

CSUS 200 – Section 1 **Introduction to Sustainability**

Fall 2017

Tuesday & Thursday, 2:40 - 4:00 PM
223 National Resources Building

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Rutty
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Office Hours: Mon & Tues 4:00 – 5:00 PM (or by appointment)

Course Description

Introduction to sustainability and personal role in sustainability initiatives. Implications for individual actions for key sustainability challenges. Application of sustainability principles and leadership skills in community.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key themes and principles in *sustainability development*.
2. Apply a variety of critical thinking, analysis, and research skills to evaluate the *credibility* of sustainability policy positions and scientific arguments.
3. Identify the concept of an *ecological footprint* and recognize their ecological footprint.
4. Improve *decision-making* capabilities within the context of sustainability.
5. Assess whether a societal issue is a *wicked* or *tame* problem.
6. Develop team *leadership skills* within groups to advance change within communities.
7. Use *information technologies* in formal and non-formal learning.
8. Consider the importance of *the Commons* in developing community sustainability strategies.
9. Identify *individual worldviews* as they relate to sustainability and implications for individual actions.
10. Examine the interaction between agriculture, food, natural resources, and Michigan communities using a *systems approach*.
11. Use *Life Cycle Analysis* to consider the true cost of products and services.

Required Textbook

Choices for Sustainable Living – Northwest Earth Institute (available for purchase as a PDF).
Available at: www.nwei.org/store

Description

Total Credits 3, Lecture/Recitation/Discussion 3 hours. Introduction to sustainability and personal role in sustainability initiatives. Implications of individual actions for key sustainability challenges. Application of sustainability principles and leadership skills in community.

Class Schedule¹

Week 1 – Introduction

August 30, 2017 – Introducing the Class

Week 2 – Active Learning

September 5, 2017 – Wicked Problems

September 7, 2017 – A Call to Sustainability (CSL Discussion #1)

Week 3 – Thinking Critically

September 12, 2017 – The Role of Models in Science

September 14, 2017 – Analyzing Websites & Credibility of Information

Week 4 – Human/Environmental Interdependence

September 19, 2017 – Governing the Commons

September 21, 2017 – Ecological Principles (CSL Discussion #2)

Week 5 – Thinking Critically

September 26, 2017 – Information Literacy Session

September 28, 2017 – Trash Sort (Meet at MSU Recycling Centre)

Week 6 – Food Systems

October 3, 2017 – What is the Real Cost of Food?

October 5, 2017 – Feeding Yourself for a Year

Week 7 – Food Systems

October 10, 2017 – Feeding Yourself for a Year

October 12, 2017 – Developed or Not? (CSL Discussion #3)

Week 8 – Energy Systems

October 17, 2017 – Power Plant Tour (Meet at T.B. Simon Power Plant)

October 19, 2017 – Power Plant Tour (Meet at T.B. Simon Power Plant)

Week 9 – Energy Systems

October 24, 2017 – Sustainable Energy

October 26, 2017 – Community (CSL Discussion - #4)

¹ Topics or dates subject to change

Week 10 – Ecological Footprint

October 31, 2017 – Analyzing an Ecological Footprint/What’s Your Ecological Footprint?

November 2, 2017 – Transportation (CSL Discussion - #5)

Week 11 – Ecological Economics

November 7, 2017 – Classifying Ecosystems Services

November 9, 2017 – Interpreting Life Cycle Analysis

Week 12 – Change Agents

November 14, 2017 – Pursuing Environmental Justice

November 16, 2017 – Consumption and Economy (CSL Discussion - #6)

Week 13 – Change Agents

November 21, 2017 – Diffusing Innovations

November 23, 2017 – **Thanksgiving Holiday** (No Class)

Week 14 – Visions of Sustainability

November 28, 2017 – Visions of Sustainability (CSL Discussion #7)

November 30, 2017 – Policy Position Presentations

Week 15 - Presentations

December 5, 2017 – Policy Position Presentations

December 7, 2017 – Policy Position Presentations

Week 16 – Finals Week

December 13, 2017 – Final Exam (5:45 – 7:45pm)

Student Evaluation

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Attendance	50	Weekly
Participation	100	Weekly
Mental Modeler Activity	100	see D2L
Book Review	100	October 20, 2017
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (R3) Project		
Blogs	180	Weekly
Literature Review	100	October 6, 2017
Final Report	100	December 13, 2017
Policy Position Project		
Position Paper	100	December 8, 2017
Class Presentation	50	Nov 30, Dec 5 & Dec 7
Final Exam	120	December 13, 2017
Total Points	1000	

Grading Scale

Points	> 925	924-865	864-795	794-765	764-695	694-665	664-595	< 595
Grade	4.0	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.00	0

Assignments

Assignments will be turned in electronically via D2L. The Final will be administered during the scheduled time. More than one application (e.g. a Web browser, Microsoft Word, Prezi, Excel, etc.) may be needed for a given assignment.

Attendance (50 points). The number of unexcused absences during the semester directly impacts this grade. If you attend all classes, your attendance grade will be 50. For each unexcused absence, 2 points will be deducted (i.e., 1 unexcused absence will be an attendance grade of 48, 2 unexcused absences 46, etc). If you are absence more than 6 times (i.e., 25% of class), your attendance grade will *automatically* become *zero*. Unexcused absences include required fieldtrips for other classes with a note, participation in university athletics with a note, and illnesses for which you have a doctor's note.

Participation (100 points). *Active* participation in class is expected (including prior assigned readings and in-class activities). If you are texting, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or on any other forms of social media, you are not participating in class. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts and share your ideas with your fellow classmates in a construction and respectful manner. You may be called on to present your comments on the readings throughout the term.

R³ – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (350 total points) The assignment spans the semester. The task the first week is for you to identify a *daily* personal behavior that you can change which results in you reducing, reusing or recycling a resource/product. Some examples would be decreasing the number of miles you drive your car, decreasing your water usage, decreasing your use of plastic, or eliminating your use of bottled water to name just a few.

- You will blog each week of the semester. The first week blog will focus on the selection of your behavior (subject to Dr. Ruttly's approval) to modify (as well as baseline data for what you are currently doing) and the following 12 blogs will summarize your successes (and failures) to change your behavior (13 blogs total). The blogs are worth 150 points. *Each Weekly Blog is due by 11pm Friday* (e.g. Blog 1 is due September 8 at 11pm).
- You will also need to keep a daily spreadsheet to track your changes (e.g. how many miles you commuted via bike; how many plastic bottles of water you used). *The spreadsheet is due with the final report at the beginning of the final (5:45pm) on December 13, 2017.*
- You will need to do a 2-page literature review on your selected behavior change (place all references on a third page). What does the literature (this can include websites, online documents, papers, journal articles, so long as they are peer reviewed/refereed articles) say about your intended behavior change. The Lit Review is worth 100 points. Name the report *FirstnameLastnameR3Lit.docx (or .pdf)*. *This two-page paper is due by 11pm October 6, 2017.*

- You will also prepare a 3-page report that summarizes your change over the semester and analyses the environmental impact (both primary and secondary) of your behavioral change at the individual level, as well as the impact the change would have if every student at MSU had changed the same behavior (assuming they were not already doing it). The report should include summaries from your spreadsheet. You are required to submit your spreadsheet with daily tracked behavior change along with your report. The report should be a Microsoft Word file or a PDF and the spreadsheet an Excel file. Name the report *FirstnameLastnameR3.docx* (or *.pdf*) and the spreadsheet *FirstnameLastnameR3.xlsx* and place them in the appropriate drop box in D2L. The report and spreadsheet are worth 100 points. *The report and spreadsheet are due by 11pm December 1, 2017.*

Book Review (100 points). You will write a four-page book review on one of the books listed below (do not pick a book that you have read before). Other books will be considered with prior approval from Dr. Ruty. Resources on how to write a book review are available in D2L in the Assignment folder. The report should be named *FirstnameLastnameBook.docx* (or *.pdf*) and placed in the appropriate drop box in D2L. *The Book Review is due 11pm October 20, 2017.*

Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan
Collapse by Jared Diamond
The Story of Stuff by Annie Leonard
An Agricultural Testament by Sir Albert Howard
Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
The Watchman's Rattle by Rebecca Costa
Eaarth by Bill McKibben
Storms of My Grandchildren by James Hansen
The One Straw Revolution by Masanobu Fukuoka
A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There by Aldo Leopold
Pleasant Valley by Louis Bromfield
The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future by Tom Wessels
Farmacology by Daphne Miller, MD
The Unsettling of America by Wendell Berry

Policy Position Paper and Presentation (150 total points). You are to identify a position on an issue that you care about that is relevant to this class and develop a policy paper. A policy paper is a persuasive document that outlines your views on a policy or issue you have studied (and is of interest to you). The policy paper is a way to apply what you have learned in a format that communicates ideas or recommendations, or persuades people to consider your views. The audience for the paper may be other students, citizens, members of a public commission, elected representatives, or anyone else with a stake in the issue. There is a resource to help you with writing a policy position paper in the Assignments Folder on D2L. The paper is worth 100 points and the presentation 50 points. *The Paper is due at 11pm December 8, 2017. The presentations will be in class on Nov 30, Dec 5, and Dec 7.*

Final Exam (100 total points). The final exam will be comprehensive and open note. *The Final Exam is December 13 from 5:45-7:45pm in NR 223.*

Extra Credit (up to 50 points). There are numerous interesting on-campus events that relate to the themes of our class that you are encouraged to seek out and attend (e.g., sign up for the Environmental Science and Public Policy email list and check MSU events, as well as CSUS and other campus mail announcements). When you've found something, email to confirm relevance and appropriateness for extra credit. After attending, you have one week to write a 1-page double-spaced response for which you can earn 5 points toward your final grade (up to a maximum of 50 extra points). Responses should summarize key presentation points (i.e., what was the key themes or message? Who was presenting?). Make ties between the presentation and our class (i.e., how did the presentation relate to course content?). What did the presentation make you think about? What was your reaction? Why is it interesting or important?

Submission Guidelines

Assignments will be turned in electronically in D2L. Written assignments should be double spaced, in Times New Roman or Arial (12 point) font.

Assignments are due at 11PM on the posted date. A penalty of 10% *per day* will be applied for all late assignments without a valid academic reason, based on a 24-hour clock.

Communication Policy

Email is the best method for sharing information with me. I will do my best to respond within 24-48 hours of your email. Please include "CSUS 200" in all email subject lines. See "E-Learning Policies" below for additional information.

Technology Policy

Unless specifically stated or in an emergency, cell phones are not to be used in class. If you must contact someone, step outside to text/call. Computers are acceptable, if used for class purposes (e.g., note taking, searching for information, reviewing presentation slides).

Academic Misconduct

Article 2.III.B.2 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Department of Community Sustainability adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the

www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in CSUS 200. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>). **There will be no warnings – the maximum sanction allowed under University policy will occur on the first offense.** Turnitin.com will be used for all written assignments.

Accommodations

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("RISA") form. Please present this form to Dr. Ruty at the start of the semester and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Bereavement:

Students seeking a grief absence should be directed to the Grief Absence Request Form found on the RO home page (<https://reg.msu.edu/>) under 'Student Services – Grief Absence Request Form' OR to StuInfo (<https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>) under 'Academics - Enrollment Information and Services – Grief Absence Request Form.' Per policy, graduate students who should see their major professor and notify course instructors are directed to do so when they access the form.

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The deadline to drop this course with a full tuition refund and no grade reported is **September 25, 2017**. The deadline to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **October 18, 2017**. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Commercialized Lecture Notes

Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

Attendance

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course. This course follows the General University Attendance Policy. If you miss a class due to a Special Consideration Absence as defined by University Policy, your class participation grade for those excused absences days will be the average of your earned participation grades.

Internet

Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site

Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of the Academic Freedom Report (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

Campus Emergencies

In the event of an emergency arising within the class, the Professor will notify you of what actions that may be required to ensure your safety. It is the responsibility of each student to understand the evacuation, "shelter-in-place," and "secure-in-place" guidelines posted in each facility and to act in a safe manner. You are allowed to maintain cellular devices in a silent mode during this course, in order to receive emergency SMS text, phone or email messages distributed by the university. When anyone receives such a notification or observes an emergency situation, they should immediately bring it to the attention of the Professor in a way that causes the least disruption. If an evacuation is ordered, please ensure that you do it in a safe manner and facilitate those around you that may not otherwise be able to safely leave. When these orders are given, you do have the right as a member of this community to follow that order. Also, if a shelter-in-place or secure-in-place is ordered, please seek areas of refuge that are safe depending on the emergency encountered and provide assistance if it is advisable to do so.

E-Learning Policies

Information technologies such as D2L and email are widely used in this class. As a result, there are some additional policies that need to be understood:

- Students should visit the course's D2L site on a regular basis.
- Students should check their email frequently (all class email is sent to the student's official MSU email account).
- All assignments submitted electronically, either on disk or via email, should be free of any viruses and/or worms. Any infected file or media that is submitted will receive a zero (0) for that assignment.
- This course recognizes the students' right to privacy and adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

- Students need to review the university policy “Acceptable Use of Computing Systems, Software, and the University Digital Network” at <http://ict.msu.edu/guidelinespolicies/aup/>.
- Excessive emails make an unreasonable time demands on both sender and recipient. Please ensure you have a legitimate need before you write.
- Dr. Rutty will answer email about:
 - Questions arising from difficulty in understanding course content.
 - Requests for feedback about graded assignments.
 - Private issues appropriate for discussion within the teacher-student relationship.
- Dr. Rutty will NOT answer email which:
 - Poses questions answered in the course information sections of the course D2L site
 - Poses questions answered in the course syllabus.
 - Lacks a subject line clearly stating the purpose of the email and the course number (CSUS 200).
 - Raises an inappropriate subject.
- Dr. Rutty will make every effort to answer email received within 24hrs and no later than the end of the following business day, unless otherwise specified in class.
- You are responsible for the operation of any personally owned computers you use on or off campus. A malfunctioning computer system is NOT a valid excuse for submitting late work.