

CSUS 200
Introduction to Sustainability

Fall 2016

Tuesday/Thursday, 2:40 – 4:00 p.m.
223 Natural Resources Building

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael W. Everett
Department of Community Sustainability
Michigan State University
480 Wilson Road
140 Natural Resources Building
Telephone: 517-432-0292
Email: everettm@msu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (140 Natural Resources)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to sustainability and personal role in sustainability initiatives. Implications of individual actions for key sustainability challenges. Application of sustainability principles and leadership skills in community.

COURSE GOALS:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify key themes and principles in sustainability development
2. Apply a variety of critical thinking, analysis and research skills to evaluate the credibility of sustainability policy positions and scientific arguments.
3. Identify the concept of an ecological footprint and recognize their ecological footprint.
4. Improve decision-making capabilities within the context of sustainability.
5. Assess whether a societal issue is a wicked or tame problem.
6. Develop team leadership skills within groups to advance change within communities.
7. Use information technologies in their formal and non-formal learning.
8. Consider the importance of the Commons in developing community sustainability strategies.
9. Identify individual worldviews as they relate to sustainability and their implications for individual actions.
10. Examine the interaction between agriculture, food, natural resources and Michigan communities using a systems approach.
11. Use Life Cycle Analysis to consider the true costs of products and services.

COURSE TEXTBOOK:

Choices for Sustainable Living – Northwest Earth Institute (also available as a PDF) (available at <http://www.nwei.org/store/>) (needed ASAP)

CLASS SCHEDULE¹

Week 1 – Introduction and Wicked Problems

1 - September 1, 2016 – Introducing the Class

Week 2 – Thinking Critically

2 - September 6, 2016 – Trash Sort (Meet at MSU Recycling Center)

3 - September 8, 2016 – What are Wicked Problems?

Week 3 – Human/Environmental Interdependence

4 - September 13, 2016 – Analyzing Web Sites and Credibility of Information/Evaluating Policy

5 - September 15, 2016 –What Matters/Governing the Commons

Week 4 – Human/Environmental Interdependence

6 - September 20, 2016 – MSU Energy (Meet at the MSU Energy Facility)

7 - September 22, 2016 – MSU Energy (Meet at the MSU Energy Facility)

Week 5 – Food Systems

8 - September 27, 2016 – A Call to Sustainability (CSL Discussion - #1)

9 - September 29, 2016 – Real Cost of Food

Week 6 – Food Systems

10 - October 4, 2016 – Ecological Principles (CSL Discussion - #2)

11 - October 6, 2016 – Feeding Yourself for a Year

Week 7 – Energy Systems

12 - October 11, 2016 – Food (CSL Discussion - #3)

13 - October 13, 2016 – Transforming Energy - Thermodynamics and Energy Efficiency

Week 8 – Energy Systems

14 - October 18, 2016 – Recycling Energy Use

15 - October 20, 2016 – Implementing Sustainability Strategies for Communities

Week 9 – Ecological Footprint

16 - October 25, 2016 – Community (CSL Discussion - #4)

17 - October 27, 2016 – Analyzing an Ecological Footprint/What's Your Ecological Footprint?

Week 10 – Ecological Economics

18 - November 1, 2016 – Transportation (CSL Discussion - #5)

19 - November 3, 2016 – Classifying Ecosystems Services

¹ Topics or dates may change due to availability of resources

Week 11 – Ecological Economics/Environmental Justice

20 - November 8, 2016 – Interpreting Life Cycle Analysis

21 - November 10, 2016 – Ensuring Environmental Justice

Week 12 – Change Agents

22 - November 15, 2016 – Consumption and Economy (CSL Discussion - #6)

23 - November 17, 2016 – Diffusing Innovations

Week 13 – Water

24 - November 22, 2016 – Is Water the 21st Century Oil

25 - November 24, 2016 – **Thanksgiving Break (No Class)**

Week 14 – Presentations

26 - November 29, 2016 – Policy Presentations (15 presentations @ 3 minutes each)

27 - December 1, 2016 – Visions of Sustainability (CSL Discussion - #7) Online Forums

Week 15 - Presentations

28 - December 6, 2016 – Policy Presentations (15 presentations @ 3 minutes each)

29 - December 8, 2016 – Policy Presentations (10 presentations @ 3 minutes each)

Week 16 – Finals Week

30 – December 13, 2016 – Final (10:00 am to 12:00 pm)

Assignments

Assignments will be turned in electronically via D2L. The Final will be written during the scheduled time. More than one application (e.g. a Web browser, Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.) may be needed for a given assignment. Written assignments must adhere to APA format, doubles-spaced, and Times New Roman or Arial (12 font). A running header must include the title of the document. **Do NOT put your name on your paper.** D2L will provide identification of the document.

1. Class Attendance and Participation. Your active participation in class is expected (including prior assigned readings) and worth 5 points per class (30) for a total of **150 points**. *(You must be in class or participate in online forums in order to earn the 5 points). A class sign-in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of in-class sessions. You will NOT be allowed to sign-in late.*

2. R³ – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Weekly Blog. The R³ assignment spans the semester. The task the first week is for you to identify a daily personal behavior that you can change which results in reducing, reusing or recycling a resource/product. Some examples may include decreasing number of miles you drive your car by 25% per week, decreasing your water usage each week by 15%, decreasing your use of plastic bags, or eliminating your use of bottled water. You will blog each week of the semester. The first week's blog will focus on the selection of your behavior to modify (as well as baseline data for what you are currently doing). Successive blogs may include

a prompt about current levels, successes and failures, application of Excel spreadsheets, etc. As indicated, you also need to keep a spreadsheet to track your changes (e.g. commute miles via bike – e.g. how many bottles of water do you currently drink each day on average) on an appropriate basis (daily or weekly). The blogs are worth **150 points** (10 points per blog). **Each Weekly Blog is due by midnight Friday – e.g. Blog 1 is due September 9.** Note that the D2L Dropbox will close at midnight and will **NOT** reopen.

3. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Literature Review. As part of the R³ project, you will complete a brief literature review on your selected behavior change. What does the literature (this can include websites, online documents, papers, journal articles, etc.) say about your intended behavior change (Minimum of 5 references/citations with 3 being from peer reviewed journals). *Name the literature review FirstnameLastnameR3Lit.**. The R³ Literature Review is worth **100 points** (2-page). (**The R³ Literature Review is due by midnight Thursday, September 22nd**)

4. Book Review. You will write a **2-page** book review (not including a citation page) related to sustainability broadly defined. Below is a selection of potential books (I encourage you to pick a book that you have not read before). If you are considering a book not on this list I will need to approve your selection to ensure that the book is applicable to the broad scope of sustainability. Resources on how to write a book review are available in D2L in the Book Review assignment folder. *Name the book review FirstnameLastnameBR.**. The book review is worth **100 points** (2-pages). The report should be placed in the appropriate drop box in D2L. (**The Book Review is due by midnight on October 27**)

Example Book Review titles

Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan
Collapse by Jared Diamond
The Story of Stuff by Annie Leonard
An Agricultural Testament by Sir Albert Howard
Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
The Watchman's Rattle by Rebecca Costa
Eaarth by Bill McKibben
Confessions of a Radical Industrialist by Ray C. Anderson
Tomorrow's Table by Pamela C. Ronald & Raoul W. Adamchak
Storms of My Grandchildren by James Hansen
The One Straw Revolution by Masanobu Fukuoka
Cheap: The High Cost of Discount Culture by Ellen Ruppel Shell

5. "Your Zone" - Photo Diary. During the semester you will keep a photo diary of a spot in your "Zone." The spot can be small (a bush or tree in your yard) or large (a field on the South Farm). **You will take a picture of your spot from the same place every weekday (Monday through Friday).** You can miss a maximum of five days during the assignment (not missing a day will result in a bonus). You will locate your spot during the first week of class and start your photo diary on **September 6, 2016 and conclude it on November 11, 2016 (49 days)**. You will turn in your photo diary presentation file to D2L. You will upload your PPT presentation to D2L. *Name the presentation FirstnameLastnameZP.**. Additionally, you will develop a written reflection (**2-page**) of your diary. *Name the photo diary reflection FirstnameLastnameZR.**. What did you learn? What surprised you? What changed or didn't change? Let your photo diary

drive your reflection. Your written reflection and photo diary is due and should be placed in the appropriate D2L Dropbox by **midnight November 25 (150 Points)**.

6. Policy Position (P²) Paper and Presentation. You are to identify a position on an issue that you care about that is relevant to this class and develop a policy paper (**2-page**). A policy paper is a persuasive document that outlines your views on a particular policy or issue you have studied (and is of interest to you). The policy paper is a way to apply what you have learned in a format that communicates ideas or recommendations, or persuades people to consider your views. What does the literature (this can include websites, online documents, papers, journal articles, etc.) say about your intended behavior change (Minimum of 5 references/citations with 3 being from peer reviewed journals). The audience for the paper may be other students, citizens, members of a public commission, elected representatives, or anyone else with a stake in the issue. There is a resource to help you with writing a policy position paper in the Assignments Folder on D2L. The paper is worth **100 points**. (**The P² paper will be due by midnight on December 8**). Name the paper *FirstnameLastnamePPP.**. Additionally, each student will present their position presentation at a randomly assigned time during classes 26-29. The presentation is worth **50 points** and will be 3 minutes in length. There will be NO makeup opportunities for the presentation. Name the presentation *FirstnameLastnamePreso.** and upload it to the appropriate Dropbox.

7. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Report. You will prepare a brief report that summarizes your change over the semester and analyses the environmental impact of your behavioral change at the individual level as well as the impact over a larger audience (e.g., all MSU undergraduates, people in your apartment complex, etc.). The report should include summaries from your spreadsheet. You also will turn in your spreadsheet with your report. Report should be a Microsoft Word file and the spreadsheet an **Excel** file. Name the report *FirstnameLastnameRRR.** and the Excel file *FirstnameLastnameExcel.**. Place the paper and the spreadsheet in the appropriate drop boxes in D2L. The R3 Final Report and Excel file is worth **100 points (2-page + Excel file)**. **The R³ report is due at midnight on Friday, December 9.**

8. Final Exam. The Final will be comprehensive and open note. The Final is worth **100 points**. (**The Final is on December 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**).

Student Evaluation

<u>Assignments²</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
1. Class Attendance & Assignments	150	Weekly
2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Blogs	150	Weekly
3. R3 Literature Review	100	September 22, 2016
4. Book Review	100	October 27, 2016
5. "The Zone" - Photo Diary	150	November 25, 2016
6. Policy Paper and Presentation	150	December 8, 2016
7. R3 Final Report/Excel File	100	December 9, 2016
8. Final	100	December 13, 2016

² Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted (Dropboxes will close at midnight on due dates)

Total

1000

Grading Scale

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
4.0	1000 – 920
3.5	919 – 860
3.0	859 – 820
2.5	819 – 750
2.0	749 – 700
1.5	699 – 650
1.0	649 – 600
0	< 600

Important Dates

September 26	Last Day to Drop w/ Refund (8:00 PM)
October 19	Last Day to Drop w/ No Grade (8:00 PM)
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
December 13	Final (10:00 am to 12:00 pm)

Academic Misconduct

Article 2.III.B.2 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Department of Community Sustainability adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in CSUS 200. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>). **There will be no warnings – the maximum sanction allowed under University policy will occur on the first offense.** Turnitin.com will be used for all written assignments.

Accommodations

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may

be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("RISA") form. Please present this form to Dr. Everett at the start of the semester and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Bereavement:

Students seeking a grief absence should be directed to the Grief Absence Request Form found on the RO home page (<https://reg.msu.edu/>) under 'Student Services – Grief Absence Request Form' OR to StuInfo (<https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>) under 'Academics - Enrollment Information and Services – Grief Absence Request Form.' Per policy, graduate students who should see their major professor and notify course instructors are directed to do so when they access the form.

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is September 26. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is October 19. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Commercialized Lecture Notes

Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

Attendance

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course. This course follows the General University Attendance Policy. If you miss a class due to a Special Consideration Absence as defined by University Policy, your class participation grade for those excused absences days will be the average of your earned participation grades.

Internet

Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site

Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of the Academic Freedom Report (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

Campus Emergencies

In the event of an emergency arising within the class, the Professor will notify you of what actions that may be required to ensure your safety. It is the responsibility of each student to understand the evacuation, “shelter-in-place,” and “secure-in-place” guidelines posted in each facility and to act in a safe manner. You are allowed to maintain cellular devices in a silent mode during this course, in order to receive emergency SMS text, phone or email messages distributed by the university. When anyone receives such a notification or observes an emergency situation, they should immediately bring it to the attention of the Professor in a way that causes the least disruption. If an evacuation is ordered, please ensure that you do it in a safe manner and facilitate those around you that may not otherwise be able to safely leave. When these orders are given, you do have the right as a member of this community to follow that order. Also, if a shelter-in-place or secure-in-place is ordered, please seek areas of refuge that are safe depending on the emergency encountered and provide assistance if it is advisable to do so.

E-Learning Policies

Information technologies such as D2L and email are widely used in this class. As a result there are some additional policies that need to be understood.

- Students should visit the course’s D2L site on a regular basis.
- Students should check their email frequently (all class email is sent to the student’s official MSU email account).
- All assignments submitted electronically, either on disk or via email, should be free of any viruses and/or worms. Any infected file or media that is submitted will receive a zero (0) for that assignment.
- This course recognizes the students’ right to privacy and adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Students need to review the university policy “Acceptable Use of Computing Systems, Software, and the University Digital Network” at <http://lct.msu.edu/guidelines-policies/aup/>.
- Excessive emails make an unreasonable time demands on both sender and recipient. Please ensure you have a legitimate need before you write.
- Dr. Everett will answer email about:
 - Questions arising from difficulty in understanding course content.
 - Requests for feedback about graded assignments.
 - Private issues appropriate for discussion within the teacher-student relationship.
- Dr. Everett will NOT answer email which:
 - Poses questions answered in the course information sections of the course D2L site
 - Poses questions answered in the course syllabus.
 - Lacks a subject line clearly stating the purpose of the email and the course number (CSUS 200).
 - Raises an inappropriate subject.

- Dr. Everett will make every effort to answer email received on a given day no later than close of work on the next workday.
- The Web site tech.msu.edu provides a number of information technology resources for students.
- You are responsible for the operation of any personally owned computers you use on or off campus. A malfunctioning computer system is NOT a valid excuse for submitting late work.
- Students are expected to have a high degree of self-motivation and self-direction in this class and develop the needed technology skills to excel in this class and in life.

