

SOS 300: Advanced Concepts and Integrated Approaches to Sustainability

Class Numbers: 74833, 76594

Credit Hours: 3

Semester and Year: Fall B, 2019 (10/16/19 - 12/6/19)

Prerequisite: Sustainability minor; SOS 100, 110, 111 or PUP 190 with C or better; 6 hours from two identified themes with C or better OR specified majors with Sustainability/Sustainable Tourism concentrations.

Instructor

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Syllabus Disclaimer

All syllabi are subject to minor changes to meet the needs of the instructor, school, or class. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes. Please check your ASU email and the Announcements on the course site often.

Course Description

Sustainability is a defining concept for 21st century research, teaching, and practice. As a framework for understanding, sustainability allows us to identify pressing issues from local to global scales and to seek solutions to those challenges. Sustainability strives to create ways that current and future generations can live better, safer, and more fulfilling lives while not undermining the social and environmental systems that support us. At ASU, sustainable concepts are infused into research and teaching in many colleges, schools, and departments, and serve as a core principle for campus operations. The School of Sustainability at ASU was the first accredited program in the nation, founded in 2006.

The purpose of this course is to integrate transdisciplinary contributions to sustainability, teach advanced concepts in sustainability, and explore methods for identifying sustainability challenges and generating solutions. Understanding communication across disciplinary boundaries is a fundamental requirement for sustainable thinking and action. This is a nontraditional class in a relatively new field. You will probably have a number of questions about it, please feel free to talk with me for more information about the content and the process of the class.

Learning Outcomes

As a successful SOS 300 student, you will learn to identify key sustainability challenges and understand why transdisciplinary approaches are necessary to solve sustainability challenges. You will attain a firm understanding and be able to define the five key competencies in sustainability:

- **Systems thinking** requires us to think simultaneously about multiple domains (social, ecological, technical, economic, cultural) at multiple spatial and time scales, and to understand the dynamics of systems, such as inertia and path dependencies, feedback loops, tipping points, cascading effects, etc.
- **Anticipatory or future thinking** requires us to not necessarily predict the future, but to develop and analyze visions and models of plausible futures
- **Normative thinking** includes the ability to think about desirable outcomes but also to negotiate different value systems towards common goals
- **Strategic thinking** focuses on approaches and methods such as interventions, stakeholder engagement, or scenario development for getting to desired states
- **Interpersonal or collaborative thinking** is based on the idea that multiple constituents are required to advance sustainability strategies, requiring team building, negotiation, and cross-cultural skills

Sustainability covers complexity, non-linearity, coupled natural-human systems, normative and epistemic concerns, transformation, governance, power, participation, and equity. You will learn ways to understand and translate across disciplinary perspectives to seek solutions to sustainability challenges on multiple scales.

Course Delivery and Access

Students will participate in this course through Canvas. Course content will be delivered in Canvas through video lectures, discussion boards, supplemental videos, and assessments. A textbook is required for the course (see below). Course content and assignments will be accessed online in Canvas, which can be accessed through my.asu.edu.

Course Textbook

Miller, T. R. (2015). *Reconstructing Sustainability Science: Knowledge and Action for a Sustainable Future*. Earthscan from Routledge.

ISBN: 978-0-415-63262-1

I understand students are sometimes required to purchase a textbook they don't really need. I will absolutely use this textbook for readings and quizzes, it is a reasonable price, and very well written. Any assigned readings other than in the required text will be available on the online course site.

Each module is supplemented with course videos, some of these are classics, others very current. As you watch each video, pause and take video notes with timestamps (minutes:seconds) on hand so that you can easily cite for your essay assignment.

Grading Scale

Grades reflect your study performance and adherence to deadlines. Quiz and essay grades should be available in Gradebook within 72 hours of due date. For the multiple/choice – true/false quizzes, you will be able to view the incorrect answers with correct answers the morning after the due date/time has passed (after quiz is closed).

This course will be graded on an A-E plus/minus scale. This is NOT a percentage-based grade.

Points	Grade
970 - 1,000	A+
930 - 969	A
900 - 929	A-
870 - 899	B+
830 - 869	B
800 - 829	B-
770 - 799	C+
700 - 769	C
600 - 699	D
0 - 599	E
	EN - Failing for Not Participating
	XE - Academic Dishonesty

Course grade is based on points; if you earn 899 points in the course you have earned a “B+” grade. **Grade points will not be rounded up.** Please be sure to take advantage of the one Extra Credit opportunity to earn maximum points possible towards your final grade.

Communicating with the Instructor

ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. Please put your course and last name (e.g., SOS300 Depp) in the subject line of correspondence to your instructor. You can expect a response within 48 hours Monday-Friday.

Canvas sends emails to your official ASU email address, you need to check there for communications, or forward your official ASU email address to the email account you use most often.

Submitting Assignments

All time frames used in class follow Arizona Mountain Standard Time (MST). Arizona does not observe daylight saving time (DST) from March through November; therefore, the time in Arizona will not align with other places that are on MST for half the year. Use a [Time Converter](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. If you are located in time zone other than Arizona MST, go to your account on the Global Canvas Navigation bar (black background) and edit your settings to reflect your actual time zone. This will adjust the due dates and times in your courses (here is [more information](#) about this).

All assignments **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email, do not send as an attachment.

Assignments and assessments will not be due on observed holidays; however, due to the accelerated nature of online courses, students should not count on taking time off from studying and working on coursework due to holidays.

Unit Quizzes (700 points) *seven at 100 points each*

Each of the seven units has a quiz (true-false/multiple-choice) to be completed prior to the designated deadline. Be sure to check the Important Dates folder online and write these due dates into your calendar(s). **It's a good idea to have reminder alarms set on your phone.** Each quiz will open 72 hours before due date/time to allow you scheduling flexibility and the option to take it earlier if you're ready.

The true-false/multiple choice quizzes will have 25 questions worth 4 points each and you will have a 45 minute timeframe to complete the quiz. You must complete in one sitting (you cannot save and submit later). If you've taken good video notes and you're familiar with the text, you should do well as these are open-book quizzes.

Personal Perspectives Essay (150 points)

The personal essay is considered as your 'midterm' and must be written in a narrative style with a minimum of six different-source course-material citations, at least one text (from readings, only one citation from Miller textbook) and at least one course video citation. Essay should begin with an introductory sentence, contain pertinent facts in the body, and close with a concluding sentence. No need to formally notate, you just need to reference course material, such as (Miller, p. 57) as a text reference with required page number or ("Was Malthus Right?" 24:52) as a video reference with required timestamp. Your essay question will be drawn from a pool of questions derived from **Unit 1, Unit 2, or Unit 3 readings or video material** and you must include your interpretations of the course material. As you learn the course material, try to equate concepts with experiences/perspectives in your own life. You will have a full hour to write your Personal Perspective essay, please be sure to read the rubric. This **MUST BE COMPLETED IN ONE SITTING, you cannot save and submit later.** Minimum wordcount 200. Be sure to have your video notes with timestamps on hand so that you can easily cite. The PPE rubric is as follows:

- Up to 15pts: Introductory paragraph (at least three sentences)
- Up to 60pts: Body of essay
- Up to 60pts: 10pts each for six *different-source* course material citations (different authors and/or videos)
- Up to 15pts: Summary conclusion of your perspectives (at least three sentences)
- Up to 20pts deducted for poor grammar, poor spelling

DO NOT copy and paste from websites, this paper needs to be your writing. You may 'copy and paste' a sentence as a quoted citation source, providing direct credit to that source, but this must be clearly designated with quotation marks. Plagiarism is a serious violation of your student obligation to academic integrity.

Final Exam (150 points)

The Final Exam format includes 50 true-false/multiple-choice questions worth 3 points each. You will have 90 minutes to complete your final, and it **MUST BE COMPLETED IN ONE SITTING, you cannot save and submit later.** The final exam questions will be pulled from Units 4, 5, 6, and 7 (both reading material and videos) and will be open 72 hours prior to due date/time for those of you who prefer to complete it earlier.

Late or Missed Assignments Policy

Course Time Commitment

This three-credit course requires approximately 135 hours of work. Please expect to spend around 23 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course. As an accelerated course, it's a **zero-tolerance late**

policy; you must submit assignments/quizzes/test before the due date/time. The only exception is if you missed a due date for medical reasons, you then must submit medical documentation. There is no chance to submit late for partial credit. **Due dates are VARIED days of the week.** Below are due dates **with day of week** to prevent any confusion.

Course Schedule *(subject to change: see syllabus disclaimer)*

Module	Assignment	Due by
Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz	<i>immediately, link will close , and you must submit before you can access the module quizzes</i>
Module 1	Module 1 Quiz	Tuesday, October 22
Module 2	Module 2 Essay Quiz	Tuesday, October 29
Module 3	Module 3 Quiz	Tuesday, November 5
Personal Perspectives	Personal Perspectives Essay	Wednesday, November 6
Module 4	Module 4 Quiz	Wednesday, November 13
Module 5	Module 5 Quiz	Wednesday, November 20
Module 6	Module 6 Quiz	Wednesday, November 27
Module 7	Module 7 Quiz	Wednesday, December 4
Final Exam	Final Exam	Friday, December 6

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. Feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available and students can access it through myASU as well. See [Student FAQs](#) for more information.

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