

Course Code & No. - Section:	SUST 201-1
Course Title (Credits):	Social Justice and Sustainability (3) [AS]
Term & Year:	Spring 2016
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	10081
Instructors:	Jillian Raymond and Brennan Lagasse
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Office:	
Office Hours:	Monday's before or after class and by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	Monday's from 1900-2145
Location:	TCES 106
Prerequisites	none
Corequisites	none

Course Description

This course examines the basic elements and structures of political science through the lens of a social and environmental change in order to create basic fluency with analytical concepts, research methods, and theories of interactions between society and nature. Fundamental theory and concepts linking social and environmental change will be discussed, critiqued, and employed as the basic building blocks of environmental and political theory.

There remains no universally accepted definition for sustainability or sustainability focused disciplines like social sustainability. However, in the spirit of creating a common framework for reference, and by drawing on general themes inherent to respected definitions for sustainability, this class will use the following working definition that will evolve during the semester through collective class collaboration:

Social Sustainability seeks the stability and well-being of human cultures and the global biosphere through the elimination of socially constructed forms of oppression, environmental degradation, and through the application of social justice.

Student Outcomes

The primary objective of Sustainability 201 is to introduce students to the social side of sustainability studies. This interdisciplinary course will use core concepts and strategies drawn from sociology, political science, and environmental studies to investigate the meaning, goals, and application of social sustainability. Through readings, class discussion, case studies, and reflective writing assignments this course will use a cross disciplinary strategy that will challenge students to examine how social sustainability is influenced by social norms, ecosystem health, politics, and economic justice. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction between society and nature with the importance of social and environmental change playing a paramount role in this intersectional analysis.

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Define the basic principles of social sustainability, demonstrate interdisciplinary work, and articulate what makes social sustainability a unique interdisciplinary field of study
2. Assess the state of the field today and illuminate examples of individuals, groups, and organization that encompass the field of social sustainability
3. Convey problems and issues that have led to the need for social change in society, recognize the barriers to implement progressive policy changes, and locate opportunities/constraints with strategies for achieving justice in sustainability
4. Apply critical examination and analyses to complex problems, case studies, and social situations with the ability to formulate sustainable solutions to diverse multifaceted social conflicts

5. Understand their role and ability to be vehicles for positive social change in society.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Class participation/attendance
2. Reflections
3. Midterm paper and oral/visual presentation
4. Field Trip Attendance and Reflection
5. Group presentation
6. Letters to the editor project
7. Socratic Seminars
8. Final paper
9. Student self assessments

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. Kaufman, Cynthia. (2003). *Ideas for Action: Relevant Theory for Radical Change*. South End Press.
2. Ngozi Adichie, Chimamanda. (2015). *We Should All Be Feminists*. Anchor; Reprint edition.
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. Copies will be made available 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 reflection 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 201. 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. We understand issues and conflicts arise each semester, so if you do have something that will cause you to miss one of our classes contact us. You will not be docked for attendance points if we know you will not be in class, AND your reason for missing class is *appropriate*.

Reading Reflections

A major requirement to your successful engagement and completion in Sustainability 201 will be completing weekly reading assignments and submitting short written reflections.

To receive full credit for each week, your requirement will be to email us a short reflection of what you read in preparation for each week we met. Reflection pieces have no word limit or length requirement, but each reflection should clearly show that you read the assigned piece(s). Your reflections are due the day before our next class meets (by midnight). For example, if we're meeting on Monday evening, your reflection will be due by midnight on Sunday.

Field Trip

This semester, we will take two field trips as a class. The first will take place on February 11th in Reno. Therefore, we will not meet for class on Monday February 8th. The second trip will visit a center for social justice. Currently this field trip is scheduled for Friday, March 4th. Therefore, we will not meet on Monday February 29th. That date is subject to change and all logistics will be discussed in class along with travel/departure times. This field trip will take place in Nevada City, CA at the Peace Center of Nevada County.

Midterm/Final

There will be no final exam for Sustainability 201. In absence of a final exam, your requirement will be to produce an action orientated culminating experience born from your midterm.

Your midterm will be a 5-7 page paper, including an oral and visual presentation on a topic of your choice related to our course content.

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 and pagers must be turned off-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 Participation/Attendance	Weekly	30%
Reflections	Weekly	20%
Midterm	1	20%
Group Presentation	1	5%
Letter to the Editor Project	1	5%
Final Action	1	20%
Student Self Assessment	1	Mandatory
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 reflection 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

Sustainability

Professional Preparedness

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. In addition to what is listed below students can expect that we will review headlines from the socially just centered new site, www.democracynow.org, at the beginning of each meeting to stimulate class discussion.

Week	Date	Topics	Activity
1	1/18	Martin Luther King Day	No Class Assignment: http://www.tolerance.org/blog/teaching-movement-beyond-four-famous-words In lieu of our class session- we hope you enjoyed the day off- please visit the above site and complete your first written reflection. The site includes a list of 9 focus points to help us see beyond the 4 famous words- "I Have A Dream". Read and reflect on those 9 points including but not limited to, what information was new to you, what information was review, what information surprised you, and any questions you have. Aim for 250-500 words and be prepared to share in small groups.
2	1/25	Class Introduction: What is social justice and how does it relate to sustainability?	Class intros, material overview, discussion of MLK assignment Assignment: Reflection Reading for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 1
3	2/1	Liberation: Human Nature,	Class lecture/discussion

		Freedom, Power, Ideology, Progress, Pessimism, Utopia, Oppression, Multisystems Theory	Assignment: Reflection Reading for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 2
4	2/8	No Class-Field Trip on Thursday February 11 th	Details to be discussed in class Field trip to Reno for Naomi Klein's Lecture
5	2/15	No Class Due to President's Day- Capitalism: Origins, Government, Society/Economy	Assignment: Reflection Reading for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 3 [Be prepared to discuss our Field Trip to Reno, as well as Chapter's 2 and 3 in Ideas for Action for next week]
6	2/22	Capitalism and Class: Struggle, Mobility, Racial Formations, White Supremacy, Gender, Trade Unions	Class lecture/discussion Assignment: Reflection Readings for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 4
7	2/29	No Class- Field Trip on Friday March 4th	Details to be discussed in class Peace Center of Nevada City, CA; Midterm Presentations Next Week
8	3/7	Midterm Presentations	Student presentations and papers due For next week: No Class (for 3/21 Read Ideas for Action Chapter 5 and Reflection Due)
9	3/14	Spring Break	No Class
10	3/21	Transnational Capital and Anti-Capitalism: Organizations, Progress, Development, Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism, Militarism, Communism and Anti-Communism, Alternative Economic Strategies, Neoliberalism, Revolution, Reform	Class lecture/discussion Assignment: Reflection Readings for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 5
11	3/28	Racism: Race, Racial Formation, Institutionalization, Agents of Change	Class lecture/discussion Assignment: Reflection Readings for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 6 AND <i>Why We Should All Be Feminists</i>
12	4/4	Gender: Nature, Nurture, Feminist Theory, Sexuality	Class lecture/discussion Assignment: Reflection

			Readings for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 7
13	4/11	People, Nature and Other Animals: Environmentalism, Deep Ecology, Environmental Justice, Sustainability, Direct Action	<p>Class lecture/discussion</p> <p>Assignment: Reflection</p> <p>Readings for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 8 and 9</p>
14	4/18	Government and Politics: Nations and Organization	<p>Class lecture/discussion</p> <p>Assignment: Reflection</p> <p>Readings for next week: Ideas for Action Chapter 10 and 11</p>
15	4/25	Media, Democratic Culture: Where do “we” go; The Future	<p>Class lecture/discussion</p> <p>Assignment: Reflection</p> <p>Prepare for Final</p>
16	5/2	Semester Recap, Student Self-Assessments; Letters to the Editor	<p>In the first half of class we’ll brainstorm and craft letters to local, regional, national, or global news sources regarding an issue of social sustainability. In the second half of class we’ll discuss our letters as a class and reflect on the process as a whole through a lens of global and civic engagement. Finally we’ll submit our letters to our chosen source.</p> <p>Assignment: Prepare for Final</p>
17	5/9	Final Exam Period: 8-11am	Final Action culminating work is due