

Sustainability

ECO 381 - Sustainable Development Principles and Policies
MWF 9-9:50am, 105 DP Corbett Hall

Instructor: Tim Waring (timothy.waring@maine.edu)
Website: Google Classroom (use maine.edu account, code: 2ybsc)
Office: Winslow Hall, Suite 200
Office Hours: Mon 10-11pm or by appointment

Course Overview

In the last half century, the concept of environmental sustainability has changed individual behavior, influenced international economic and political priorities, and founded scientific research fields. The concern environmental sustainability has expanded to include issues of economic and social sustainability as well. This course will explore the scientific foundation of the global sustainability crisis. We will also examine the environmental, economic, social and ethical factors and ramifications of that crisis, and survey the prospects and challenges in the quest to define, measure and achieve sustainable societies. We will finally step beyond the academic discussions to accomplish sustainability research and service for the UMaine community.

Learning Objectives

- Assume responsibility for your own learning
- Explain the scientific basis for the sustainability problem
- Define sustainability goals using context-relevant criteria
- Explain, defend and critique various ethical foundations for sustainability
- Employ sound reasoning in essay form
- Develop leadership and collaboration skills via focused team work
- Help the UMaine campus its progress towards sustainability
- Engage with community stakeholders
- Conduct research on social-environmental challenges in Orono

Major Assignments

Category	Code	Assignments	Value
Research Essays (25%)	W1	Science of... (1/3, argument)	5%
	W2	Ethics of ... (2/3, evidence)	10%
	W3	Policy & Action... (3/3, citations)	10%
Service Learning (25%)	S1	Attend Meetings, Tour	5%
	S2	Assist OVWD outreach (Report)	10%
	S3	Community Presentation (OVWD meeting)	10%
Survey Research (25%)	R1	Survey Design	5%
	R2	Data Collection	10%
	R3	Analysis	10%
Class work (10%)	C1-8	In-class assignments, participation, etc.	10%
Exam (15%)	X	Cumulative	15%

Detailed Overview

The course consists of four distinct units.

- 1 - Science-** We survey the science of the global sustainability crisis. We learn the basic economic, ecological, physical dimensions of the planet. We learn to define our terms in general and ‘sustainability’ in particular. This background will frame the concerns from which sustainability is discussed, and highlight the relevance of these concepts to current global and political challenges.
- 2 – Ethics** - We survey selected ethical philosophies of human-environment interaction. From this, we construct an ethical framework that supports a set of sustainable development principles. Students forge beyond the read-and-regurgitate model, and think sharply about how to construct their own synthetic ethical standards for the modern context.
- 3 – Policy and Outreach** - We review different sustainability metrics and systems and study the connections to sustainability-relevant policy, noting the interactions and differences in strategies at the global, national, state and local levels. In this unit, we pursue a service learning projects that contribute directly to University sustainability efforts.
- 4 – Application and Evaluation** - Guest lecturers will lead us on guided tours of current sustainability topics, such as food systems, forestry, climate, and fisheries. We discuss each topic as a class, consider relevant readings, and form our own conclusions. Finally, we conduct our own assessment as a class, surveying first year students on their attitudes and perspectives relevant to social and environmental sustainability. The syllabus may be changed to accommodate guest lecturers.

Important Dates

Last Day to	Date
add classes	Fri-4-Sep
drop classes	Sun-13-Sep
transcript drop	Thu-1-Oct
drop without 'F'	Fri-13-Nov

Policies & Expectations

I take attendance. I give unannounced reading quizzes.
I will hold you to high standards, as you should yourself.

Expectations and Guidelines

In addition to learning the course content, I expect you to learn and practice strong academic skills. Please be prepared to meet the following college-level expectations:

Civility & Inclusive language - please be civil and courteous with each other and the instructor.

Also, be sure to use inclusive and non-sexist language:

www.umaine.edu/WIC/both/language.htm.

Attendance - please plan to attend all classes, and to *sign in before class begins* in order to receive credit for being there. Each class that you attend earns you points toward your final grade. If you plan to miss a class, contact me at least 24 hours advance. All absences must be excused. Please also keep in mind that it is your responsibility to find out what you missed, including any assignments and announced due dates, if you are absent. You will lose points off of your overall grade for each unexcused absence, regardless of the reason.

Timeliness - please arrive *early or on-time* to each class. Late arrival or early departure will count as an absence.

Deadlines - I do not accept late work. (Extensions are only granted to those who have planned ahead and make the request well in advance of due date.)

Participation - please bring your materials to every class and be ready to participate in class work/discussions, having done the necessary readings. No cell phones, no laptops unless requested, etc.

Respect - please plan to be treated and to treat fellow students and the teacher with respect.

Grading – A:90s, B:80s, C:70s, D:60s, F:everything else. minus:0–3, plus:6–10. There is no A+.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Students with disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

Course Disruption:

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Sexual Discrimination:

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Inclusive or non-sexist language:

The University of Maine's non-sexist language policy may be viewed at:
<http://www.umaine.edu/WIC/both/language.htm>.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources: For *confidential resources on campus*: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000. For *confidential resources off campus*: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909. For *support services on campus*: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>