**Sustainability 101 Sustainable World**

**Fall 2022 WEL 132**

**Class meets in person MW 10-11:50**

**Instructor: Michael S. McGlade, Ph.D. (he, him, his)**

Office Hours: M 4-6 (Bellamy Hall 211); W: 4:30–5:30, 7:15-8:15 (Vick 129); Zoom: T 8-9 am (link in Canvas)

e-mail: mcgladm@wou.edu

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Required Book:

Jeffrey D. Sachs (2015). The Age of Sustainable Development. NY: Columbia University Press.

Definition(s) of Sustainability

Sustainability is the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, and economy. This interconnectedness provides a foundation from which to discover, implement, and enrich sustainable principles and practices that promote and instill justice, civility, and heathy living environments.

The Department of Sustainability defines sustainability as, “the practice of satisfying current needs without sacrificing future wellbeing of all lifeforms, while strengthening the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, a healthy environment, a just economy and the richness and variety of aesthetic experience.”

Course Description

Introduces basic themes in sustainability including economic development, social inclusion, and environmental change. Interactions and dynamics of the world economy, the global society, and the Earth’s environment are explored. Various historical, current and emerging challenges facing humanity may be explored in a sustainability context, including but not limited to globalization; social and environmental equity and justice; climate change and other planetary boundaries; the dynamics of global capitalism, economic growth, and crises; growth and steady state economics; the rise of automation and the meaning of work; science, truth and society; and how various state and regional political-economic systems are associated with sustainability outcomes. *Exploring Knowledge*: Social, Historic and Civic Perspectives

Learning Goals & Outcomes

* Define sustainability and its various inter-related dimensions
* Recognize challenges for making sustainable human communities
* Practice conceptual, analytical and critical thinking skills essential to courses in sustainability and related fields.

Activities

Readings, documentaries, forums, quizzes, and a special project are core activities. Students will need to gain access for up to two films: For week 2 to be announced and one to be announcednear end of term. Some possible sources are Netflix and Amazon Prime. All video will be Canvas linked without student cost other than up to two films, as mentioned above. Approximate weighting of graded material: participation (15%), quizzes (60%), and special project (25%). The special project will explore an aspect of sustainability across a number of countries. Details will eventually appear in Canvas. All quizzes must be taken Mondays at 10 am. The lowest quiz score will be dropped to accommodate situations when a student cannot take a quiz at the scheduled time. If you miss a quiz, that will be considered your lowest score and it will be dropped. Don’t miss a quiz intentionally as unforeseen circumstances could later prevent you from taking yet another quiz, with grade consequences.

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| Letter Grade | Percent |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | Below 60 |

Grading scale is A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F < 60.

Plus and minus system used for upper and lower 2 percent.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS\***

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| Dates | Topic(s) | Reading/Viewing\* |
| Week 1September 26, 28 | Introduction | Read Sachs, Chapter 1Reading questions in Canvas |
| Week 2October 3, 5Quiz Monday | An Unequal World | Read Sachs, Chapter 2;Documentary TBAReading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 3October 10, 12Quiz Monday | Economic DevelopmentCrises of Capitalism: The US Housing Crisis Ballooned into a Global Financial Crisis | Read Sachs, Chapter 3;View *Money Power and Wall Street* PBS;<http://www.pbs.org/video/2226666502/>View *The Untouchables* PBS <http://www.pbs.org/video/2327953844/>Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 4October 17, 19Quiz Monday | Development: Causes, Limitations, ChallengesDevelopment Project Given, **due date tba** | Read Sachs, Chapters 4 & 5;View *Living With Malaria;**View Guns, Germs and Steel Episode 3;*Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 5October 24, 26Quiz Monday | Social Inclusion | Read Sachs, Chapters 7;Read Manbiot, *Neoliberalism: the Ideology at the Root of all our Problems;*View [**Talks at Google**: Richard Wolff, Democracy at Work](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynbgMKclWWc). (see Canvas for link)Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 6Oct 31, Nov 2Quiz Monday | Planetary Boundaries | Read Sachs, Chapter 6;View documentary to be announcedReading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 7November 7, 9Quiz Monday | Neoliberalism at homeand elsewhereAlternatives | Kristof & Wuhan reading tbaKlein Shock Doctrine documentaryDemocracy at Work documentaryReading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 8November 14, 16Quiz Monday | Democracy and Social Inclusion in other Societies | Anu Partanen readings tba The Nordic Theory of EverythingReading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 9November 21Quiz Monday | Democracy and Social Inclusion in other Societies (con’t), Political Economy & Sustainability | Partanen (con’t)Wallerstein: World Systems Theory Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 10 November 28, 30Quiz Monday | Political Economy of SustainabilityCOVID-19 case study | Wallerstein and other readings TBA |
| Finals Weekdiscussion Wednesday 10 am | Social inclusion, political economy and COVID-19(details in Canvas) |  |

\*other topics may be assigned; with Canvas being the final authority. Note that all subjects and activities are subject to modification.

Any student who feels that she or he may need an accommodation for any type of disability may contact me during the first week of the course and should contact the Office of Disability Services (838-8250v/tty).

Academic dishonesty consists of representing the work of others as your own and/or using notes or other aids completed by others during an examination. Students who engage in such actions may receive no credit for the assignment or examination in question and will be subject to University discipline as outlined in the Code of Student Responsibility:

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