ENVST 2100-001: Introduction to Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Spring 2014
Meeting Time: T, TH 12:25 PM - 1:45 PM
3 credit hours
Location: Spencer Fox Eccles Business Building, 1110

Instructor: Dr. Brett Clark
Email: brett.clark@soc.utah.edu
Office Location: 405, BEH S Building
Office Phone: 801-581-7108
Office Hours: T, TH 3:30-5:00 PM and by appointment
Website: Use the canvas site for the class

Teaching Assistant: Jennifer Givens, MA, PhD candidate
Email: jennifer.givens@soc.utah.edu
Office Location: OSH 152
Office Hours: T, TH 9:45-10:45 AM and by appointment

Course Description and Goals:
This course examines human-environment relations from a variety of disciplines. Through a series of lectures and readings, students will be exposed to a diverse range of research, viewpoints, approaches, and topics associated with environmental and sustainability issues. This class provides a unique opportunity for students to engage the breadth of research and teaching at the University of Utah that addresses human-environment relations. Students will engage a wide range of opinions, be exposed to distinct kinds of intellectual inquiry, and meet faculty from many disciplines. Through lectures and class discussion, we will process this material and fit it into a larger inter-disciplinary context of environmental and sustainability studies.

At the end of this course, students will:
- Discuss key topics for sustainability including how they are analyzed by various academic disciplines.
- Have a broad knowledge of environmental and sustainability issues.
- Be familiar with the development of environmental thought and concepts.
- Be able to apply those concepts to a wide variety of contemporary issues.
- Formulate potential approaches to sustainability by integrating identified research and readings.
- Investigate various solution-oriented approaches to socio-ecological conditions.
- Participate in and reflect on citizenship behavior.

Required Reading:
1. Articles, essays, and book chapters will be posted on the canvas site for this class. These readings are listed on the syllabus.

2. High Country News. A free subscription is available at hcn.org/subscribe. You will see a one-year term and $25 price. If you follow the instructions, you will be able to change the price to
zero and the term to one semester. Then you will be asked to set up an account with user name and password. This will get you to a price page where you will enter the code: HCNStudent. The price will change to zero after you hit the “Apply” button. You may also elect to pay for the one-year subscription to support this publication.

3. Occasional readings will also be posted online. These readings will be short and complement lectures by presenters.

Course Format and Framework:
On Thursday each week, we will have a different guest lecturer, from the faculty at the University of Utah, who will present a summary of his or her research on environmental and sustainability issues.

On Tuesday each week, we will discuss the assigned readings and the information shared by the guest speaker from the previous class on Thursday.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:
1. Exams (160 points total). There are four exams. Each exam will be worth 40 points. Exams will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions and a short essay question(s). The exams are not comprehensive. Each exam is based on: 1) material presented by guest lecturers, 2) topics discussed in class, and 3) material from the required readings. There is no opportunity for extra credit in this class.

Exams dates are:
First exam: February 4
Second exam: February 25
Third exam: March 25
Fourth exam: April 24

2. Two Short Assignments (20 points total): A short assignment will be distributed before Dr. Steve Burian’s presentation. It will be due on April 3. Another short assignment, which requires processing his lecture and the previous exercise, will also be distributed. It will be due on April 8. Each assignment will be worth 10 points.

3. Sustainability and Citizenship Reflection Paper (20 points total). The specific details of the assignment will be distributed later in the term. This assignment will involve writing two-single spaced pages, reflecting upon the relationship between sustainability and citizenship. This assignment will be due April 17.

Grading Scale:
Total points possible in the class: 200.

A  94-100%  B+ 87-89%  C+ 77-79%  D+ 67-69%
A- 90-93%  B 84-86%  C 74-76%  D 64-66%
B- 80-83%  C- 70-73%  D- 60-63%  F <60%
Etiquette:
*Turn off cell phones.* These devices are an inconsiderate intrusion on your classmates, instructors, and guest lecturers. Arrive to class on time and do not leave class early. Be respectful to guest lecturers and fellow students.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:** Violations, such as plagiarism (whether intentional or not), may result in a failing grade for the class. It is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to turn in a work that is not your own. This includes, turning in the work of another student, buying/copying a paper off the Internet, using the words or ideas of others without proper quotation and citation. Guidelines for citing sources may be found on WebCT.

**Open Learning Environment:** The intention and structure of university level courses are to provide open, thoughtful forums for a wide variety of topics and ideas. While discussing these topics, students shall not discriminate on the basis of “race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.”

**ADA Statement:** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

**Course Schedule:**
Students must come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments for that week’s classes. The readings, minus selections from *High Country News*, for the class will be distributed (posted) on the canvas site for the class.

**Week 1:**
*January 7*
Introduction and Class Logistics.

*January 9*
Lecturer: Wendy Wischer (Art/Art History).

**Week 2:**
*January 14*
Reading Assignment:

Henry David Thoreau, “Huckleberries.”

Chief Seattle, “My People Are Ebbing Away Like a Fast-Receding Tide.”
George Perkins Marsh, “Man Is Everywhere a Disturbing Agent.”

Gifford Pinchot, “Principles of Conversation.”

John Muir, “Dan Hetch Hetchy! As Well Dam…the People’s Cathedrals.”

Theodore Roosevelt, “There Must be the Look Ahead” and “The Property of the Unborn Generations.”

January 16
Lecturer: Julia Corbett (Communications).

Week 3:

January 21
Reading Assignment:

Alice Hamilton, “The Prevention of Industrial Poisoning.”

Frederick Law Olmsted, “The People’s Park at Birkenhead.”


Aldo Leopold, “Thinking Like a Mountain” and “The Land Ethic.”

January 23
Lecturer: L. Irene Terry (Biology).

Week 4:

January 28
Reading Assignment:


Rachel Carson, “It Was a Spring Without Voices.”

Barry Commoner, “To Survive, We Must Close the Circle.”

Paul Ehrlich, “Population Control Is the Only Answer.”


January 30
Lecturer: Nalini Nadkarni (Biology).
Week 5:
February 4
First Exam.

February 6
Lecturer: Keith Bartholomew (Urban Planning)

Week 6:
February 11
Reading Assignment:

Richard Heinberg, “Beyond the Limits to Growth.”

Richard Heinberg, “What Is Sustainability?”

William E. Rees, “Thinking 'Resilience'”

Danielle Endres, “From Wasteland to Waste Site: The Role of Discourse in Nuclear Power’s Environmental Injustices.”

February 13
Lecturer: Danielle Endres (Communications).

Week 7:
February 18
Reading Assignment:

Bill McKibben, “A New World.”

Kevin Anderson and Alice Bows, “A New Paradigm for Climate Change.”

Aaron M. McCright and Riley E. Dunlap. “Cool Dudes: The Denial of Climate Change among Conservative White Males.”

Herman Daly, “Economics in a Full World.”

February 20
Lecturer: Minqi Li (Economics).
Week 8:  
*February 25*  
**Second Exam.**

*February 27*  
Lecturer: To Be Announced.

Week 9:  
*March 4*  
Reading Assignment:

Daniel Lerch, “Making Sense of Peak Oil and Energy Uncertainty.”

J. David Hughes, “Hydrocarbons in North America.”

David Fridley, “Nine Challenges of Alternative Energy”


*March 6*  
Lecturer: Nan Ellin (City & Metropolitan Planning).

Week 10:  
*March 18*  
Reading Assignment:

Michael Bomford, “Getting Fossil Fuels Off the Plate”

Wes Jackson, “Tackling the Oldest Environmental Problem.”

Erika Allen, “Growing Community Food Systems”

Michael Pollan, “How Change Is Going to Come in the Food System.”

*March 20*  
Lecturer: Tabitha Benney (Political Science).

Week 11:  
*March 25*  
**Third Exam.**

*March 27*  
**No Class.** Brett and Jennifer will be at the Pacific Sociological Association conference.
Week 12:
April 1
Reading Assignment:

John Wesley Powell, “A System of Counties by Drainage Basins.”

Sandra Postel, “Water: Adapting to a New Normal.”

Daniel McCool, “As Dams Fall, A Chance for Redemption.”

To be determined: Readings and video associated with first assignment.

April 3
First Short Assignment Due.
Lecturer: Steve Burian (Civil/Environmental Engineering).

Week 13:
April 8
Second Short Assignment Due.
Reading Assignment:

Stephanie Mills, “Peak Nature?”


April 10
Lecturer: Clayton Pierce (Education).

Week 14:
April 15
Reading Assignment:


Eliza Griswold, “How ‘Silent Spring’ Ignited the Environmental Movement.”

April 17
Citizenship Reflection Paper Due.
Lecturer: Jack Hamilton (Metallurgical Engineering).
Week 15:
April 22
Reading Assignment:

Julia Corbett, “Are You an Environmentalist?”

Hillary Brown, “Toward Zero-Carbon Buildings”

Peter Rosset, “Fixing Our Global Food System.”

April 24
Final Exam 10:30 AM -12:30 PM.