

College of Arts and Sciences

Winthrop University

SUST102 Introduction to Sustainability



People have to believe there will be a future in order to look forward.

Paul Hawken

General Information

Course:	SUST102 Introduction to Sustainability
Section:	001
Credit Hours:	3
Prerequisite(s):	None
Semester:	Spring 2016
Time:	11:00 – 12:15 Monday / Wednesday
Final Exam:	8:00 am May 3, 2016
Room:	Owens 101
Instructor:	Chris Johnson
Office:	106 Facilities Management (349 Columbia Ave.)
Phone:	323-2389
Email:	johnsonc@winthrop.edu
Office hours:	M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus reflects expectations for this course. To address the needs of the students, it may however be necessary to make changes in the syllabus and/or course schedule at any time during the semester. In such cases, students will be notified accordingly.

Description

This course introduces students to the theory, principles, and practices of sustainability. It will include discussions on maintaining ecological and environmental health, creating economic welfare, and ensuring social justice.

Expanded Description

Sustainability was defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) in 1987 as “meeting the needs of society of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Achieving sustainability requires a multi-disciplinary approach that balances economic prosperity while providing equitable opportunities for all socio-economic classes and protects the viability of the planet’s natural systems.

Goals, Learning Outcomes & Assessment

The goals of the course are as follows:

- G1. Develop student’s scientific and social literacy, consensus building, information management, interpersonal expression, creative problem solving and critical thinking while providing skills training for identifying and solving problems objectively.
- G2. Develop student’s understanding of the interconnectedness of human and natural systems, i.e. systems thinking.
- G3. Develop learning environment that provides student the ability to freely explore how sustainability ideas can complement existing values.

Learning Outcome	Assessment
Define sustainability.	Articulate key approaches, concepts, and/or principles of sustainability or sustainable development using written and verbal forms of communication.
Identify the key characteristics of human and natural systems as they pertain to sustainability.	Report the results of using contemporary tools to define these characteristics while assessing sustainable strategies.
Communicate how the key characteristics of human and natural systems interact with one another.	Carefully analyze various case studies and verbally communicate during in class discussion how the natural and humans systems impact one another.
Identify measurable collective and individual actions.	Articulate in writing and verbally personal impact to the health of human and natural system while exploring methodologies for modifying behaviors found to be harmful.
Analyze sustainability from a multidisciplinary perspective and understand main tenets of pluralism.	Research and report verbally non-sustainable behaviors and articulate alternatives that follow sustainable theories, approaches, concepts, and/or principles.

Teaching Methods

Lecture, active discussion, and group problem solving activities are designed to introduce sustainability as an ongoing process, as a way of asking better questions. The emphasis of written and verbal assignments is to provide student opportunities to apply his or her understanding of newly learned theories, principles, and practices specific to sustainability.

Materials

All course materials (syllabus, schedule, detailed assignment descriptions and lectures) will be made available through Blackboard and/or the student's Winthrop email address. Most readings are accessible via the internet; no text books are required for this course.

Assignments

All assignments submitted to instructor are due on date designated on schedule; no late work will be accepted. Below are summaries of each assignment type.

Reading Assignments: A collection of required readings will introduce students to various theories, principles, and practices of sustainability. Student is expected to have completed all reading assignments as assigned.

Participation: Students are required to be prepared to participate in a thoughtful and relevant discussion in the classroom and should to bring to each class all written notes and/or a hard or digital copy of the assigned readings to assist his or her participation. Refer to the Course Calendar for specific assignments and web links for each reading assignment. It is the student's responsibility to inform instructor by 5:00 p.m. the day before assignment is due if web links provided are broken. A student will be selected randomly at the beginning of each class to begin the discussion of the assigned reading.

Project Assignments: Five formal projects have been designed to evaluate if students have achieved the learning outcomes as indicated above. A rubric will be posted on Blackboard along with requirements and instructions.

Service Project/Field Study: Students are required to complete three field studies and/or service projects. Dates and a summary of the qualifying projects or field studies will be provided as they are scheduled. To receive full credit, students are required to submit a short written analysis of the opportunity that specifically discusses how what was learned during the field study or service project relates to sustainability. This summary must include accurately applied terminology and concepts learned in the classroom. A list of possible service projects and field studies will be provided.

Final Exam: Final Exams begin Wednesday, April 27. The exam schedule can be found in Wingspan on your Concise Student Schedule and at <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/acadschedule/Exams-Spring.pdf>.

Legitimate 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 should work directly with his/her instructor to resolve the conflict. 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.

Extra Credit: Students may be awarded extra credit for attending cultural events or completing an additional service learning and/or field study not included in the course outline. Any opportunity for extra credit will be announced in class and/or by email. A maximum of fifty points will be given for up to five opportunities (ten points for each opportunity). To receive full credit, students are required to submit a short written analysis of the opportunity that specifically discusses how what was learned at the event relates to sustainability through the use of appropriate terminology and concepts learned in the classroom.

Evaluation

Final grades will be based on the quality of assignments completed as defined for each assignment, participation, and quizzes. Evaluation of course and assignments follows Winthrop University's undergraduate grading system:

Grading System		
A = 100-92%		A- = 91-90%
Designates work of superior quality. Class participation is voluntary, frequent, relevant, and reflects that material has been both read and thought about.		
B+ = 89-88%		B = 87-82%
Designates work of high quality. Class participation is voluntary, frequent, and reflects that the assigned materials are being kept up with.		
B- = 81-80%	C+ = 79-78%	C = 77-72%
Designates work that minimally meets the course requirements. Class participation is occasional and/or rarely voluntary, with comments that reveal only a superficial grasp of issues and concepts.		
C- = 71-70%	D+ = 69-68%	D = 67-62%
Reflects minimal clarity and comprehension. Class participation is minimal, never voluntary, and reveals that you have either have not read the assigned materials or did not understand the readings.		
D- = 61-60%		F = 59% and lower
Unsatisfactory performance along most (or all) measures.		

A detailed summary will be provided for each assignment as well as an assessment rubric. The breakdown of assignment values will be as follows:

Assignment	Percent Value	Point Value
Participation	5%	5 pts.
Project One: Sustainability Collage	10%	10 pts.
Project Two: Economic Vitality	20%	20 pts.
Project Three: Social Equity	20%	20 pts.
Project Four: Ecological Integrity	20%	20 pts.
Project Five: Sustainability Collage	10%	10 pts.
Service Projects (3)	15%	15 pts.
Total Available Points	100%	100 pts.

Student Code of Conduct

As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with the students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the Student Conduct Code at the following link: <http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>

The policy for the use of technology during class is as follows:

- a. Cell phone use, including text messaging and accessing the internet, is strictly prohibited during class.
- b. Lap tops are permitted **only** for work related to this specific course. Any other use is strictly prohibited.
- c. If someone is caught using his or her cell phone, or if someone is caught using the internet for purposes other than for SUST 102 during a lecture or student presentation, students will receive an absence and assignments completed for that day will receive a zero.

Class Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. It is expected that all students be on time and attend each class session. The absence and tardiness policy is as follows:

- a. Each student is allowed **two** absences. For an absence to be excused, the student must contact the instructor prior to the absence. However, it will be the instructor's discretion as to the legitimacy of the absence, i.e. missing class for a job is not an excused absence. A student's grade will be lowered one letter grade for **each** unexcused absence above the two absences allowed. If a medical emergency has occurred, students will be required to provide written documentation that explains the reason for the absence.
- b. It will be the individual student's responsibility to make up any content discussed during class, as well as any assignments, quizzes, or in-class assignments missed because of an absence. All assignments not submitted because of the absence must be turned in on the day student returns to class. All make-up in-class assignments must be turned in one week after receiving the assignment. Any make-up quizzes must be scheduled with the instructor on the first immediate class the student returns. If the student misses the scheduled make-up time, the student will receive a zero for that quiz.
- c. All student athletes are required to provide a written schedule of their respective sport. Without this written schedule, absences due to sport activities will be considered unexcused. No schedules will be accepted the day of the absence.
- d. Roll will be called at the beginning of each class. Any student who arrives after roll is called will be considered tardy. Any student who leaves before the end of class without being dismissed will also be considered tardy. Three late arrivals will be counted as an unexcused absence. (See above for policy for unexcused absences.)

In the event the University officially closes or cancels classes due to inclement weather or another unforeseen emergency, communications will be relayed using the student's official Winthrop email address with instructions about all assignments and/or changes to the course schedule.

Students with Disabilities

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. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Success Center

Winthrop's Academic Success Center is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu. For more information on ASC services, please visit www.winthrop.edu/success.

Tentative Course Schedule		
Week	Date	Assignment(s)
Week 1	Monday January 11	Introduction to course content and expectations + Basic introduction to sustainability.
	Wednesday January 13	How to Read Critically (2 pages) The Reign of Recycling (7 pages) Fact Check: Reign of Recycling (7 pages)
Week 2	Monday January 18 No Class	Option A: Service learning project: trash pick-up around campus – weather permitting. Option B: Attend an event that celebrates Martin Luther King Day on campus. List of events can be found at www.winthrop.edu .
	Wednesday January 20	Natural Step Sustainability Primer (24 Pages) What Is Sustainability? (8 pages)
Week 3	Monday January 25	Project One: Defining Sustainability Collage
	Wednesday January 27	Beyond the Limits of Growth (7 pages) Dangerously Addictive: Why We Are Biologically Ill-suited to the Riches of Modern America (5 pages)
Week 4	Monday February 1	Eco-Economy: The Economy and the Earth (Chapter 1) (21 pages)
	Wednesday February 3	A Road Map for Natural Capitalism (16 pages)
Week 5	Monday February 8	Ecological Economics (13 pages)
	Wednesday February 10	Climate After Growth (22 pages)
Week 6	Monday February 15	Project Two: Consumption, Economic Vitality, Sustainability & You . . .
	Wednesday February 17	Population: The Multiplier of Everything Else (15 pages)
Week 7	Monday February 22	Can Extreme Poverty be eliminated? (11 pages) Dream of a Nation: Chapter 8 Ending Poverty and Building a Common Wealth (15 pages)
	Wednesday February 24	The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis (6 pages)
Week 8	Monday February 29	Design for Social Sustainability: A framework for creating thriving new communities. (Pages 5-50) (30 pages)
	Wednesday March 2	Can Extreme Poverty be eliminated? (11 pages)
Week 9	Monday March 7*	Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation Chapter 10 Sustainability: Ethics, Culture, and History (Pages 492-506) (14 pages)
	Wednesday March 9	Project Three: Assumptions, Social Equity, Sustainability & You . . .
Spring Break March 14-18		
Week 10	Monday March 21*	In class watch documentary: Trashed
	Wednesday March 23*	In class watch documentary: The 11 th Hour
Week 11	Monday March 28	(Conservation & Preservation) A Sand County Almanac. (Respect of Place) (63 pages)
	Wednesday March 30	(Natural Resources) Peak Nature? (13 pages)
Week 12	Monday April 4	(Waste & Materials) Climate Change, Peak Oil, and the End of Waste (12 pages)
	Wednesday April 6	(Water) Adapting to the New Normal (13 pages)
Week 13	Monday April 11	(Agriculture & Food) Sustainable agricultural and food systems (Chapter 2) (8 pages) Growing Community Food Systems (8 pages)
	Wednesday April 13	(Climate) CLIMATE LITERACY: The Essential Principles of Climate Science (18 pages)
Week 14	Monday April 18	Project Four: Observation, Ecological Integrity, Sustainability & You . . .
	Wednesday April 20	The Human Nature of Unsustainability (7 pages)
Week 15 & Final	Monday April 25	Beyond Sustainability (17 pages)
	May 3	Project Five: Define Sustainability Collage