SUSTAINABILITY (SUST)

SUST 150N: The Science of Sustainable Development

3 Credits

This course will focus on how human society depends on the environment for its continued existence. It will examine several major topics relating to environmental and social sustainability including ecosystem conservation, sustainability of food systems with special reference to the water-food-energy nexus, and current and future trends in urbanization. Within each of these topics, students will learn fundamental scientific principles and use this information to gain a better understanding of what human behaviors have led to our current resource production and consumption crisis. This class will explore ways people can modify behavior to relieve poverty in developing nations and meeting basic human needs while still affording economic growth, environmental protection, and social equality to all peoples around the world.

General Education: Natural Sciences (GN)
General Education: Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)
GenEd Learning Objective: Critical and Analytical Thinking
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking
GenEd Learning Objective: Social Responsibility and Ethical Reasoning

SUST 200: Foundations of Leadership in Sustainability

3 Credits

Science, ethics, and leadership in social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

General Education: Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)

SUST 242N: Issues in Sustainability

3 Credits

This course is part of the General Education Integrative Studies curriculum. As such, it combines Humanities (GH) and Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS) through the topic of sustainability. Students will read, write, and think integratively by considering the humanistic values of sustainability and how those values are connected to the political, social, and cultural forces that shape sustainable activities. The course examines the concepts and key issues of sustainability through a variety of literary, scientific, political, and popular texts. Class discussions will trace the roots of sustainability in environmental writing, will analyze the diverse debates surrounding sustainability, and will consider local, national, and international texts about sustainability. Students will interact with invited guest speakers, conduct field research on sustainability in local communities and institutions, and create their own narratives and scenarios for sustainable futures based on their findings and speculations. The course will address central issues of sustainability in society today, including: What are the historical and cultural foundations of sustainability? How is sustainability a political, social, and ethical issue? How do crises and disasters create challenges for sustainability? How is sustainability connected to local, urban, and transnational environments? The goal of the course is to develop two types of awareness. First, students will develop an awareness of the key discussions about sustainability in society today.

Second, students will cultivate a critical awareness of how debates about sustainability are shaped through the written and spoken word. Sustainability is more than just protecting the great outdoors or using a recycling bin. It is also a product of the discourse surrounding it. In other words, sustainability and what we think, say, and do concerning it is influenced by what other groups and individuals have written or said about it. Sustainability debates are shaped by more than simply "the facts" surrounding environmental issues; they are also shaped by the persuasive tactics and rhetorical choices writers and speakers make. Students will spend the semester analyzing, discussing, and creating texts that engage the key issues and most important topics of sustainability and environmentalism.

Prerequisite: ENGL 15; ENGL 30
General Education: Humanities (GH)
General Education: Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Interdomain
GenEd Learning Objective: Global Learning
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking
GenEd Learning Objective: Key Literacies
GenEd Learning Objective: Social Responsibility and Ethical Reasoning

SUST 295: Internship

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Supervised off-campus, non-group instruction including individual field experience, practicums, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

Prerequisite: SUST 200

SUST 495: Internship

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Supervised off-campus, non-group instruction including individual field experience, practicums, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

Prerequisite: SUST 200

SUST 496: Special Topics

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

Prerequisite: SUST 200