

SUS 101 Course Outline
Fall 2021

Course Number

SUS 101

Course Name

Intro to Sustainability

Credits

3

Lecture Hours

3

Lab Hours

0

Course Duration

14 weeks

Required Text

Sustainability Cohen (paperback)

Class Meetings

Weekly class meetings using Blackboard Collaborate, Wednesdays from 6 pm to 8:50 pm

Supplemental Materials

Blackboard

Course Description

Systems thinking; mental models for sustainability; Intellectual and historical roots of sustainability; sustainability science; strong and weak sustainability; ecological thresholds; donut economics; critiques; future scenarios; social and technical innovations

Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the use of the Iceberg Model for Systems Thinking to identify and evaluate social and environmental challenges.
2. Discuss the intellectual and historic roots of sustainability.
3. Explain the connection between economic growth and development and environmental degradation.
4. Identify contemporary examples of the conflict between the competing needs for economic growth and environmental sustainability.
5. Understand “donut economics” and the range of social and economic innovations that seek to be compatible with a sustainable society.
6. Identify the possible unintended consequences on nature and human well being of various “sustainability” strategies.
7. Apply critical analysis to various social or technical innovations to assess their sustainability.

Course Coordinator

Professor Jeanine Cava

Contact information: I have a MCC Email address, (cavaj@mccc.edu) but by far the best way to reach me is at my Stockton University email address. Please email me at Jeanine.Cava@Stockton.edu as I will not be checking my MCCC account as often and your message may get missed.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following point system:

Midterm Exam	200 points
Essays	250 points
Class participation	200 points
<u>Final Paper or Presentation</u>	<u>250 points</u>
Total	1000 points

Mercer's Grading System

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	70 – 76
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

Assessment Activities

Midterm Exam – Exams are based on lecture material and will be taken via Blackboard. They will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer.

Weekly Essays – You will be given a question based on the assigned reading or lecture material each week (find the prompt in the weekly content folders on Blackboard) then write a one to two page essay response reflecting your understanding of the material. 1.5-spaced, 11 font, Times New Roman. Use APA Style. It cannot be less than one full page.

Attendance – Attendance will be taken in lecture meetings. If you log into the course in Blackboard and find Blackboard Collaborate in the course menu on the left-hand side of the screen. Join the meetings each week. If you join the class meeting but leave your camera off and are not “present” when called on to contribute, or messaged in the chat, you will be marked absent.

Final Paper or Presentation – You will research a sustainability strategy, program or initiative anywhere in the world and write a 5 page paper analyzing it according to the specifications and instructions provided in Blackboard. Alternatively, you may present your research in a PowerPoint Presentation to the class covering the same information. Your topic for the final paper needs to be discussed in advance with your instructor and the approved topic submitted via Blackboard **by November 3**. Use APA Style. The textbook contains brief overviews of many sustainability strategies being implemented around the world that can be used for this project.

Blackboard – All articles, videos, assignments, and exams will be available for you on Blackboard.

Zoom via Blackboard Collaborate – All remote meetings will take place via Zoom. Access the Zoom meeting link via Blackboard Collaborate (in the menu for the course on Blackboard).

Statement of Academic Integrity:

“Any student who a) knowingly represents the work of others as his/her own. B) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in the execution of any academic work, or c) gives fraudulent assistance to another student is guilty of cheating. Violators will be penalized in accordance with established college policies and procedures.” – If you are caught cheating in this course, you will receive a 0 for the assignment, and you will be turned into the Academic Integrity Committee.

Campus Resources

Counseling Ctr: https://www.mccc.edu/student_services_counseling.shtml

Counseling Ctr Class Visit Request form: <https://forms.office.com/r/4nmsbl6VD4>

Email: counseling@mccc.edu

Campus Food Pantry -- <https://www.mccc.edu/pantry.shtml>

Tutoring and Writing Center – https://www.mccc.edu/student_services_tutoring.shtml

Accessibility -- Mercer County Community College recognizes disability as an aspect of diversity. This class has been designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Please feel free to schedule an appointment with me to discuss your unique learning needs. If you feel that you will require academic accommodations, please contact Arlene Stinson stinsona@mccc.edu or visit https://www.mccc.edu/student_services_needs.shtml for information about obtaining academic accommodations in the remote environment.

Mercer County Community College is in full compliance with both the ADA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Tentative Schedule*

****Additional papers, articles and/or videos may be assigned in addition to the book chapters you see listed below. The weekly essay prompt will be posted to Blackboard (BB) or provided in class at least 7 days prior to their due date. Essays are due by 11 pm on Tuesdays. Always be prepared for the possibility that you'll be asked to share your essay with the class.***

This schedule is tentative and subject to changes. Changes will be announced in class and via announcements sent out via BB and posted to BB.

Week 1: Iceberg model for Systems thinking; Mental Models of Sustainability and Un-sustainability. Read/review materials and watch videos posted to Week 1 folder in Blackboard. **Submit Essay 1.**

Week 2: How did we get here? Events and changes that led to the push for sustainability. Read chapter 1, pages 1 through 11 in textbook (Stop at the section, "Sustainability Takes Root"). **Submit Essay 2.**

Week 3: Sustainability takes root. Read pages 11 – 21 in the textbook. Complete all items in the checklist. **Submit Essay 3.**

Week 4: Sustainability Science, Part 1: Planetary Limits and "Donut" Economics. Read pages 22 – 34 in the textbook. Review materials in Week 4 folder about planetary boundaries and donut economics. **Submit Essay 4.**

Week 5: Continuing to review concepts from week 4 (Donut Economics) and other socio-political innovations. Discussion on Consumerism. Review all materials in the checklist. **Submit Essay 5.**

Week 6: Sustainability Science, Part 2. Measuring Sustainability. Read pages 34 – 46 in the textbook. Complete additional items in the checklist. **Submit Essay 6. Study for Midterm.**

Week 7: Midterm Exam during class time on Blackboard. Proctoring will be used.

Week 8: Engineering a more sustainable future: Ecological Modernization. Read pages 47-63 (Ending at "Can the Engineers Deliver a Sustainable Future?") **Submit Essay 7.**

Week 9: Engineering a more sustainable future, Part 2: Can the Engineers Deliver a Sustainable Future? Chapter 3, Read pages 63 – 67. Complete additional items in checklist. **Submit Essay 9. Submit topic for Final paper/presentation by 11 pm on November 3. There will be a dropbox in the Week 8 Folder.**

Week 10: Planning for a Sustainable Future. Chapter 4, Read pages 67 – 88 (Ending at “Deep Transitions”). **Submit Essay 9.**

Week 11: Social Innovation and Sustainability, Part 1. Chapter 5, Read pages 94 to 106 (Ending at “Economic Localization”). **Submit Essay 10.**

Week 12: Social Innovation and Sustainability, Part 2. Chapter 5, Read pages 106 to 122. Essay 11.

Week 13: Toward Post-Sustainability? Read all of Chapter 6. Entire Chapter.
What will you do to foster sustainability after this class? Collective action and individual behavior change (not either or). No essay.

Week 14: Final Paper discussion in class and presentations