**Sustainability 101 Sustainable World**

**Fall 2024 HWC 205**

**Class Meets TR 12 - 1:50**

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

Office Location: BELL 211

Office Hours: Wednesday 1 - 4; Thursday 2 - 3

e-mail: [mcgladm@wou.edu](mailto:mcgladm@wou.edu) (please do not use Canvas messaging system) voice: 503-838-8381

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 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 Tuesdays 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.

Course requires regular attendance, from the beginning of class through the end. It is not designed to accommodate students who miss class. Partial or full absence of more than two days will result in the lowering of one letter grade at the end of the term. Excused absences include documented student participation in an official activity of WOU including interscholastic athletic events, and illnesses.\*\* If your employment time frames conflict with your attendance you should look for another class at a different time.

No devices with screens, including cellphones, tablets, and laptop computers, may be used anytime during class, unless specified with the WOU ODS office. There will be a break near the middle of the class which serves as a time when you may check messages if needed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Percent |  | Minus and plus grades will be assessed for the upper and lower two percentage points in each grade range, except for a D. For example, 89% is a B+, while 71% is a C-. |
| A | 90-100 |  |
| B | 80-89.9 |  |
| C | 70-79.9 |  |
| D  NC | 62-69.9  <62 |  |

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dates | Topic(s) | Reading/Viewing\* |
| Week 1  October 1, 3 | Introduction | Read Sachs, Chapter 1  Reading questions in Canvas |
| Week 2  October 8, 10  Quiz Tuesday | An Unequal World | Read Sachs, Chapter 2;  Documentary TBA  Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 3  October 15, 17  Quiz Tuesday | Economic Development  Crises 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 4  October 22, 24  Quiz Tuesday | Development: Causes, Limitations, Challenges  Development 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 5  October 29, 31  Quiz Tuesday | Social Inclusion | Read Sachs, Chapters 7;  Read Monbiot, *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 6  Nov 5, 7  Quiz Tuesday | Planetary Boundaries | Read Sachs, Chapter 6;  View documentary to be announced  Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 7  November 12, 14  Quiz Tuesday | Neoliberalism at home  and elsewhere  Alternatives | Kristof & Wuhan reading tba  Klein Shock Doctrine documentary  Democracy at Work documentary  Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 8  November 19, 21  Quiz Tuesday | Democracy and Social Inclusion in other Societies | Kristof & Wuhan reading  Reading & viewing questions in Canvas |
| Week 9  November 26  Quiz Tuesday | Democracy and Social Inclusion in other Societies, Political Economy & Sust. | TBA |
| Week 10  December 3, 5  Quiz Tuesday | Political Economy of Sustainability | TBA  Student UN Human Development Goals Presentations |
| Finals Week  reflection paper due Thursday 10 am | Social inclusion, International Development Project due Thursday 10 am – and discussion about that  (details in Canvas) |  |

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

\*\*If you are not well enough to attend class, a visit to WOU Student Health either in-person or online is strongly recommended.

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). [*https://wou.edu/disabilityservices/*](https://wou.edu/disabilityservices/)

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: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://wou.edu/studentconduct/files/2017/10/CSR-09.01.17.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/wou.edu/studentconduct/files/2017/10/CSR-09.01.17.pdf)

*WOU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering full participation for all students. Please notify your instructor if there are aspects of the instruction or design resulting in barriers to your participation.*