

**GEOG330: As the World Turns: Society and Sustainability in a Time of Great Change** Fall 2020. Online via Canvas.

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**Course description**

“As the World Turns” was an American soap opera which captivated thousands of viewers from 1956 to 2010. During that time it reflected the changing societal norms, and adapted its content and format to be sustainable in the broadcast industry. It seems like an apt metaphor for this I course since we will be looking how societies cause and adapt to the changing social and environmental landscapes. Society and sustainability are like conjoined twins, a movement in one triggers a movement in the other. *Issues of current importance:* Sustainability is a ‘hot topic’ and the word is over-used. In this course you will develop your own definition of sustainability as you look at it across cultures and physical environments. Sometimes there is conflict when there must be a choice between sustaining a culture and sustaining a particular environmental system. You will be analyzing how and why environmental choices are made. You will be looking at why environmental change is spatially distributed, and examine how sustainability decisions are made within societies on multiple scales and by multiple cultures.

**Learning outcomes:**

*I-Series goals:*

- Students will be able to identify how sustainability, both of societies and the environment, is one of the most significant issues in the world today.
- Students will be able to describe the sources experts use to explore the relationship between society and sustainability, including geographic methods, techniques and theories.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of concepts and approaches of sustainability of societies on different scales, examining local, regional and worldwide issues.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the dimensions sustainability, including cultural, environmental, economic, and political systems
- Students will communicate major ideas and issues on society and sustainability through reflection activities, individual essays, and discussion on essay presentations.

*Social Science goals:*

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts and ideas surrounding society and sustainability, including climate change, development, politics, economy, and demography.
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking in evaluating the casual arguments surrounding society and sustainability in order to analyze concepts of change, sustainability, resilience, metamorphosis and extinction.
- Students will understand how culture evolves spatially and temporally and the impact these evolutions have on individuals’ perceptions, actions and values.
- Students will be able to analyze contemporary issues such as climate change, development, politics, economy, and demography in order to develop their own policies for social change.

*Plural Societies goals:*

- Students will be able to understand the basic concepts of society and sustainability from a geographic perspective.
- Students will learn about the tension between the desire to be ethnocentric and the reality of plural societies to cope with the stresses of social and environmental change.
- Students will be able to analyze various forms and traditions of culture as the basic building blocks to the cultural and environmental sustainability of societies.
- Students will use a comparative framework to examine the experiences, cultures and histories of societies at different geographic scales and temporal scales to understand various methods of sustainability.

**Grades:**

RA team contract:	5 points
Visioning paper:	10 points
Lecture responses:	35 points (5 per response)
Reflection activities	50 points (10 per activity)
Footprint paper:	50 points
Poster:	30 points
Poster peer reviews:	15 points (5 per review)
Video contract:	5 points
Video:	30 points

Exam 1:	45 points
Exam 2:	45 points
Revising paper:	35 points
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>355</b>

### Grading scale

A+ 100-97	A 96-93	A- 92-90	B+ 89-87	B 86-83	B- 82-80	C+ 79-77	C 76-73
C- 72-70	D+ 69-67	D 66-63	D- 62-60				

### Structure of the course

This course is held online, which means you can complete the work at your convenience during the day or night. All course materials can be accessed through the UMD Canvas site, found at [www.umd.instructure.com](http://www.umd.instructure.com). Each lecture is pre-recorded and streamed over Canvas, so you do not need to tune in during our M/W lecture time. I recommend you stick to the M/W schedule as much as possible to create a consistent flow of new information and do not overload on all the week's lectures at once. All Friday discussion session activities can also be completed at your leisure each week. Most discussion sessions involve a group assignment for you to complete before the following Friday. All due dates/times for this course are based on Eastern Standard Time (EST). Although you may complete the assignments at your own pace each week, **there are hard deadlines for all graded assignments**. Waiting until the last minute to submit an assignment not only jeopardizes the quality of the work, but also my ability to respond to questions. I try to respond to emails within 48 hours on weekdays. Complete assignments ahead of their due dates to ensure my or your TA's ability to respond to questions.

### Online Copyright Policy

My lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, assignment prompts, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials I create. You may take notes course materials for your own use. **You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged without my express written consent.** Persons who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor's Course Materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

### Office hours

I encourage you to attend office hours to ask questions about class content and assignments, or more broadly about Geographical Sciences, your career or academic paths, or general UMD advice! I am available by appointment each Thursday from 2-3pm over Google Meet. Sign up for office hour appointments in advance using the Calendar tool on Canvas. Although OH sign ups are 15 minutes, you may select 2+ sections if you would like to chat for longer. I am also happy to schedule Google Meet office hours outside of these T/Th time slots. Send me an email to schedule a time date outside of the T/Th options.

For info on accessing the Canvas calendar: <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/l/710322-how-do-i-use-the-calendar-as-a-student>

For info on accessing the Canvas scheduler for office hours (Canvas calls them "appointments") on the Canvas calendar:

<https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/l/716665-how-do-i-sign-up-for-a-scheduler-appointment-in-the-calendar>

### Required software and hardware

You are required to have access to a computer with speakers, and a broadband internet connection. The browser you use must have the Flash plugin installed. It is your responsibility to ensure your browser and computer can stream the lectures from Canvas. **Faulty internet and/or lack of computer access are not acceptable excuses for not completing the work on time. Waiting until the last minute to view lectures means risking that your computer and internet access work as planned.** The lectures are available in .mp4 files. Before you decide to stay in this class, test the .mp4 lectures to make sure you can stream them on your computer. **Contact ELMS and OIT with help on technical problems:** <http://www.elms.umd.edu/page/student-support>  
<http://www.it.umd.edu/students.html>

### Class Absences

Because our class is held entirely online, you may watch the lectures and complete the readings at your leisure each week. However, there are set due dates for assignments.

In the event that a due date must be missed due to an illness:

1. For every medically necessary absence from class, a reasonable effort should be made to notify me and your TA in advance. When returning to class, email a note identifying the date of and reason for the absence, and acknowledge that the information in the note is accurate. *\*If the first absence is on a major grading event (paper due date, exam, poster) a signed*

*medical note is mandatory to make up that work. Get in contact with your TA to make up the work within one week of the absence.*

2. If you are absent more than one time, you are required to email me documentation signed by a health care professional. You must make up the work with your TA within one week of the absence.
3. For more information on the UMD attendance policies, see <http://faculty.umd.edu/teach/attendance.html>.

In the event that you know you will miss a day of our class due to a religious holiday or a UMD approved event (athletic competition, academic competition, field trip, etc.) send those dates to me and your TA within the first week of class. We will send you a day and time to make up that due date within one week of the absence.

Outside of medical, religious, and UMD approved events, turning in assignments late will result in a deduction of 10 points per day out of the total possible points on that assignment, or 5 points if turned in during the same day before 5pm EST.

### **Accommodations**

If you have disabilities, learning or otherwise, visit the ADS Office to fill out appropriate forms that will tell me what accommodations to make. These forms will not be accepted after the second day of the course. Please talk to me about what arrangements are necessary to allow you to learn the content of the course. I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the ADS Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form which has been updated for the current semester.

### **Academic integrity**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that can result in suspension or expulsion from the University of Maryland. Please refer to the following website to determine how the University of Maryland defines plagiarism and academic dishonesty -- <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html>. Plagiarism is the use of another person's work as if it was your own and will not be tolerated. If I believe that there has been plagiarism on an assignment, I will inform you of my determination and you will receive a zero for the assignment. Cases will be referred to the Student Conduct Office.

### **Readings and Videos**

Materials that correspond with each lecture should be read or viewed before you watch that lecture. Several reflection activities will require you reference and cite the materials. All materials are available on the Modules page of Canvas or on the Course Reserves tab. Our class does not have a required textbook for you to buy, but rather I have several articles, reports, and briefs uploaded to Canvas corresponding with our lectures. We have one textbook from the library on Course Reserves on Canvas. It is called "Environment and Sustainability in a Globalizing World" by Andrea J. Nightingale.

### **Lectures**

Lectures are prerecorded and posted on the modules page of Canvas. The lectures for each week will be posted at 8:00am on the Friday before that week begins. After you listen complete the lecture response for that lecture on the discussion board.

### **Lecture responses**

You will be asked to reflect, question, critique, and respond to prompts that correspond to the lectures. Responses are submitted on the discussion board section of Canvas, and each response will have its own board. There are no right or wrong answers, but your responses must be based on factual information from the lecture or the readings, and directly address the question in at least 4-5 full and substantive sentences. I recommend responding right after viewing the lecture so the material is fresh.

### **Reflection activities and the team contract**

Reflection activities are an opportunity to apply lecture concepts to case studies and integrate your personal experience into class topics. You will complete RAs in preassigned teams of five students. For each RA, one student in your RA team will be the "team leader," and these leadership roles will go in alphabetical order of your last names. It is possible that a teammate drops the class leaving you with a team of four, in which someone will serve as team lead twice. The leader for each RA is responsible for setting up a collaboration space (on Google docs or otherwise), and submitting the final RA to Canvas by the due date. Team members will receive the same grade, and each person must contribute. If a team member did not contribute flag this to me and your TA, and that person will be removed from the team to work individually for the rest of the semester.

Your first group assignment is the RA Team Contract. This requires the team to communicate on day 1 of the course, and determine how you will maintain communication for all group assignments. You can communicate on an email chain, GroupMe, Google Doc, Google Meet, Zoom or otherwise. Each teammate signs the contract. If members of your team do not sign the contract or breach the contract, they will be removed from the team to work solo for the rest of the semester.

RA prompts will be available on Canvas the Friday of the week before they are due. I recommend using Google Docs on Canvas as a shared collaboration space. Review the following materials to learn how to (1) [enable Google Docs on your Canvas accounts](#), and (2) [start a group collaboration using Google Docs through Canvas](#). Teams can also [share files](#) and have [discussions](#).

### **Ecological footprint paper**

In this paper you will use the ecological footprint model to assess your capacity for pro-environmental behavior related to the food that you eat. The paper involves your own experiment with pro-environmental foods, a self-assessment, research, and reflection. Specific prompts for the content of this paper are on Canvas under the assignments link.

### **Fracking poster**

Posters are widely used in the academic community to summarize information or research concisely and attractively to help publicize it and generate discussion. At academic conferences, researchers stand by their posters while other attendees view the poster and interact with the author. We will simulate a poster session, similar to those held at academic conferences. Instead of browsing and commenting on posters in person, you will browse and comment on three of your peers' posters through Canvas.

### **Fracking poster peer reviews:**

In addition to submitting one poster, you will review three of your peers' posters. You will only be assigned posters to review if you turned in a poster of your own. Reviews will be due by using the peer review tool on Canvas.

### **Sustainable city video contract:**

Before starting on your sustainable city video, your RA team must submit a contract, specifying your city and each teammates' roles and duties. If someone in the team does not abide by the contract, they will be removed from the team to work individually on the video. The city you select must be unique from all other teams' cities! Use the sustainable city video discussion board to claim your team's city, and check the board before making your claim to be sure no one else has selected that city.

### **Sustainable city video:**

Your RA team will select a city, research that city's sustainability plan, and produce a promotional video for that city touting its sustainable characteristics. Team members will self-divide into 5 roles, but the team will only submit one assignment in the form of a published link to your video on YouTube. Each team member will receive the same grade.

### **Exams:**

This course includes two, non-cumulative closed-book exams of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. The questions will assess your understanding of reading and lecture materials. The exams will be administered online through Canvas, available at 8:00am and due by 11:55pm their posted dates. You will have 40 minutes to take the exam once you open it on Canvas. Take the exam at a time and in a location where you will have 40 minutes uninterrupted and with reliable internet access. Once you open the exam, you will not be able to pause or click out of that Canvas browser. If you have a technological issue during the exam, take a screenshot of your computer with the time showing and email to me as soon as it happens. We will schedule a makeup, which will be all short answers.

### **Visioning paper and revisioning paper**

We will start and end the class with a visioning paper on your ideal sustainable society. Your revisioning paper will incorporate terms and concepts you've learned in GEOG330.

Course Schedule: You have some flexibility to watch lectures and complete assignments at your leisure. However, **mandatory deadlines are posted in red and live Zoom discussion sections (during your scheduled Friday time) are posted in pink.**

Date	Lectures and videos to watch; assignment instructions to read	Readings	Assignments Due
8/31	Course introduction lecture	GEOG330 syllabus	
9/2	Source review lecture	Chicago Author Date guide	
9/4 discussion	<b>**live session via Zoom at your scheduled Friday time**</b> <i>RA team contract assignment</i>		
9/7	No lecture – Labor Day		
9/9	Sustainability and society lecture <i>LR1 assignment</i>	Whitehead: Chapter 1; Whitehead: Chapter 6 Nightingale Chapter 2 Nightingale Chapter 3, pages 42-51 Nightingale Chapter 5; pages 82-87;	
9/11 discussion	<i>Visioning paper assignment</i>		11:55pm: RA team contract 11:55pm: LR1
9/14	Pro-environmentalism lecture <i>LR2 assignment</i>	Kollmus & Ageyman 2002; EHP 2010 Nightingale Chapter 5; pages 92-94 Nightingale Chapter 6; pages 110-111	
9/16	Local sustainability lecture	Middlemiss 2010; Whitehead: Chapter 8 Nightingale Chapter 4 page 57 Nightingale Chapter 15	
9/18 discussion	<i>RA1 assignment</i>		11:55pm: visioning paper 11:55pm: LR2
9/21	Industrial agriculture lecture	Nightingale Chapter 2; page 28-31 Nightingale Chapter 3 page 40 Nightingale Chapter 6 page 112 – 113; 121-123	
9/23	Myths of Industrial Ag video; GMOs Overview video; Bill Nye on GMOs video <i>LR3 assignment</i>	Nightingale Chapter 11 DeLind 2010	
9/25 discussion	<i>RA2 assignment</i>		11:55pm: RA1 11:55pm: LR3
9/28	Sustainable and community ag lecture	Saldivar-Tanaka & Krasny 2004	
9/30	Exam 1 review lecture		
10/2 discussion	Exam 1 practice exam		11:55pm: RA2
10/5	<i>Ecological footprint paper assignment</i>		
10/7	No lecture – study for exam 1		
10/9 discussion	EXAM1: Available 8:00am – 11:55pm; you have 40 minutes to complete after opening.		11:55pm: exam 1
10/12	Global energy lecture <i>LR4 assignment</i> 300 years of fossil fuels video	Nightingale Chapter 6 pages 114-120	
10/14	Energy sources lecture	Wihbey 2015 Bambrick 2012 McDonald 2018	
10/16 discussion	<i>Fracking poster and peer review assignment</i>		11:55pm: LR4

			11:55pm: footprint paper
10/19	Terry Engelder video Nicole Deziel video		
10/21	No lecture – work on posters		
10/23 discussion	No discussion – work on posters		11:55pm: posters
10/26	Global water lecture Environment cost of t-shirt video South Africa zero water day video LR5 assignment	BOA 2014: 3-8, 11-30, 38-44 Nightingale Chapter 3 page 52 Nightingale Chapter 4 page 73-78	
10/28	Climate change in cities lecture		
10/30 discussion	RA3 assignment		11:55pm peer reviews 11:55pm: LR5
11/2	Urbanization lecture NOBE video Highline videos LR6 assignment	Seto et al 2010; Markham 2014; Pierce et al 2011; Haase et al 2017; Wang et al 2012	
11/4	Sustainable city video and contract assignments Use discussion board to claim your team's city for the video		
11/6 discussion	RA4 assignment		11:55pm: LR6 11:55pm: RA3
11/9	Cultural sustainability lecture LR7 assignment	Chacko 2003	
11/11	No lecture – work on video contract		
11/13 discussion	RA5 assignment		11:55pm: RA4 11:55pm: LR7 11:55pm video contract
11/16	Global production and consumption lecture Subaru's zero landfill video True business sustainability video	Whitehead: Chapter 4	
11/18	No lecture – work on video		
11/20 discussion	No discussion – work on video		11:55pm video 11:55pm: RA5
11/23	No lecture – Thanksgiving break		
11/25	No lecture – Thanksgiving break		
11/27 discussion	No discussion – Thanksgiving break		
11/30	Exam 2 review lecture		
12/2	Exam 2 practice exam		
12/4 discussion	No class – study for exam 2		
12/7	EXAM 2: Available 8:00am – 11:55pm; you have 40 minutes to complete after opening.		11:55pm: exam 2
12/9	Revising paper assignment		
12/11 discussion	No discussion – work on revising paper		
12/14	No lecture – work on revising paper		
TBD date – final			TBD time: revising paper