

Sustainable World
SOS 110
Tu & Th 1:30 – 2:45 PM
SANDS 223

Instructor

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Office hours: Tu 3-4 PM, Th 12:15-1:15 PM
or by appointment

Class info

Semester hours: 3
Pre-requisites: None
Co-requisites: None
Course Webpage: myasucourses.asu.edu

Course Overview:

Sustainable World will introduce you to the field of sustainability and explore the fundamental question of how human and natural systems interact. *Sustainable World* focuses more on how the environment functions, but also addresses how humans interact with the environment: how we shape the environment and how it shapes us. Using real world issues and problems, you will learn about the fundamental Earth systems on which we depend.

Course Readings:

Required Text

Miller, G.T. and S.E. Spoolman (2010) *Living in the Environment: Concepts, Connections, and Solutions* (17th ed.). Brooks Cole.

You can download a copy of the textbook as a PDF, or download individual chapters as PDFs at a significantly cheaper price than purchasing a new hard copy. This is also a more sustainable way to acquire your course text. To download, go to: <http://www.ichapters.com/market/index.html>

Assessment and Evaluation:

Exams: There will be three exams given this semester: 2 exams during the semester and a final exam. Exam 1 will be worth **10 % of your final class grade** and Exam 2 will be worth **15 % of your grade**. The final exam will be comprehensive and will be **20 % of your grade**. Group study sessions may be scheduled to optimize your preparation for what should be a simple presentation of how much you have learned this semester.

Case Analyses: Three of the discussion session classes will focus on Case Studies that you will research ahead of time and write summaries for. For each, you will be given a specific case study topic at least a week ahead of time, and you must submit a case analysis (1 page minimum, 2 page maximum) through Blackboard by 8:00 AM of the day of your breakout group class. In addition to materials presented in class or found in your textbook, you will need to search for credible sources of information about the case. Your analysis should demonstrate your understanding not only of the particulars of the case, but also of the concepts and topics discussed in class and presented in your text. This short written case study analysis will prepare you for the group case study exercise that we will conduct in class. A detailed rubric for this assignment, including grading criteria will be provided on the Blackboard site. Each Case Study written analysis will be 5 % of your final grade (5 % x 3 = **15 % of your grade** for all Case Analyses).

Constructive Participation: We will have in-class discussions, problem-solving activities, debates or case studies nearly every week. Your participation in these discussions and in presentations to the greater discussion group will be monitored. The professor will also evaluate whether you've done the readings and whether you're paying attention in class using pop quizzes or questions. It is crucial that you actively participate in these activities, as **20 % of your grade** will reflect this. Note that your failure to attend class guarantees you the worst participation score possible!

Final Group Project: Your final group project will involve development of a clear, workable plan for enhancing the sustainability of the city of Phoenix. This project will allow you to demonstrate: 1) your understanding of the concepts presented in class; 2) your ability to research a topic; 3) your proficiency with developing a sustainability case study and supporting an original solution; and 4) your written presentation skills. Details on this final project will be presented during the semester. A detailed rubric for this project, including grading criteria, will be provided on the Blackboard site. Your final group project will be **10 % of your grade**.

Final Group Project Presentations: Your group will present your final project to the class at the end of the semester (see Tentative Schedule). The format will essentially be the same as for our other case analyses, but with more detail (e.g. group presentations should be 12-15 minutes long). Every member of the group must participate in the presentation and its preparation in a way that is clear to the professor. This final group project presentation will be **5 % of your grade**. A rubric for this assignment, including grading criteria will be provided on the Blackboard site.

Other Assignments: Various other assignments, such as research notes, rough drafts, and practice exercises (see Tentative Schedule), will be assigned throughout the semester. These will be worth a total of **5 % of your grade**.

GRADING SCALE. The grading scale that will be used for the course is:

90%	≤	A	≤	100%
80%	≤	B	≤	89.9%
70%	≤	C	≤	79.9%
60%	≤	D	≤	69.9%
		E	≤	59.9%

Contacting me:

The best way to contact me is by email. I will typically respond within 24-48 hours. If I do not respond in 2 days, feel free to call or email again. A lack of response from me should never be interpreted as agreeing to your request! If I have not responded, it is because I did not receive your email, and you need to try again.

Course Policies and Expectations:

Assignments. Written assignments must be word-processed and spell-checked. Use of the Writing Center is strongly encouraged (<http://studentsuccess.asu.edu/writingcenters>). Your name should appear at the top of each assignment. Please submit your work electronically as a PDF or a Word (.doc or .docx) document using the Assignment feature on Blackboard. All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct. As defined in the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>), each student has an obligation to act with honesty and integrity, and to respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. A student may be found to have violated this obligation and to have engaged in academic dishonesty if during or in connection with any academic evaluation, he or she:

- Engages in any form of academic deceit;
- Refers to materials or sources or employs devices (e.g., audio recorders, crib sheets, calculators, solution manuals, or commercial research services) not authorized by the instructor for use during the academic evaluation;
- Possesses, buys, sells, obtains, or uses, without appropriate authorization, a copy of any materials intended to be used for academic evaluation in advance of its administration;
- Acts as a substitute for another person in any academic evaluation;
- Uses a substitute in any academic evaluation;
- Depends on the aid of others to the extent that the work is not representative of the student's abilities, knowing or having good reason to believe that this aid is not authorized by the instructor;
- Provides inappropriate aid to another person, knowing or having good reason to believe the aid is not authorized by the instructor;
- Engages in plagiarism;
- Permits his or her work to be submitted by another person without the instructor's authorization; or
- Attempts to influence or change any academic evaluation or record for reasons having no relevance to class achievement.

SOS 110 follows the ASU Academic Integrity Policy in the administration of all course examinations and assignments. Violations of the University Academic Integrity policy will not be ignored. Penalties include reduced or no credit for submitted work, a failing grade in the class, a note on your official transcript that shows you were punished for cheating, suspension, expulsion and revocation of already awarded degrees. The university requires that the implementation of any of these penalties for violations of the academic integrity policy be reported to the Dean's office. The Integrity Policy defines the process to be used if the student wishes to appeal this action. In SOS 110, you are expected to follow the *ASU Student Code of Conduct* (<http://students.asu.edu/srr/code>) especially when communicating with your peers, instructors, and teaching assistants. Violations of the student code of conduct may result in withdrawal from the class.

Classroom Civility. We will often talk about controversial topics in this class. We will ALWAYS do so in a professional manner and convey respect to all members of our classroom community, especially when we disagree with and challenge their ideas.

Cell Phones, Pagers, PDA's, iPods, and Blackberries. Turn them off! Feel free to take notes in class with your laptop, but only if the wireless feature is turned OFF. Checking email or IMing friends during class will impact your participation grade.

Disability Accommodations. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides information and services to students with any documented disability who are attending ASU West. Individualized program strategies and recommendations are available for each student as well as current information regarding community resources. Students also may have access to specialized equipment and supportive services and should contact the instructor for accommodations that are necessary for course completion.

Study and Preparation Time. The Arizona Board of Regents specifies that students are expected to spend at least two hours per week on course-related research and scholarly activities per course credit. This means that each week you should expect to spend at least six hours preparing for class.

Final Exam Make-up Policy. The final exam schedule listed in the Schedule of Classes will be strictly followed. Exceptions to the schedule and requests for make-up examinations can be granted only by the director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences for one of the following reasons: religious conflict, the student has more than three exams scheduled on the same day, or two finals

are scheduled to occur at the same time. Make-up exams will NOT be given for reasons of non-refundable airline tickets, vacation plans, work schedules, weddings, family reunions, or other such activities. Students should consult the final exam schedule before making end-of-semester travel plans. If there is a last-minute personal or medical emergency, the student may receive a grade of Incomplete and makeup the final within one calendar month. The student must provide written documentation and be passing the class at the time to receive an Incomplete. A signed "Request for Grade of Incomplete" must be submitted by the student and approved by the student's instructor and the Director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences.

The Grade of Incomplete. A grade of incomplete will be awarded only in the event that a documented emergency or illness prevents a student who is doing acceptable work from completing a small percentage of the course requirements at the end of the semester. The guidelines in the current general ASU catalog regarding a grade of incomplete will be strictly followed. **A grade of incomplete will NOT be awarded unless there is documented evidence of extreme personal or immediate family hardship.** Changes in work hours, child-care emergencies, or other similar personal problems will not be approved as reasons for awarding incompletes. The Director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences must approve all incomplete grade requests.

Course/Instructor Evaluation. The course/instructor evaluation for this course will be conducted online 7-10 days before the last official day of classes of each semester or summer session. Your response(s) to the course/instructor are anonymous and will not be returned to your instructor until after grades have been submitted. The use of a course/instructor evaluation is an important process that allows our college to (1) help faculty improve their instruction, (2) help administrators evaluate instructional quality, (3) ensure high standards of teaching, and (4) ultimately improve instruction and student learning over time. Completion of the evaluation is not required for you to pass this class and will not affect your grade, but your cooperation and participation in this process is critical. About two weeks before the class finishes, watch for an e-mail with "NCIAS Course/Instructor Evaluation" in the subject heading. The email will be sent to your official ASU e-mail address.

Withdrawals. **The instructor will NOT withdraw students for any reason.** Specifically, students should be aware that non-attendance will **NOT** automatically result in their being dropped from the course. Therefore, if a student does not attend class during the first week or for any extended period of time during the semester, they should not presume that they are no longer registered. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of their registration status.

Please note the following dates:

Drop/Add Deadline	January 13, 2013
Tuition and Fees 100% Refund Deadline	January 20, 2013
Course Withdrawal Deadline*	March 31, 2013
Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline*	April 30, 2013

(Beginning the first day of classes, undergraduate students must request a complete withdrawal in person.)

*As part of a complete session withdrawal a student must withdraw from all classes in a session. Beginning the first day of classes, undergraduate students are required to work with a Student Retention Coordinator to facilitate the withdrawal process. Please refer to <http://students.asu.edu/StudentRetention>

Any withdrawal transaction must be completed by the deadline date at the registrar's office. If not, you will still be officially enrolled and you will receive a grade based on your work completed. For additional information about ASU's withdrawal policy and the possible consequences of withdrawing from a class, contact Registration Services or your academic counselor. **Students are responsible for their registration status!**

Emergency Evacuation Plan. Students should be aware of the evacuation route posted on the exit door of each classroom. Students who cannot walk down stairs should notify the instructor as early in the course as possible so the instructor can provide information regarding the location of the

designated meeting area on each upper floor of the building (marked with a blue sign that states Emergency Evacuation Response Area).

Subject to Change. All class syllabi are subject to minor changes as necessary to accommodate the needs of the instructor, school, or class.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments Due
1	Jan 8	What is sustainability?	<i>Miller Ch 1</i>
	Jan 10	Human dimensions of sustainability: population and consumption	<i>Miller Ch 6 & 25</i>
2	Jan 15	Tools for addressing sustainability challenges, Scenario discussions	
	Jan 17	Essay writing	Essay Rubric
3	Jan 22	Ecosystem ecology	<i>Miller Ch 2 & 3</i>
	Jan 24	Discussion: The Gulf of Mexico dead zone	<i>GoM Roles handout</i>
4	Jan 29	Agriculture and sustainability	<i>Miller Ch 12</i>
	Jan 31	Discussion: Food, sustainability and the human population (Case Study 1 assigned)	GM roles notes
5	Feb 5	Sustainability and human health	<i>Miller Ch 17</i> Case Study 1 Outline
	Feb 7	Agriculture case studies and final project	Case Study 1 Draft
6	Feb 12	Discussion: The food crisis	Case Study 1 Final
	Feb 14	Discussion: Final project group plans Exam 1 review	
7	Feb 19	Exam 1	Final Project Topic
	Feb 21	Policy, Management, politics, and sustainability	<i>Miller Ch 24</i>
8	Feb 26	Earth systems	<i>Miller Ch 14</i>
	Feb 28	Water	<i>Miller Ch 13 & 20</i>
9	Mar 5	Discussion: Ecosystem impacts of water diversions (Case Study 2 assigned)	Aral Sea notes
	Mar 7	Economics and sustainability	<i>Miller Ch 23</i>
10	Mar 12	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
	Mar 14	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
11	Mar 19	Discussion: Water case studies	Case Study 2
	Mar 21	Community ecology and biodiversity (Case Study 3 assigned)	<i>Miller Ch 4, 9, & 10</i>
12	Mar 26	Discussion: Final Project status	Final Project Problem Summary
	Mar 28	Discussion: Biodiversity case studies	Case Study 3
13	Apr 2	Discussion: Final project summary Exam 2 review	
	Apr 4	Exam 2	
14	Apr 9	Climate	<i>Miller Ch 7 & 19</i>
	Apr 11	Final project working day	Final Project Solution Summary
15	Apr 16	Air pollution	<i>Miller Ch 18 & 19</i>
	Apr 18	Special topics – in the media	
16	Apr 23	Energy	<i>Miller Ch 15 & 16</i> Final Project Draft
	Apr 25	Discussion: Is New Orleans sustainable?	<i>New Orleans handout</i>
17	Apr 30	Group presentations of final projects	Final Project Paper
	May 2	Final Exam 12:10-2:00 PM	