

Introduction to Environmental Sustainability (070:215 or 375:215)

INSTRUCTORS:	Schafer/Sodikoff	EMAIL:	karinavr@rutgers.edu , sodikoff@rutgers.edu
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS:	SCHAFFER: Tue 12-1 PM; Boyden Hall 410 SODIKOFF: HILL HALL 616, THURS 1-2 PM AND BY APPOINTMENT.	COURSE WEBSITE:	Blackboard and Wikipedia dashboard
COURSE LOCATION(S):	CPS 105	MEETING TIME:	TUES, 2:30-3:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course in environmental sustainability. The course takes an ecological and anthropological approach to sustainability, since the goal of sustainability demands an interdisciplinary endeavor that encompasses social, economic and environmental sciences. The course will examine the interactions of living beings and social groups in diverse environments that are burdened by disruptive human activities, and it will assess actual or imagined solutions to unsustainable conditions. Topics are related to environmental aspects of societal concern such as global warming, land use, biodiversity crisis, among others.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- a) acquire an increased understanding of ecological concepts (e.g. climate change, global warming, biodiversity, ecosystem services, carrying capacity, carbon footprint) and their relationships to key social scientific concepts (e.g. gender, class, global political economy, inequality, underdevelopment, commodity chains, environmental justice, resiliency);
- b) be able to assess resources (food, water, shelter, and transportation), and their differential accessibility and availability at various sites;
- c) be able to make inferences of the impact of humans on the planet, and of the distribution of negative impacts on societies globally;

d) develop mixed methodologies for analyzing data, critically evaluating research findings, and making inferences.

Grading

The course grade will be based on 1) attendance, 2) participation in class and on fieldtrips, 3) weekly Blackboard quizzes on readings and lectures, 4) the Wikimedia project, and 5) a group oral presentation. There will be no midterm or final exam.

Attendance: 5%

Class participation: 10%

Weekly Blackboard quizzes: 35%

Group presentation: 10%

Wikimedia project: 40%

 Bibliography with synopses: 15%

 First draft: 5%

 Final version: 20%

POLICIES:

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS or QUIZZES:

Missed exams, quizzes, and/or assignments require either that a student arranges a makeup date in advance with the professor, or that the student provides legitimate documentation for an illness or other emergency.

PLAGARISM and INDEPENDENT WORK:

The course has a zero tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. Instances of dishonesty will be punished by a zero on the assignment and consultation with the Academic Integrity Officers to determine if further action is required. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please ask your instructors or refer to the academic integrity websites for Rutgers and NJIT:

- ✓ <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>
- ✓ <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/>
- ✓ <http://www.njit.edu/academics/integrity.php>

Here are some general rules of thumb on plagiarism: If you are unsure whether you are plagiarizing text, take precautions by always referencing the materials you have read. In other words, you must add a

footnote, endnote, or cite your source text in parenthesis. Citations show you have done serious research and have acknowledged the work of other scholars. However, it is not good to rely on one or two sources exclusively. Your research papers must include multiple sources of information (these sources may be in the form of books, journal and newspaper articles, magazines, internet resources, films, etc.).

Forms of plagiarism include the following scenarios:

- You find a research paper in the library or off the internet and submit it as your own paper.
- You pay a service or individual to write your paper for you submit it as your own work.
- You use a portion of an article, radio or TV show, book, internet paper, etcetera, without giving a citation for the work and therefore implying the text is your own.
- You find an article or research paper and paraphrase its argument or ideas in your own words without offering a citation, and then you submit ideas as your own.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is required, and we will call roll. If you arrive after roll call, you will be marked absent; also, leaving class early will be counted as an absence. Unexcused absences will affect your course grade. **After the SECOND unexcused absence, the final grade will be docked no matter how well you did on other assignments and tests.** At the third unexcused absence, you will be unable to get higher than a B+ in the course, all other work figured in. For the fourth unexcused absence, you will be unable to get higher than a B; for the fifth, no higher than a C+, and so on according to the grades that Rutgers-Newark recognizes (C, D, F).

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS: Powerpoint presentations used in class lectures will be made available to you before scheduled quizzes and not necessarily before that. Not all material from the lectures will be on the slides but material from lectures may be on tests. So, it is essential that you **take notes** by hand (*no laptops*).

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:

Students' use of laptops, internet, and cell phones are **NOT ALLOWED** in class.

ETIQUETTE:

Students are expected to pay attention in class and to address fellow students and the professor respectfully (in person and via email correspondence). No looking at phones during lectures, films, or students' presentations. Emails to the professor should begin with a greeting, and should sign off by giving student's **full name**. It is not always clear from NET IDs who is writing, plus it is polite to sign off with your name.

THE ASSIGNMENTS LISTED HERE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. USE THIS SYLLABUS AS A ROUGH GUIDE. YOU MUST LOOK AT BLACKBOARD AND THE WIKIPEDIA DASHBOARD EVERY WEEK FOR CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS.

Week	Meeting Topic	NOTES/Reading Assignments/Exams
Week 1 1/16/18	Introduction to the course	Begin reading next week's assignments. First Blackboard quiz due by next Tuesday's class. Sign up for Wikipedia at https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Arts_and_Science/Intro_to_Env_Sustainability_(Spring_2018)?enrol=swebcjtj
Week 2 1/23/18	Principles of Sustainability / The Art of changing how we think	http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/college-and-university-students/799 Zull, J. E. 2004. The Art of Changing the Brain. Educational Leadership 62 :68. Tainter, Joseph 2014. "14 Collapse and Sustainability: Rome, the Maya, and the Modern World." Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association. and the Modern World Nelson, M. P. & Vucetich, J. A. (2012) Sustainability Science: Ethical Foundations and Emerging Challenges. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):12. Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Arts_and_Science/Intro_to_Env_Sustainability_(Spring_2018)?enrol=swebcjtj Do BB reading quiz.
Week 3 1/30/18	Principles of the physical environment	Stevens, A. (2010) Introduction to the Basic Drivers of Climate. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):10 Forseth, I. (2010) Terrestrial Biomes. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):11 Levi, Primo. "Carbon." In The Periodic Table. Wikipedia – have articles selected, check on dashboard Do BB reading/lecture quiz (last week's lecture).
Week 4 2/6/18	Water FLOW: For the love of water (film)	Wufich, Amber, and Brewis, Alexandra. 2014. "Food, Water, and Scarcity: Toward a Broader

		<p>Anthropology of Resource Insecurity." Current Anthropology 55(4): 444-468.</p> <p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p> <p>Do BB reading/lecture quiz (last week's lecture).</p>
<p>Week 5 2/13/18</p>	<p>Energy</p> <p>Guest Speaker: David Hughes (Anthropology; Rutgers University, New Brunswick)</p>	<p>Beman, J. (2010) Energy Economics in Ecosystems. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):13</p> <p>Benke, A. (2010) Secondary Production. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):23</p> <p>Hughes, David McDermott. October 23, 2017. "Who Owns the Wind?" Boston Review. http://bostonreview.net/science-nature/david-mcdermott-hughes-who-owns-wind.</p> <p>And</p> <p>"A Jobless Utopia?" May 19, 2017. Boston Review. http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality/david-mcdermott-hughes-jobless-utopia.</p> <p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p> <p>Do BB reading/lecture quiz (last week's lecture)</p>
<p>Week 6 2/20/18</p>	<p>Environmental Justice</p> <p>Environmental Justice Tour Newark Class field trip with Ironbound Community Corporation</p>	<p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p> <p>Do BB reading/lecture quiz (last week's lecture)</p> <p>Little, Peter C.; Lucier, Cristina. 2017. "Global Electronic Waste, Third Part Certification Standards, and Resisting the Undoing of Environmental Justice. <i>HUMAN ORGANIZATION</i>; FAL 2017; 76; 3; p204-p214</p> <p>Pulido, Laura. 2000. "Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California." <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i>. Vol. 90 Issue 1: pp. 12-29.</p>
<p>Week 7 2/27/18</p>	<p>Wikimedia project peer review Organize project groups</p>	<p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments, present selected scholarly articles on your theme and submit references to professors.</p> <p>No quiz</p>
<p>Week 8 3/6/18</p>	<p>Global Climate Change</p> <p>In class: Chasing Ice (film)</p>	<p>Rockstrom et al 2009, Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity. <i>Ecology and Society</i> 14</p>

		<p>Cruikshank, Julie. "Glaciers and Climate Change: Perspectives from Oral Tradition." <i>Arctic</i>, 54(4). 377-393. 2001.</p> <p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p> <p>Do BB reading quiz.</p>
Week 9 SPRING BREAK	Work on Wikimedia Projects	Add 4-5 scholarly articles/books to Wikimedia bibliography. Write up summary paragraphs about each article or book.
Week 10 3/20/18	<p>Food, Food Inc (movie)</p> <p>Guest speaker: Organic Farming</p>	<p>https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_foley_the_other_inconvenient_truth</p> <p>Veteto, James and Lockyer, Joshua. 2008. "Environmental Anthropology Engaging Permaculture: Moving Theory and Practice Toward Sustainability." <i>Culture & Agriculture</i> Vol. 30, Numbers 1 & 2 pp. 47-58.</p> <p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p> <p>Do BB reading and lecture quiz (last week's lecture)</p>
Week 10 3/27/18	Field Trip: Terracycle Trenton (tentative)	<p>Recycling assignment TBA</p> <p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p>
Week 11 4/3/18	Waste	<p>Rogers, Heather 2010, <i>Green Gone Wrong</i>, excerpts, p 276.</p> <p>Reno, Josh. 2009. "Your Trash is Someone's Treasure: the Politics of Value at a Michigan Landfill." <i>Journal of Material Culture</i> 14(1): 29-46.</p> <p>Günel, Gökçe. 2016. "What Is Carbon Dioxide? When Is Carbon Dioxide?" <i>Political and Legal Anthropology Review</i>.</p> <p>Check Wikipedia dashboard assignments</p> <p>Do BB reading/lecture quiz.</p>
Week 12 4/10/18	Population	<p>Ross, Eric. 1998. <i>The Malthus Factor: Poverty, Politics and Population in Capitalist Development</i>. New York: Zed Books, excerpts.</p> <p>May, John F. 2017. "The Politics of Family Planning Policies and Programs in sub-Saharan Africa." <i>Population & Development Review</i>. Supplement, Vol. 43, p308-329.</p>

		Finish Wikimedia projects, prepare oral presentations with slides.
Week 13 4/17/18	Sustainable Economies / cities Group presentations Guest speaker: Melissa Checker	Tim Jackson "Prosperity without Growth" p 350. Hornborg, Alf. 2007. "Learning from the Tiv: Why a Sustainable Economy Would Have to Be 'Multicentric.'" <i>Culture & Agriculture</i> . Do BB quiz.
Week 14 4/24/18	Group presentations Wrap-up	Do BB quiz on readings and oral presentations. Final Wikimedia projects due