

UNST 224 – ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Winter 2023 Syllabus

T-Th 10-11:50 am in SRTC 155 and via Zoom

Instructor: Clare McClellan, MEM

Contact info: clmcc2@pdx.edu Office Hours: Tues 12-1 pm in SRTC 139B, and virtually by appointment

Mentor: Claire Brase

Contact info: brase@pdx.edu Office Hours: Thurs 4-5 pm on Zoom, email beforehand

Course theme: *A sustainable human society is one that satisfies its needs without jeopardizing the opportunity of future generations to satisfy theirs. The challenge of how we achieve a sustainable society is a vital theme that unites the various disciplines within environmental studies. This course is designed to help you bridge the scientific approach to analyzing and solving environmental problems with the socioeconomic concerns involved in formulating and administering environmental policy and the historic and philosophical basis of humanity's relationship to ecosystems. With the common goal of defining and understanding environmental sustainability, the course identifies how each participating discipline can creatively contribute towards this end.*

Course objectives

- 1) Understand the basic physical laws that dictate the bounds of resource use.
- 2) Describe and discuss human interconnections with and impacts upon biodiversity, ecosystem health and the climate system.
- 3) Discuss the interaction between environmental, societal, and economic aspects of sustainability at local, national, and global scales.
- 4) Apply critical thinking skills to evaluate the claims of all sides of environmental controversies and potential solutions.
- 5) Consider motivations for taking action to address sustainability issues from a variety of perspectives.
- 6) Examine our own lifestyles and their impacts in the context of sustainability.
- 7) Further develop skills in research, written and oral presentations, and quantitative analysis.

Instructor Inclusivity Statement: It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. But there is always room for improvement. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, please let me know of any religious or other events that may conflict with any of our class meetings this term so that we can make arrangements for you.

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Grade Breakdown		
Attendance & Participation (5%)		5
Activities (15%)		
	Sustainability Models Activity	5
	Ecosystem Characteristics Activity	5
	Ecosystem Services Activity	5
Class Discussion Leader (5%)		5
Electricity Audit (12.5%)		
	Electricity Audit Report 1	6.75
	Electricity Audit Report 2	6.75
Moral Ground (12.5%)		
	Identification	2.5
	Essay	10
Course Project (30%)		
	Project Identification	2.5
	Project Information	2.5
	Project Draft	10
	Peer Review of Draft	5
	Final Deliverable	10
Exams (20%)		
	Two exams (10% each)	20
Total		100 points

Grade Value: Scores for each graded assignment/test will be totaled and a final grade will be based on the total score as a percent of 100 as follows: A= 100 to 94%; A- = 93 to 90%; B+= 89 to 87%; B= 86 to 84%; B-=83 to 80%; C+=79 to 77%; C=76 to 74%; C-= 73 to 70%; D= 69 to 60%; F= 59% and below.

Expectations

- Be prepared for class:
 - Be on time, complete all readings and assignments, and be prepared to actively participate in discussions and activities.
 - Be aware that good grammar, clear writing structure, and reasoning will all be incorporated into your grades.
 - Come to class with an open, curious, and respectful attitude. Our classroom culture is what we make of it!
- Participate in class activities and take notes.
- Ask questions!
 - If something is unclear, please ask and we will try to clarify. Ask your classmates, ask the mentor, or ask the instructor.
- Communicate your needs and concerns with mentor and instructor. If you are struggling with an assignment or may need to turn something in late, let us know as soon as possible so we can help you.
- Make mistakes! Mistakes are not a waste of time. Mistakes mean you are trying and by fixing the mistakes you are persevering and learning. If you need help or guidance do not hesitate to ask.

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Required Readings

Book: *Moral Ground: Ethical action for a planet in peril*. Moore & Nelson (Eds), available online through the PSU library using the link below or the link in the course content section of Canvas. Be sure to log into the PSU website with your ODIN account to gain access to the ebook.

Moral Ground link:

<https://search.library.pdx.edu/permalink/f/p82vj0/CP71138495790001451>

Other relevant media may be assigned throughout the course, with the goal of exploring current topics in environmental sustainability and through varied formats. These may include podcasts, news articles, journal articles, documentaries, photos, poems, etc. Always check Canvas to see what is due for the upcoming class. And please share any cool resources you come across!

Course policies and responsibilities:

Late work: While we are willing to be accommodating in most cases where late work is due to challenging or unexpected circumstances, falling behind in your work will make it difficult to keep up with the course. Please contact the mentor and instructor when you might need an extension or will be turning in work late. Work turned in late with no communication will be deducted 20%, so these late assignments may earn no more than 80% of their grade. Keep in mind that all work must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday of Week 9 to receive any credit.

Corrections and resubmissions: We encourage you to correct and resubmit assignments if you would like to improve your understanding and grade. You can resubmit any assignments you want once for an updated grade (except the draft and final versions of the term project), but we will not grade more than one re-submission per assignment.

Attendance: Attendance in both the Tuesday in-person sessions and Thursday Zoom sessions is required and will make up your attendance grade. Please let the mentor and instructor know if you will be missing a class. We understand that things happen, so every student will have one “grace” day to use during the quarter which will not count against your attendance grade.

Required Technology: You will need access to a computer and an internet connection. The word processing and spreadsheet work for this course can be completed in the Google suite, which you have access to through your PSU account. Assignments may also be completed in the Microsoft suite, but no Pages, please.

Student Conduct: Please adhere to the code of conduct: <http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct>; e.g., no academic dishonesty or negligence; no harassment, no plagiarism. Failure to follow the academic code of conduct will result in loss of points and may result in further academic prosecution. All work should be written in your own words and cited appropriately. You should not quote large sections of text written by others. Plagiarized work will receive a zero.

Communication: When emailing, you must copy both the mentor and the instructor to make sure everyone is on the same page. You are expected to look for class Announcements prior to every class.

Zoom: During Zoom classes we ask that you turn your video on, unless you do not have video capabilities or in other special cases that have been discussed with the instructor.

COVID-19: All students and employees who access PSU locations must submit either (1) an attestation confirming the student or employee has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19; or (2) submit a medical or nonmedical exemption. More information: <https://www.pdx.edu/covid-19-response/vaccinations>

Resources:

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ESM department and School of Environment webpages: <http://www.pdx.edu/esm/> and <http://www.pdx.edu/environment/>

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences resource hub for student success: <https://www.pdx.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/clas-student-success>

Advising & Career Services: <https://www.pdx.edu/careers/> and <https://www.pdx.edu/careers/what-can-i-do-degree-environmental-studiesenvironmentalsciences>

Library Research Tutorials: <http://guides.library.pdx.edu/home/howto> and <http://guides.library.pdx.edu/biology>

Safe Campus: If you have not done so already, please complete the [*\[Student\] Understanding Sexual Misconduct and Available Resources*](#) on Canvas. You will need to first enroll in the course to gain access, then module should take approximately 30 to 40 minutes to complete. This is a required module for all students and contains important information and resources. However, if you are uncomfortable completing the module, please send an email to saveact@pdx.edu to request an exemption. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources at Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response: www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/. PSU's Student Code of Conduct makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are strictly prohibited and offenses are subject to the full realm of sanctions, up to and including suspension and expulsion. <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/safe-campus-module>

Learning Center/Free Tutoring: <http://www.pdx.edu/tutoring/> or PSU library Room 245

Writing Center: Help with class assignments, resumes, etc.. <http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/> Cramer Room 188. Please consult the Purdue OWL regarding plagiarism and other writing issues: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

Disability Resource Center: If you are a student with a documented disability and are registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact me so that we can arrange your academic accommodations.

Veterans: If you are a Veteran and have questions about University services or need assistance with your transition from military to campus life, please contact Chris Goodrich, Coordinator of Veterans Services at the Office of Veterans' Services, SMSU room 425.

Multicultural Centers: <https://www.pdx.edu/dmss/multicultural-student-center>
<https://www.pdx.edu/dmss/native-american-student-community-center>
<https://www.pdx.edu/dmss/la-casa-latina-student-center>

Queer Resource Center: www.pdx.edu/queer