

Syllabus

G H 299: Explorations in Sustainability: WIU-Macomb—Year 2117, Sec. 086, Star 32667
Spring 2017, 1 credit, 12:30-1:20 p.m., T, SI 027
Professor Bill Knox

Faculty Contact

Simpkins 013, 298-2505 (office), 298.2974 (FAX), wl-knox@wiu.edu
 Office hours: T Th 8:30-9:30 a.m. + 11:00 a.m.-noon, and W 2:00-3:00 p.m., and by appointment

Course Prerequisite

Enrollment in the Centennial Honors College

Required Texts

Herndl, Carl G. *Sustainability: A Reader for Writers*. New York: Oxford UP, 2014. Print. (Required)
 Theis, Tom, and Jonathan Tomkin, eds. *Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation*. Open Textbook Library, 2015. <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=96>. Accessed November 24, 2015.

Course Description, Purpose, and Goals

Readings and regular guest speakers from WIU academic and administrative areas and the community will provide content while thematic discussions and a course project and portfolio will test ideas.

Explorations in Sustainability will introduce students to a range of sustainability issues, environmental and social, global as well as local also designing a small sustainability exercise in projective thinking, under the course topic of the Macomb-WIU community a century from now. Sustainability is a critical issue for human society, but the focus is often only on the natural environment—and no more than a generation—or 30 years—into the future. The variety of approaches in this course will let students view sustainability from various environmental, social, and economic perspectives. The goal is to suggest that local sustainability is a complex, interrelated web of problems and opportunities, where environment is central. Most critically, you should task yourself with understanding the interconnections of various aspects of sustainability in everyday life—in the past, present, and future.

Using topics as varied as history, agriculture, community planning, construction, and energy, the course will emphasize the reality and potential of human interaction in sustainability of a local living system. Recognized presenters from the western Illinois region will present to the class.

Students will discuss their learning and views in classroom discussions; keep a portfolio/journal and write a course summary and response paper for the end of the class with an educated guess about how WIU-Macomb might look in 2017.

Class Structure

Class will have several primary activities. Short lectures will suggest possible directions and invite ways of addressing the course question. Reading will provide background for the course topics; more critically, you should task yourself with making connections between the more theoretical and global content of the text with the practical matters of future sustainability. Guest speakers will provide expert points of view and models or ideas for inquiry. Questions and discussions with the speakers will follow. Class discussion will help each of you to entertain a variety of disciplinary and personal perspectives.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Attend and contribute to class;
- Maintain an ongoing course **portfolio/journal** (60%) – due biweekly;
- Write a 5-page **projective essay** (40%).

The portfolio/journal and paper will be used on the last day of class (2 May) to contribute to a discussion of significant themes from the course.

Course Calendar

All readings are from *Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation*.

Week and Unit	Date	Class Work	Due
1	T, 17 Jan.	Class Intro; Portfolio Requirements	
2	T, 24 Jan.	<i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 1, "Introduction" http://www.ted.com/talks/rob_hopkins_transition_to_a_world_without_oil https://transitionnetwork.org/about-the-movement/what-is-transition/ http://www.ic.org/the-fellowship-for-intentional-community/ https://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/	Bwkly Journal 1
3	T, 31 Jan.	University Energy Usage and Generation Scott Coker <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 10, "Energy Systems" <i>Reader</i> , NRC, 233ff	
4	T, 7 Feb.	University Sustainable Construction Evolution Ted Renner <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 13, "Infrastructure"	Bwkly Journal 2
5	T, 14 Feb.	Discussion	
6	T, 21 Feb.	Museum Collection Process Sue Scott <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 12, "Ethics, Culture, History" Carson, 4ff	Bwkly Journal 3
7	T, 28 Feb.	Discussion	
8	T, Mar. 7	Conferences	Bwkly Journal 4
Spring Break	T, Mar. 14	No class	
9	T, Mar. 21	Macomb Development: The Square Dean Torreson <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 13 (Review) + <i>Reader</i> , Diamond, 15ff	
10	T, Mar. 28	Developments in Agriculture Joel Gruver <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 6, "Biosphere" <i>Reader</i> , Steingraber, 320ff.; Charles, 130ff + 328ff; Whitman, 140ff; Montgomery, 309ff	Bwkly Journal 5
11	T, 4 April	Solar Power Gordon Rands <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 10, "Energy Systems" (Review) <i>Reader</i> , Blogger, 258ff; Bateman, 296ff	
12	T, 11 April	Macomb Cultural Sustainability John Hallwas <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 12 (Review) + <i>Reader</i> , Pollan, 132ff	Bwkly Journal 6
13	T, 18 April	Rural Community Development Chris Merrett <i>Sustainability</i> , Ch. 8, Environmental and Resource Economics <i>Reader</i> , Cole + Foster, 88ff	
14	T, 25 April	Project Preliminaries	
15	T, 2 May	Brief Project Presentations	<i>Project Essay</i>
Finals	T, 9 May	1 PM	Confer

Evaluation

Students will discuss their learning and views in classroom discussions, keep a portfolio/journal, and write a course projective paper for the end of the class. This is a S/U course. Class attendance is the surest way to participate in the content of readings, share ideas, maintain the thread of your learning, work with

your classmates, develop a productive relationship with the instructor, and make informed decisions about completing course assignments.

Standards for Assignment Assessment

Area	Standard
1. Content	Clearly worded details and examples address a targeted, educated audience.
2. Structure	Order of document sections and transitions between them exhibit logic.
3. Correctness	Sentence structure, writing mechanics, and citations are copy ready.
4. Creativity	Meaningful thinking reflects imagination, not just conventional ideas.
5. Critical Thinking	Serious reflection shows key information and rejection of easy answers.
6. Page Format	Each document exhibits MLA standards and contains no distracting elements.

Attendance, Due Date, Return, and Revision Policy

According to the WIU *Undergraduate Catalog*, “[s]tudents are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled.” Please see the following link for attendance policy:

(http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/student_development_office/current/absencepolicy.php). In our face-to-face class, this means to be present and participating to earn attendance points. If you have a laptop, I strongly encourage you to bring it to class for notetaking and drafting. All reports are due according to the Course Calendar, whether at the start of class or on WesternOnline. Marked papers will be returned before the next are due. I encourage your questions and careful revision prior to submission.

Academic Honesty

In this course, as in all others, “it is the student’s responsibility to be informed and to abide by all University regulations and policies on Academic Integrity.” Please study the following link: (<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>). In other words, take responsibility for work on activities and reports and, as necessary, give credit where it is due to outside sources of information—whether a friend in person or an expert in print or online. Reports found not to meet this standard will not be accepted.

Writing Assistance

Please see me, visit the University Writing Center (341 Simpkins), or go on line to the Purdue University Online Writing Center (OWL) at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Sex Discrimination

Title IX: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Comment

Scheduling changes may be necessary, but I will usually announce these in advance. At any time, feel free to tell me how the class can serve you better during the term. Good luck!

Notes