will be available in each topical folder. These materials are not required for the course, but are available to students who want to deepen their understanding of the week's topic, or explore alternative approaches or viewpoints.*

**Quizzes & Reading Check-ins (20%):** For each sustainability topic, the instructor will pose a reading “check-in” question to which you’ll respond with a brief paragraph detailing your thoughts and reflections. Responses will be due by 8am on the days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) that the class meets over Zoom. Additionally, two (2) quizzes will be given throughout the semester to ensure that students 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 participation in sustainability-related activities in your community. 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 Sustainability Experience form on *UNM Learn* to document your community engagement, and submit your entries to the instructor within two weeks of participating in each activity. Throughout the semester, you will share brief check-ins on your community engagement with the class. You will also craft a brief reflection essay at the end of the term that details your experience.

**Ecological Footprint Reduction Proposal (20%):** 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. (You may find that the current pandemic imposes certain constraints or opportunities for future footprint reduction – be sure to discuss and reflect on these!) At the end of the semester you will turn in the final proposal and present a five- to ten-minute overview of your reduction strategy to the class over Zoom.

**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, short videos, and class discussions.

### **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 should 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 should have a webcam and microphone/speakers (or headset) in order to fully participate in live Zoom meetings. Be sure to download the Zoom software and log in with your UNM

NetID prior to the first class. You will be able to join scheduled meetings within *UNM Learn* via the “Zoom Meeting” link on the Course Menu. See the [Zoom Participant Guide](#) for more information.

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 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 yet have full functionality.*

**Communication:** The instructor will communicate to students 1) within the *UNM Learn* course website using the announcements tool, as well as 2) via UNM email. Students are expected to visit the *UNM Learn* course website regularly to stay up to date with course material and abreast of the information contained in announcements. Course announcements will be sent regularly from the instructor to apprise the class of weekly happenings and upcoming deadlines. UNM email will be used as needed for personal communication. To check or change your UNM preferred email account, go [visit this two-factor authentication site](#). *Do note that if an urgent matter arises, you are welcome to contact me via phone or text.*

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* at all times.

The instructor values student feedback; as such, it is strongly encouraged that students complete the end-of-course survey (available in the Course Evaluations section on the *UNM Learn* homepage and via automated email from [coursefeedback@unm.edu](mailto:coursefeedback@unm.edu)).

**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/text 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 the live Zoom meetings.

**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 first and last access to the course, the modules you have accessed, the assignments you have submitted, 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](mailto: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.

## Schedule:

Class	Date	Topic	Read & Discuss	Assignment Due
<b>I. The Context of Sustainability</b>				
1	T 8/18	Introduction	-Syllabus	Read the syllabus and explore our <a href="#">website</a>
2	R 8/20	What is Sustainability?	-WCED, 1987 -UNCED, 1992 -Drexhage, 2010	
3	T 8/25	Human Population Growth & Consumption	-Population Reference Bureau, 2020 -Bradshaw, 2014	
4	R 8/27	The Ecological Footprint	-Living Planet Report, 2018, ch.#1&2 -Perkins, 2017	<b><u>Community engagement:</u></b> Initial plan of action
5	T 9/1	A Resilient Planet	-Living Planet Report, 2016, ch.#4 -UN, 2019	
<b>II. The Environment (Planet)</b>				
6	R 9/3	Climate Change & Human Alteration of Ecosystems	-USGCRP, 2017 -Ripple, 2017	
7	T 9/8	Climate Impacts, Mitigation & Adaptation	-Gramling, 2018 -USGCRP, 2018	<b><u>Community engagement:</u></b> Final plan of action
8	R 9/10	Global Energy Usage	-Energy Information Administration, 2019 -Inman, 2013	
9	T 9/15	Renewable Energy: Solar	-Wald, 2009 -BCSE, 2020 -US Solar Market Insight Report, 2020	
10	R 9/17	Renewable Energy: Biomass & Biofuel	- <a href="#">US DOE Bioenergy website</a> - <a href="#">US RFS website</a>	<b><u>Ecological footprint proposal:</u></b> Baseline footprint calculation & reflection questions
11	T 9/22	Water Consumption & Conservation	-Rogers, 2008 -Meyer, 2016	
12	R 9/24	The Industrial Food System; Food Access & Food Waste	-CSS, 2019 -NRDC, 2012	<b>Quiz #1</b>
13	T 9/29	Sustainable Agriculture & Permaculture	-Foley, 2011 -SARE, 2010 -Harland, 2009	
14	R 10/1	Global Waste: Trash, Recycling & Composting	-EPA, 2019 -UNEP, 2015	<b><u>Ecological footprint proposal:</u></b> Revised baseline footprint calculation
15	T 10/6	Green Architecture	-Valiño, 2017 -Barth, 2018	

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

**Schedule:**

Class	Date	Topic	Read & Discuss	Assignment Due
<b>III. The Economy (Profit)</b>				
16	R 10/8	Growthmania & the American Economy	-Daly, 1973 -Stiglitz, 2015 -Korten, 2007	<b>Community engagement:</b> 5 hours completed
17	T 10/13	Green Economics: Biomimicry & Cradle to Cradle Design	-Goleman, 2009 -Benyus, 2010	
18	R 10/15	Green & Socially Responsible Business	-Kelly, 2015 -Walmart, 2019	<b>Ecological footprint proposal:</b> Brainstorm footprint reduction strategy
19	T 10/20	Ecosystem Valuation: The Land Ethic & Natural Capitalism	-Leopold, 1949 -Lovins, 2007	
20	R 10/22	Environmental Challenges, Economic Solutions	-Conniff, 2009 -CCL, 2014 -Meyer, 2015	
21	T 10/27	Microlending & the Microcredit Revolution	-Yunus, 2007 -Karlan, 2015	
<b>IV. Social Equity (People)</b>				
22	R 10/29	Environmental Justice	-Melosi, 2012 -JCPES, 2012 -Gottlieb, 2009	<b>Quiz #2</b>
X	T 11/3	<b>UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – no class</b>		<b>Election Day</b>
23	R 11/5	Smart Growth: Transportation & Urban Design	-Smart Growth Network, 2006 -Arcadis, 2018	
24	T 11/10	A Case Study of Curitiba, Brazil	-Adler, 2016	
25	R 11/12	Sustainable Communities: Ecovillages & Transition Towns	-Litfin, 2013 -Hopkins, 2008	<b>Community engagement:</b> 10 hours & reflection essay due
26	T 11/17	Gross National Happiness & Alternative Progress Indicators	-Wahl, 2017 <a href="#">-World Economic Forum, 2016</a>	
<b>V. Presentations &amp; Course Wrap-Up</b>				
27	R 11/19	Ecological Footprint Presentations		<b>Ecological footprint proposal:</b> Final report
28	T 11/24	Ecological Footprint Presentations Continued		
X	R 11/26	<b>UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – no class</b>		
29	T 12/1	Final Exam Review & Course Wrap-Up	-Lappé, 2013 -Nijhuis, 2015	
30	R 12/3	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>

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