

Course Code & No. - Section:	SUST 101-1
Course Title (Credits):	Introduction to Sustainability (3) [AS]
Term & Year:	Fall 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80034
Instructor:	Brennan Lagasse
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Office:	
Office Hours:	Tuesday's after class and by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	Tuesday's from 1000-1245
Location:	PA 211
Prerequisites	none
Corequisites	none

Course Description

The term "sustainability" is being used all over the world, but what does it really mean? The most widely accepted definition of sustainability states, "to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs". However, since sustainability lacks one recognized, firm definition, many argue the idea has become more of a suggestion, rather than a holistic definition of how to sustain, and make accessible, a high quality of life for all people and the planet. This course is an overview of the environmental, economic, social, cultural and political issues that make up sustainability. It seeks to introduce students to these basic interdisciplinary concepts that are applicable on local and global scales, and will examine challenges, opportunities and solutions to achieving sustainability in modern times.

Student Outcomes

The primary objective of Introduction to Sustainability 101 is to survey the basic principles and components of sustainability including an understanding of the past, to better understand the present, in hopes to help shape a sustainable future. Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Define and articulate the basic principles and core themes of sustainability
2. Articulate a historical perspective of sustainability, with an understanding of how societies past and present have made, and continue to make sustainable/unsustainable choices and why
3. Understand a range of ways to contribute to the field of sustainability
4. Identify opportunities to develop and implement new and/or improved sustainable practices at multiple scales from personal to local, regional, national, and global platforms
5. Improve writing and research strategies from an interdisciplinary perspective

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Class Participation/Attendance
2. Weekly Blog Entries

3. Midterm Essays
4. Group Project
5. Letter to the Editor Project
6. Final Research Project/Paper
7. Final Research Presentation

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize the Internet, movie clips, lectures, texts, class discussions, Socratic seminars, current news, group work, case studies, and field trips.

Required Texts and Materials

1. Carradonna, Jeremy L. (2014). *Sustainability: A History*. Oxford University Press; 1st edition.
2. Alaska National Wildlife Refuge Reader Packet. [Note: Purchase is not required. Photocopies will be made and passed out in class]
3. Lagasse, Brennan (2009). *Waiting for the Snow to Fall: First Nations, Federal Policy, and Environmental Justice*. VDM-Verlag Publishing House Ltd. [Note: Purchase is not required. Photocopies will be made and passed out in class]
4. Laptop computer (one that meets the published SNC Laptop Requirements)

Recommended Texts and Materials

1. *Little, Brown Compact Handbook*, seventh edition (or 6th); Jane Aaron; Pearson/Longman.

Keep any class handouts. A binder to organize readings and handouts will be helpful to your success. Course readings will be made available online and it is highly encourage you print out readings and underline or highlight passages and sections of text you find important. This will allow you to easily write your blog post for each class as well as have already formulated points to add to class discussion. Please try and print double sided to avoid unnecessary waste of paper resources.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Prim Library Resources:

1. Materials on reserve (when applicable):
2. Reference materials
3. Books (can be checked out)
4. Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles)
5. Hardcopy periodicals: Prim Library has current subscriptions for Science, New Scientist, Science News, and National Geographic Magazine. Full-text articles from many more periodicals are available through the electronic databases.
6. Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluation the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

Attendance/Participation

These are the two cornerstones to being successful in Sustainability 101. If you are not in class regularly, and if you are not contributing to our collective learning space by participating in class then you will not receive a satisfactory grade. Readings and other course assignments are meant to be stimulating. You should come to class after having

finished a particular reading and be able to articulate your thoughts with your classmates. I understand issues and conflicts arise each semester, so if you do have something that will cause you to miss one of our classes contact me. You will not be docked for attendance points if I know you will not be in class, AND your reason for missing class is *appropriate*.

Reading Reflections/Blog

A major requirement to your successful engagement and completion in Sustainability 101 will be completing weekly reading assignments and posting written reflections/research questions on your blog.

You will be creating your own blog using the Google tool “Blogger”

https://www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount?service=blogger&continue=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.blogger.com%2Flogin%3Fd%3D%252Fcreate-blog.g%26a%3DADD_SERVICE_FLAG&hl=en&sendvemail=true&followup=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.blogger.com%2Flogin%3Fd%3D%252Fhome%26a%3DSERVICE_ONLY&naui=8

To receive full credit for each week, your requirement will be to post a short reflection of what you read in preparation for each week we meet AND post one question based on the assigned reading. Reflection pieces have no word limit or length requirement, but each post should clearly show that you read the assigned piece(s). Your blog posts are due the day before our next class meets (by midnight). For example, since we’re meeting on Tuesday morning, your blog post will be due by midnight on Monday.

Field Trip

This semester, we will take an overnight field trip to the Teacher’s for Social Justice Conference in San Francisco, CA. The field trip is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd, and we will return on Sunday, October 4th. Logistics will be discussed in class along with topics, times and other plans associated with our trip.

Midterm

Your midterm will take the form of a series of essays assigned on October 3rd, and they will be due on October 12th. We will discuss specifics in class.

Letter to the Editor

You will be required to write one “letter to the editor”, based on a topic of choice related to sustainability, and submit your letter to a local, regional, national or international source.

Research Project/Paper

There will be no final exam for Sustainability 101. In absence of a final exam, your requirement will be to produce a 5-10 page paper or a project of equivalent effort (with works cited) and present your research to the class during our final exam period.

Class Requirements

The following is a list of course requirements

- All students are required to bring a laptop computer to each class meeting
- Cell phones must be turned off during class-no texting!
- All Students must arrive on time to class

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the

community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Grading Policy

Assignment	Number of assignments	Points
Class/Field Trip Participation and Attendance	Weekly; October 3 rd and 4 th	20%
Blog Reflections	Weekly	10%
Group Project	1	10%
Midterm Essay	1	20%
Letter to the Editor Project	1	10%
Final Paper/Project	1	20%
Final Presentation	1	10%
Total		100%

Grading scale:

A+ 100-98 A 97-93 A- 92-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-83 B- 82-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-73 C- 72-70 D+ 69-67 D 66-63 D- 62-60 F 59 and below

Assignments are due on the announced date unless alternate arrangements have been made with me in advance of the due date. Otherwise, late assignments will have a 1/3rd of a grade deducted for every day they are late. For example, if you submit your Blog entry for a given week 3 days late and receive a grade of 10/10, the grade entered will be 7/10. It's best to contact me prior to missing any class deadlines. Assignments are meant to add to our collective learning experience and should not be an impediment to your successful completion and academic achievement in the course.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Sustainability

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Class Schedule

Below is a tentative itinerary for the semester, which is subject to change based on notice you'll receive either in class or through email.

Week	Date	Topics	Activity
1	8/18	Introduction: Review course syllabus and semester outline, introduce ourselves, affirm our interdisciplinary focus, create individual blogs, note card exercise	Create Blog Reading Assignment
2	8/25	Environmental Sustainability	Discuss Reading Ecosystem Health Reading Assignment
3	9/1	Environmental Sustainability	Discuss Reading Ecosystem Integrity Reading Assignment
4	9/8	Environmental Sustainability	Discuss Reading Environmental Systems

			Reading Assignment
5	9/15	Environmental Sustainability	Discuss Reading Environmental Problems Reading Assignment
6	9/22	Social Sustainability	Discuss Reading Social Justice Reading Assignment
7	9/29	Social Sustainability	Discuss Reading Environmental Justice Class field trip logistics
8	10/3-10/4	Class Field Trip	Teacher's for Social Justice Conference Field Trip to San Francisco, CA Midterm Assigned/Final Paper/Project Discussion No Class 10/6
9	10/13	Cultural Sustainability	Midterm Due Cultural Connections, Norms, Traditions and Diversity Reading Assignment
10	10/20	Economic Sustainability	Discuss Reading Capitalism, Globalization and the World Economy Reading Assignment
11	10/27	Economic Sustainability	Discuss Reading Alternative Economic Theory and Systems
12	11/3	Letters to the Editor Project	As a class we will brainstorm and craft letters to local, regional, national, and/or global news sources regarding an issue of sustainability. We will also discuss our letters as a class and reflect on the process as a whole through a lens of global and civic engagement. Finally, we will submit our letters to our chosen source. Assignment: letters posted to blog, sent to news sources Reading Assignment
13	11/10	Political Sustainability	Discuss Reading Global Political Systems Reading Assignment

14	11/17	Political Sustainability	Discuss Reading National, Regional, Local Political Systems
15	11/24	No Class	Thanksgiving Break
16	12/1	Semester Recap, Student Self-Assessments	Final Papers/Projects Due Next Week
17	12/9	Final Exam Period 8-11am	Final research papers and presentations due (Note: 12/9 is a Wednesday, not Tuesday)