

GEOG 360 - Sustainability Science
12:30-1:20 MWF, KF 120
Fall 2011

Dr. Lisa MB Harrington
164D Seaton Hall
532-6727 (Geography Department)

Office Hours: 10:45-11:45 MWF [unless traveling or in a meeting]; feel free to drop in at other times

K-State Online page: <http://online.ksu.edu>

e-mail: LbutlerH@ksu.edu (subject line: GEOG 360)

Texts:

Dernach, J.C., ed. 2009. Agenda for a Sustainable America. Washington,DC: ELI Press. [ISBN 978-1-58576-133-3] {Shown as *Agenda* on course schedule}

Myers, N., and J. Kent. 2004. The New Consumers: The Influence of Affluence on the Environment. Washington, DC: Island Press. [ISBN 978-1-55963-997-2] {Shown as *Consumers* on course schedule}

Course Description:

GEOG 360 Sustainability Science (3). Exploration of sustainability concepts, approaches, and decision-making. Relation of sustainability to environmental, economic, and social considerations at global, regional, and local scales.

Sustainability science is a relatively new field, but is deeply related to the geographic tradition of human-environment studies. Building on the UN initiative that lead to publication of *Our Common Future* ('The Brundtland Report') in 1987, and *Our Common Journey* in 1999 (a National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences effort), geographer Robert Kates and others proposed a Sustainability Science approach in a 2001 *Science* article. Attention to topics relevant to sustainability, sustainable development, and sustainability science has become significant since the late 1980s.

Class sessions will be based partly on lectures, but will also include videos and opportunities for discussion. Feel free to see the instructor on an individual basis to ask questions or discuss concerns. Questions/comments also can be sent by e-mail to lbutlerh@ksu.edu (please label subject line as GEOG 360).

K-State Online (KSO)

Course materials will be posted on KSO, and you will be able to check scores on exams and assignments there. The instructor also will use the e-mail list of enrolled students to send out notices for the class. In addition, study groups will be created, and can communicate via KSO. Check the site at least weekly; check your e-mail daily. Students should be sure to create a KSU e-id, and use K-State Online. If you don't already have an e-id, you can go to <http://public.online.ksu.edu/>, then click on the link at the bottom to create an e-id. After that, K-State Online can link you to courses that have KSO capabilities.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following course requirements:	Assignments:	20%
	Participation:	5%
	Exam 1:	25%
	Exam 2:	25%
	Exam 3 (Final):	25%

Students will prepare and turn in three 2-3 page summary/discussion papers about selected articles (to be specified later), with content tied to class readings and lectures/discussions. Additional assignments also will be made, related to class content (e.g., videos). Participation scores will be based on a subjective judgment of your engagement in the class (attendance/participation, questions, and contributions to discussions).

Exams are likely to be made up of a combination of question types, including—potentially— multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. Exam materials will be drawn from lectures/discussions, videos, and readings. NOT all material that may be covered on an exam will be described in a study guide. In particular, **a study guide is likely to list topics that should be expected, but not specific items for memorization. It is expected that students in the course have developed an ability to study course materials appropriately without detailed guidance for exams.** In other words, students are expected to have developed abilities as independent thinkers and to be able to integrate and apply facts and concepts covered in assigned readings and during class sessions. Students must achieve at least 55% on two of the three exams in order to pass (but this does not guarantee a passing grade).

Grades will be scaled within KSO prior to determination of final grades to fit the proportions above. Assignment points shown in KSO change as additional assignments are posted.

Although we sometimes talk about “giving” grades, students should be particularly aware that **grades are earned**. It is the instructor’s responsibility to determine what grade each student has earned, with grades reflecting mastery of course content. There is no extra credit.

- ▶ Make-up exams will not be given without an adequate justification. The instructor should be notified of any problems as soon as possible. If it is an emergency, notify the instructor by email or other means (or leave a message at 532-6727) within 36 hours.

NRES: This course is accepted for the NRES secondary major.

University policies:

For specific all-university course policy information and complete wording, see: www.k-state.edu/provost/policies/course.htm. Students are prohibited from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course.

Honor System: <http://www.ksu.edu/honor/>

KSU has an Honor System based on personal integrity to assure that student work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students. The Honor Pledge applies to all assignments, examinations, and other course work. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation. ***It is expected that students understand what actions may be considered plagiarism or other forms of cheating. If there are any questions, ask.***

Disability Accommodation:

Any student with a disability that needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services and their instructor. If you have a recognized disability that qualifies you for specific accommodations, consider using them: if you do not perform well under usual exam settings, for example, it is not possible to ‘undo’ poor performances later in the semester. The DSS website is: <http://www.ksu.edu/dss>

Classroom Conduct

Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

GEOG 360 Planned Schedule, Fall 2011 (subject to change)

Date	General Topics & Events	Readings*
Aug	22 (M) Introduction	Syllabus
	24 (W) Historical foundations & sustainability concepts	
	26 (F) Historical foundations & sustainability concepts	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 1
	29 (M) Historical foundations & sustainability concepts	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 2
	31 (W) Population	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 12
Sep	2 (F) Consumption	<i>Consumers</i> Chapters 1-2
	5 (M) Labor Day holiday	
	7 (W) Consumption; Climate	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 11
	9 (F) Climate	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 17
	12 (M) Climate	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 16
	14 (W) Catch-up/review	
	16 (F) Exam	
	19 (M) Energy Consumption	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 10, <i>Consumers</i> Chap 3
	21 (W) Guest: Dr. Champion (Manhattan bike system)	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 24
	23 (F) Energy	
	26 (M) Consumption & Footprints	<i>Consumers</i> Chapter 4
	28 (W) Guest: Dr. Champion (food systems)	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 18
	30 (F) Resilience	<i>Resil Thinking Chap; Agenda</i> Chapter 19
Oct	3 (M) Resilience; Ecosystems, biodiversity, biotic resources, food	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 15
	5 (W) Millennium Assessment MA (ecosyst. services)	
	7 (F) Video: Flow	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 14
	10 (M) MA	
	12 (W) MA	
	14 (F) MA	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 23
	17 (M) Video: Gasland	
	19 (W) Videos: Gasland cont.	
	21 (F) Video: The End of Suburbia	
	24 (M) Video: The End of Suburbia (cont.); discussion	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 20
	26 (W) Waste	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 22
	28 (F) Catch-up/review	
	31 (M) Exam	
Nov	2 (W) International situations	<i>Consumers</i> Chapters 5-6
	4 (F) Exam make-up (Arch students request)	<i>Consumers</i> Chapter 7
	7 (M) International situations	<i>Agenda</i> Chapters 26-27
	9 (W) International situations & trade	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 25
	11 (F) Business	
	14 (M) Government & governance	<i>Agenda</i> Chapters 13, 29
	16 (W) Government & governance	<i>Agenda</i> Chapters 30-31
	18 (F) Guest: Ryan Bergstrom (sustainability priorities)	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 4
	21-25 Thanksgiving week holiday	
	28 (M) Changing consumption	<i>Consumers</i> Chapters 8-9, <i>Agenda</i> Chap 11
Dec	30 (W) Land use	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 5
	2 (F) Business & Industry	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 6
	5 (M) Education	<i>Agenda</i> Chapters 7-8
	7 (W) Into the future	<i>Agenda</i> Chapter 3
	9 (F) Catch-up/wrap-up	
	15 (Th) FINAL 4:10 pm	