

CSUS 200 Section 1
Introduction to Sustainability
Course Syllabus
Spring 2021
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:40 – 4:00 PM
On-Line - Zoom

Instructor

Matt R. Raven, Professor
310A Natural Resource
Cell: 517-703-4018 (Feel free to text)(*best number*)
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On-line Class Materials Available on D2L
Zoom Meeting ID: **926 2504 1086** and the Password is **Section1**

Required Book/eBook: Choices for Sustainable Living (2018 Edition) – Northwest Earth Institute (also available as a PDF) (available at <https://store.ecochallenge.org> [needed ASAP])

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, immediately after class or by appointment.

Course Outcomes

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 their 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 their 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 costs of products and services.

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.

CSUS Program Competencies Addressed

These course outcomes support the Department of Community Sustainability undergraduate program competencies of:

Critical Thinking: Students will interpret, analyze and evaluate information generated by observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, and communication as a guide to formulate and defend responses to complex sustainability problems. (Competent Level)

Ecological Literacy: Describe the root causes and ecological consequences of a prominent environmental problem (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss, nutrient pollution, etc.) and ways to mitigate or adapt to the problem at multiple scales. (Competent Level)

Civic Engagement: Students will develop the knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to participate in civic life. (Competent Level)

Initiative and Practical Skills: Students will demonstrate initiative, including the ability to self-direct and solve problems individually and as participants in larger group efforts. (Competent Level)

Leadership: Students will develop, demonstrate and evaluate leadership practices that contribute to sustainability. (Competent Level)

In addition, this course supports Michigan State University's Undergraduate Learning Goals of Analytical Thinking, Effective Citizenship, Effective Communication, and Integrated Reasoning. Students can learn more about the Department of Community Sustainability undergraduate program competencies at www.csus.msu.edu. More information about MSU's Undergraduate Learning Goals is available at <https://learninggoals.undergrad.msu.edu>.

Projected Class Schedule¹

Week 1 –Reading, Reviewing and Reflection Week

January 11, 2021 – Spring Semester Starts -Class Introduction Readings and Materials in D2L

Week 2 – Systems Thinking

1 – January 19, 2021 – What is Sustainability?

2 – January 21, 2021 – Analyzing Web sites & Credibility of Information

Week 3 – Systems Thinking

3 – January 26, 2021 – What are Wicked Problems?

4 – January 28, 2021 – Using Mental Modeler to Describe Systems Thinking

Week 4 – Equity

5 – February 2, 2021 – A Call to Sustainability (CSL Discussion - #1)

6 – February 4, 2021 – Why Talk About Race, Power, Privilege and Sustainability?

Week 5 – Equity

7 – February 9, 2021 – Interrupting Bias (Cycle of Socialization and Implicit Bias)

8 – February 11, 2021 – What is Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism?

Week 6 – Human-Environment Interdependence

9 – February 16, 2021 –Defining What Matters

10 – February 18, 2021 – Ecological Principles (CSL Discussion - #2)

Week 7 – Food Systems

11 – February 23, 2021 – Governing the Commons

12 – February 25, 2021 – What is the Real Cost of Food?

Week 8 – Food Systems

Wellness Day – March 2, 2021 – No Class

13 – March 4, 2021 – Feeding Yourself for a Year (Book Review Due 3/5/21)

¹ Topics or dates may change due to availability of resources

Week 9 – Water

14 – March 9, 2021 – Food (CSL Discussion - #3)

15 – March 11, 2021 – Is Water the Oil of the 21st Century?

Week 10 – Community Ecological Economics

16 – March 16, 2021 – Water (CSL Discussion - #4)

17 – March 18, 2021 – Implementing Sustainability Strategies for Communities

Week 11 – Ecology

18 – March 23, 2021 – Community (CSL Discussion - #5)

19 – March 25, 2021 – What's Your Ecological Footprint?

Week 12 – Transportation

20 – March 30, 2021 – Interpreting Life Cycle Analysis

21 – April 1, 2021 – Classifying Ecosystems Services

Week 13 – Energy

22 – April 6, 2021 – Transportation (CSL Discussion - #6)

23 – April 8, 2021 – Transforming Energy Efficiently

Week 14 – Consumption

24 – April 13, 2021 — Recycling Energy Use

25 – April 15, 2021 – What is Minimalism? Consumption and Economy (CSL Discussion - #7)

Week 15 – Visions of Sustainability

26 – April 20, 2021 – Visions of Sustainability (CSL Discussion - #8)

Wellness Day – April 22, 2021 – No Class

Week 16 – Finals Week

27 – April 29, 2021 – Final (3:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

Assignments

Assignments will be turned in electronically via D2L or emailed to Dr. Raven. The Final will also be administered via D2L. More than one application (e.g. a Web browser, Microsoft Word, Prezi, Excel, etc.) may be needed for a given assignment.

R³ – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. (320 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. (some examples: 2012 - I reduced the amount I drove to work in the winter, 2013 - I started vermicomposting kitchen scraps, 2014 - I reduced my use of one-use coffee cups, 2015 - I reduced the paper used in CSUS 200, 2016 - I reduced my use of plastic bags, 2020 – reduced the times I flushed the toilet).

- You will blog for 12 weeks of the semester. The first week blog will focus on the selection of your behavior (subject to Dr. Raven's approval) to modify (as well as establishing baseline data for what you are currently doing) and the following 11 blogs will summarize your successes (and failures) to change your behavior. The blogs are worth 120 points (10 points per blog). (***Each Weekly Blog is due by Midnight Friday – e.g. Blog 1 is due January 29, 2021 at Midnight.***)
- You will also need to keep a spreadsheet to track your changes (e.g. commute miles via bike – e.g. how many bottles of water do you currently drink each day on average) daily. ***The spreadsheet is due with the final report at the beginning of the Final on April 29, 2021.***
- You will also prepare a 3-page report that summarizes your change over the semester and analyses the environmental impact (at three impacts with at least one being a direct and one being an indirect impact) 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 quantitative totals and summaries from your spreadsheet. You also will turn in your spreadsheet with your report. 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 is worth 150 points and the spreadsheet is worth 50 points. ***The report and spreadsheet are due at the beginning of the Final on April 29, 2021.***

Book Review. (150 total points) You will create a 2-3 minute YouTube book review on one of the books listed below (do not pick a book that you have read before). Resources on how to write a book review are available in D2L in the Assignment folder. There are also 2 exemplars from previous semesters. They will help you develop the script for your video. The video should include a brief summary; however, the majority of video should focus on a critical analysis of the book as well as how it personally impacted you. Did your thoughts about the topic change because of the book? Or your behaviors? Is this a book that you would recommend? The book review is worth 150 points. You will upload it to YouTube as “unlisted” and upload the URL

into the Book Review Dropbox in D2L. Place the URL in a Word document and in the notes part of the Dropbox (*The Book Review is due by midnight of March 5, 2021*).

The Watchman's Rattle by Rebecca Costa
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
Call of the Reed Warbler, Charles Massey, PhD
The Unsettling of America by Wendell Berry
Holistic Management: A Common Sense Revolution to Restore Our Environment
3rd Edition by Allan Savory and Jody Butterfield

Class Readings and Participation. (150 total points) Your *active* participation in class is expected (including prior assigned readings and in-class activities) and worth 10 points per week (except the first one which is worth 20) for a total of 150 points. If you are not in a scheduled Zoom meeting you are **not** participating in class. A short D2L quiz will be given and due by the beginning of the Tuesday class based on any readings and/or movie viewings due that week. First Reading Quiz (worth 20) will be the week of January 19, 2021 and will be due by beginning of class on January 21, 2021.

Class Check Ins. (150 total points). After the Thursday class a check-in quiz based on that week's classes will be released on D2L and is due by Friday at Midnight (except for the last week of class – Check In 15 will be due by the beginning of the Final). Each check in quiz is worth 10 points for a total of 150 points.

Discussion Group Summaries. (80 total points). Each Discussion Group will submit a summary of their group's discussion for each of the 8 classes devoted to the *Choices for Sustainable Living* discussions via the appropriate Dropbox. These summaries, based on the group's responses to the *Suggested Discussion Questions*, will be completed by the assigned notetaker for the given discussion including those group members present as well as a summary of the group's responses for each discussion question. Each summary is worth 10 points for each group member **present** during that discussion and should be emailed to Dr. Raven by 8:00 AM the day after the discussion. The Summary must include attendance as well as the Group Number.

Final. (150 total points) The Final will be comprehensive and open note. The Final is worth 150 points. (*The Final is on December 14, 2021 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM*).

Course Flow

Class meets on Tuesday and Thursday at the scheduled time via Zoom. There may be some classes that are done in an asynchronous mode. You will be given ample warning if this is the case. Readings will be assigned during the Thursday class and need to be completed by the beginning of the next class (typically a Tuesday). There will be a check-in quiz released after class on Thursday and due at the same time as that week's blog – Friday at Midnight. Discussion notes are due by the assigned notetaker by 8:00 AM of the morning following the discussion. Typically, groups turn their summaries in at the end of the discussion.

Student Evaluation

Assignments²

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Blogs ³	120	(Due Weekly - Friday)
Class Readings & Quizzes	150	(Due 1st Class of Week)
Application Check Ins	150	(Due Weekly - Friday)
Book Review	150	(Due March 15, 2021)
Discussion Summaries	80	(Due morning after)
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Report	200	(Due April 29, 2021)
Final	150	(April 29, 2021)
Total	1000	

Grading Scale

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
4.0	1000 – 920
3.5	919 – 860
3.0	859 – 820
2.5	819 – 750
2.0	749 – 700
1.5	699 – 650
1.0	649 – 600
0	< 600

Important Dates

January 25, 2021	Open Adds End at 8:00 PM
February 12, 2021	Last Day to Drop w/ 100% refund and no grade reported (8:00 PM)
March 2-3, 2021	Wellness Days
March 10, 2021	Last Day to Drop w/ no refund and no grade reported (8:00 PM)
April 22-23, 2021	Wellness Days
April 29, 2021	Final (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

² 10% deduction for each business day late

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 CSUS Department 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, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, 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.**

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, I have chosen to use a tool called Turnitin to compare your papers with multiple sources. The tool will compare each paper you submit to an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a 'similarity score.' The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, I will make a complete assessment and judge the originality of your work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool. You should submit papers to Dropboxes enabled with Turnitin **without identifying information included in the paper** (e.g., name or student number), the Desire 2 Learn system will automatically show this information to me when I view the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin. If you forget and submit your paper with your identifying information on it, it will be retained in the Turnitin repository. Furthermore your submissions will be retained in the Global Turnitin repository.

In choosing to use Turnitin in our class, I have agreed to follow five guidelines. They are:

1. I will use Turnitin as part of a balanced approach to encourage academic integrity and foster student success.
2. I will openly disclose use of Turnitin in this course on the syllabus and at the time assignments are announced.
3. For a given assignment, I will use Turnitin for all papers.
4. I will make the final determination of originality and integrity.
5. To ensure privacy, I will ask students to remove identification (e.g., names and student numbers) from submissions.

If you have any questions about the use of Turnitin in this course, please bring them to my attention.

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. Raven at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes (September 9). The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is September 28. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is October 21. 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 (not applicable this semester but retaining for future reference)

In the event of an emergency arising within the classroom, Dr. Raven 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 Dr. Raven 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. (See also www.alert.msu.edu.)

E-Learning Policies

As this course is on-line this semester all classes are dependent on information technologies such as Zoom, D2L and email. 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 via the appropriate D2L Dropbox 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://lct.msu.edu/guidelines-policies/aup/>.
- Excessive emails make an unreasonable time demands on both sender and recipient. Please ensure you have a legitimate need before you write.
- Dr. Raven 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. Raven 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. Raven will make every effort to answer email received on a given day no later than close of work on the next workday.
 - You can also text Dr. Raven if the situation warrants a quicker response
- The Web site tech.msu.edu provides a number of information technology resources for students.
- 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.
- Students are expected to have a high degree of self-motivation and self-direction in this class and develop the needed technology skills to excel in this class and in life.
- The same Zoom Meeting ID and Password will be used for every class this semester. The Zoom Meeting ID is **926 2504 1086** and the Password is **Section1**

