

GEOG 500

Global Environment and Sustainable Development



Course Syllabus

Geography Program

Winthrop University

Spring 2016

Instructor Information

Instructor: Bryan McFadden
Office Hours: MW 2:00 – 4:00
TH 1:00 – 4:00
F 8:30 – 11:30 or by appointment

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Geography Program Homepage:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/geography/>

Course Information

Course: GEOG 500-001 (24075) – Global Sustainable Development
Lectures: TR 9:30pm – 10:45pm
Location: OWEN 101

Credit Hours: 3 – This course fulfills the General Education Oral Communication Requirement

Course Description and Philosophy

The accumulating impact of environmental problems on our lives has created a public awareness that environmentalists could only dream about twenty years ago. However, within our complex consumer society many of these “impacts” cannot be readily mitigated due to “needs” that they fulfill. Furthermore, we have evolved into a society where environmental sustainability means anti-economy and economic growth means anti-sustainability. This course looks to analyze this multi-faceted problem with specific reference to sustainability within the urban and rural environments, as well as within the developed and developing worlds.

This course is not designed to convert your philosophy to a pro-conservationist or pro-development perspective. It is meant to inform and educate. You will be challenged to think from “the other perspective” as well as to challenge your own ideals. You will not be judged or criticized for your beliefs, but you will be asked to rationally justify them. This course will involve a significant amount of discussion. Input on different topics will be expected from all students and is an important part of your grade.

Course Goals and Objectives

The goals of this course can be articulated as follows:

- Understand the emerging debate about reconciling ecological sustainability with poverty alleviation in the context of globalization and development;
- Develop a capacity to undertake a theoretically grounded analysis of environment and development issues using case-studies
- Think creatively about both global-local articulations evident in environmental and development issues and envision alternative global futures.
- To be able to defend your personal perspectives in a rational and logical manner.

This course addresses the following Winthrop University-Level Competencies (ULC's):

Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.

Winthrop University graduates reason logically, evaluate and use evidence, and solve problems. They seek out and assess relevant information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned conclusions. Winthrop graduates consider the full context and consequences of their decisions and continually reexamine their own critical thinking process, including the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.

Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens.

Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

Winthrop University graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative (GLI). Geography by its nature is holistic in its approach to real-world problems. Consequently by the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Clearly articulate their views and beliefs with regards to environmental issues.
- Explain the development and current activities of human societies at world, national and local scales as it relates to environmental issues and sustainable development.
- Express in a clear and logical manner the current environment debates and their major perspectives
- Identify and describe the major economic forces that shape our approach to the environment
- Identify and describe what the United Nations and other governing bodies are doing to assist in a more sustainable world.

Course Materials

Textbook

There is no text book for this course. All materials provided to students will be available through the course website.

Course Website

Blackboard is used for this course. All lectures and assignments are posted on Blackboard. If you need assistance with Blackboard, below is a link that has various instructions and troubleshooting guides:

http://www2.winthrop.edu/webct/Blackboard_Training_Tutorials.html

[GEOG 500 Blackboard](#)

Course Requirements

Individual Research Assignment

The individual research assignment will comprise **25%** of your final grade. This represents an independent study project on a topic of your choice. The project will have two components:

- Proposal (Due Feb 21) **5%**
- Research Presentation (March 29 – April 12) **20%**

Group Research Assignment

The group presentation will comprise **20%** of your final grade. Students will be placed into groups of 2-3 (depending on class size and a willingness to have all groups of equal size) and assigned to a specific lecture topic (or will come up with one of their own). The grading will be based upon the following two categories:

- Presentation Dates (Feb 23 – Mar 3)

Reading/Discussion Assignments

Throughout the semester there will be a series of assignments that will involve smaller readings and/or research. The results of these assignments will be discussed in class. In addition to the discussion, a written document must be submitted. More details will be provided as the semester unfolds. These assignments will comprise **30%** of your final grade.

Class Participation

Class participation is a critical component of your grade. It will be tracked throughout the semester and will comprise **15%** of your final grade. Participation will be tracked daily.

Final Exam

There will be a cumulative exam based on all material (videos, lectures, website materials, etc.) presented in the course. The final exam is worth **10%** of your final grade.

Friday April 29th, 2016 11:30am

Additional Graduate Requirements

Research Paper

In addition to the individual presentation, graduate students will be required to submit a written research paper (12-15 pages). The topic for the research paper can be the same topic as the Research presentation or assignment or another topic related to the subject matter in the course. The paper is worth **15%** of your final grade.

Course Rules and Guidelines

Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access: Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 803-323-3290, or, accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be checked randomly throughout the term. Those students missing more than 5 classes will receive an F. Any extenuating circumstance that may prevent a student from attending class needs to be discussed with the professor the moment they arise. Please see the undergraduate catalog for the University Attendance Policies (<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf>)

Student Code of Conduct: As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the Student Handbook (<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

Safe Zones Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thoughts is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Classroom Etiquette: All cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned **OFF** (not on silent mode or vibrate). The use of computers without prior approval is forbidden. Students who violate this rule will be asked to leave class and they will be considered absent. A second offense will result in a 10% reduction in your **FINAL** grade. A third offense will result in an **F** in the course. If you are expecting an important phone call you are to notify me during the beginning of the class. If you wish to record the lecture you must consult with the professor prior to recording any lectures. For the full policy please see the College of Arts and Sciences policy at the following link. <https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/PolicyForHandHeldTech-April2014.pdf>

If a test or exam is scheduled for a particular class, students will not be permitted to take the test/exam when 15 minutes has expired since the start of the test/exam session. A grade of zero will be entered and the lateness will be treated as an absence.

Assignment Submission: All assignments will be submitted electronically. Instructions for submission will be included with assignment description documents.

Late Penalties: **No late assignments will be accepted.** Students will receive a zero (0) if written assignments are not submitted by the due date/time. If a student is not present on their assigned presentation day, this will result in a zero (0) being entered for that assignment. The only exceptions that will be made will be for those excuses that meet the university guidelines (see Missed Test/Exam policy below).

"24" Hour Rule: The instructor will not discuss the grade on an assignment, project, exam, test, etc. during the first 24 hours after it is handed back. Contact the instructor via e-mail the following day to make an appointment to discuss the grade.

Exception: If the problem is a mathematical error follow the instructor to his office after class and the appropriate adjustments will be made.

Exam Deferrals: Legitimate student conflicts are defined as follows: more than one scheduled exam per period; more than two scheduled exams per day; and more than three scheduled exams in any four consecutive periods. A student with a legitimate conflict will receive written notification from the Office of Records and Registration. The instructor involved will also be sent notification of the conflict. Conflicts should be resolved by the student and instructor. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the resolution of any conflicts. **Personal conflicts such as travel plans and work schedules do not warrant a change in examination times.** For further details refer to <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/recandreg/Catalogs/15-16/2015-16Catalog.pdf>

Missed Test/Exam Policy: There are only four acceptable excuses for an individual missing an exam or test. They are:

1. **Illness:** I will need an official certificate from your doctor verifying that you have a medical condition that precluded you from writing the scheduled exam/test. The note must indicate the day(s) you were unable to attend class and not simply the day you were seen by the medical practitioner. You will also be required, within reason, to notify the instructor as early as possible prior to, or immediately after the scheduled date. An email will suffice.
2. **Funeral Attendance:** I will need proof of funeral attendance with the date of the ceremony clearly listed.
3. **Mandatory Courtroom Appearance:** I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of attendance clearly listed.
4. **Winthrop Athletic Participation and other Approved University Activities:** I will need a signed letter from a member of the senior coaching staff, program director, instructor or other supervisory individuals indicating the day(s) you will be absent.

In all situations, the makeup test/exam will occur within **5** class days of the missed date. In the event of illness will this deadline be **5** days from the **“return to work”** date noted on the medical certificate.

Make-Up or Bonus Work: There will be **NO** make-up work or bonus material of any kind.

Grading Policy

- All grades are based on the sum total of all assignments, tests, exams, etc as specified in the course syllabus.
- Grades will NOT be based on how hard you worked, classroom attendance, classroom participation, the need to graduate by a certain date or the need to maintain a specific GPA for academic scholarships, financial aid, athletic scholarships or athletic eligibility considerations.
- You are responsible for knowing the “drop dates” as indicated in the academic calendar
- I will not drop anyone from the course in order to prevent them receiving a poor grade nor will I provide an incomplete unless extenuating circumstances exist. Students who wish to receive and incomplete as a result of illness will be instructed to seek a medical withdrawal from the class.
- I will not discuss your standing in the course via phone, email or in person with anyone but the student themselves. It is illegal for me to do so unless a release form has been signed with the student and properly registered with Records and Registration. Upon confirmation from Records and Registration, only then will I discuss grades with approved individuals.
- In the interest of fairness, there are no exceptions to these rules.

Grading Breakdown The following letter breakdown will be used for the assignment of final grades:
(Letter Grade/Percentage Value Range)

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Syllabus Change Policy: The delivery of a course is dynamic in nature and cannot always follow the course calendar and schedule. Wherever possible the instructor will attempt to ensure that the schedule is followed. The following changes can be done without consultation with the class, though any changes will be announced:

1. Changing the sequence/order in which material is delivered
2. Adding or removing content
3. Changing the date of a schedule test or assignment (Exams cannot be changed). At least 1 weeks’ notice will be given when changing a test or assignment deadline.

Any changes with regards to the distribution of grades, the application of letter grades, or any changes that effect the assessment and evaluation of student performance will be discussed with the class. If two-thirds of the class is in agreement with a proposed change then the change is accepted. A revised syllabus reflecting that change will be provided electronically to the class.

Course Calendar and Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 12	Course Overview and Introductions Assignment 1
	Jan 14	What is Development? ; What is Sustainable Development?
2	Jan 19	Why Geography? The Geographic Perspective
	Jan 21	
3	Jan 26	Pillars of Sustainability: The Environment Assignment 2
	Jan 28	
4	Feb 02	Pillars of Sustainability: The Environment Assignment 3
	Feb 04	
5	Feb 09	Pillars of Sustainability: Society Assignment 4
	Feb 11	
6	Feb 16	Pillars of Sustainability: Society
	Feb 18	
7	Feb 23	Group Research Presentations Research Proposal Due 2/21
	Feb 25	Group Research Presentations
8	Mar 01	Group Research Presentations
	Mar 03	Group Research Presentations
9	Mar 08	Pillars of Sustainability: The Economy Assignment 5
	Mar 10	
10	Mar 15	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
	Mar 17	
11	Mar 22	Pillars of Sustainability: The Economy
	Mar 24	
12	Mar 29	Individual Research Presentations
	Mar 31	Individual Research Presentations
13	Apr 05	Individual Research Presentations
	Apr 07	Individual Research Presentations
14	Apr 12	Individual Research Presentations
	Apr 14	Catch-up day
15	Apr 19	A Sustainable World: Is it Possible? Assignment 6
	Apr 21	