

<b>GEOG330 - As the World Turns: Society and Sustainability in a Time of Great Change</b> Class meets: TuTh 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm, Tydings 0130	
Instructor: <b>Dr. Martha Geores</b> , Office: 1157 Lefrak, E-mail: <a href="mailto:mgeores@umd.edu">mgeores@umd.edu</a> Tel: (301)405-4064 Office Hours: We, Th 2-3 PM and by appointment	TA: <b>Diana Parker</b> , Email: <a href="mailto:parkerd@umd.edu">parkerd@umd.edu</a> Office: 1113; LeFrak Hall Office Hours: Tu: 1:30 – 3:30 PM and by appointment  TA: <b>Kanna Siripurapu</b> , Email: <a href="mailto:kanna@umd.edu">kanna@umd.edu</a> Office Hours: TuTh: 11:30 – 12:30 PM @Room 1113, Lefrak Hall and by appointment

### 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.

### *Issue 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 papers, discussion board participation, group projects, individual essays and discussion group posters.

### ***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.

### **Accommodations, University rules, and Classroom Rules:**

Students are expected to **attend** every class and **complete all assigned work**.

If you have **disabilities**, learning or otherwise, you should visit the Disability Support Office to fill out appropriate forms that will tell me what accommodations to make. I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2014 semester. This form must be presented to me **no later than October 1, 2014**. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after October 1, 2014.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentation, which only needs to be a doctor's note when the absence is for a major graded event. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You **will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments** or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. **if you have not provided this documentation**. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office. It is also the University Policy that if you are sick stay home.

An effort has been made to avoid scheduling tests of assignments on religious holidays, however, if you have a religious conflict with any due date you must **make a written request** for a make-up exam contact me **by September 15, 2014**, students request for a make-up exam in writing. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.”

***Academic Honesty:***

**Plagiarism** is the use of another person's work as if it was your own and will not be tolerated. If University rules require that any cases of suspected plagiarism be referred to the Student Conduct Office. On each assignment you must write and sign the **honor pledge**. "I have neither given nor received any unauthorized help on this assignment."

***University rule on completion of work:***

The University requires that all work must be **completed** in order for you to pass the course.

***Classroom rules:***

This is an upper level class and I expect that there will be no classroom decorum issues, however, just in case, you should know my policy. **Laptops, cell phones, pagers, instant messaging, IPODS, Blackberries, Smart phones, IPHONES, alarm clocks ... must** all be in their **off** positions. The class only lasts for 50 minutes; it will begin on time and end on time. Please plan to stay for the entire class period. The best pearls of wisdom that will be on the test will be reserved for the end of class and will be on the test, but no on the uploaded PowerPoint slides.

We will be using **clickers (CHANNEL-65)** to make the class more interactive and that means we're going to be playing games, having competitions, lots of ways to make learning fun.

Many of the issues we will be discussing are "**politically charged.**" All views are welcome and should be freely expressed; that is what classroom discussion is all about. Voicing different opinions is part of class participation, and please, do not be silent if you have a view or an opinion that will challenge others. There are no right or wrong answers.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or myself will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

***Seating:***

Room 0130 Tydings is a huge room, and although we have 150 people in the class, we not even come close to filling. There will be class exercises that will require you to move around, but when we get a feel for the room, you may be asked to sit in one section or another.

**Speak up! I'm deaf, no kidding.** I have also found that when I can't hear there are others in the class who also cannot hear because you speak too softly, mumble, cover your mouth, and/or do not face the class when you talk. If I cannot hear you and have to ask you to repeat what you are saying on two occasions, I will not call on you again.

Students in this class are from almost every college and include students from freshman to seniors. As it is an upper level class, it will be taught at that level. If however you feel that you are not getting anything out of the class, I will give you the option to take the final and 'test out'. If you choose to 'test out, you will be bound by that grade.

**Course material** (several sources):

**\*\*All readings are to be completed prior to class on the day they are listed\*\***

***Textbooks:***

1. Whitehead, Mark 2007. Spaces of Sustainability (NY:Routledge) ISBN 0-415-35803-
2. Lyon, S., 2011. Coffee and Community, Maya Farmers and fair-trade markets. University Press of Colorado. ISBN 978-1-607

***Newspapers:***

- China: The People's Daily, Communist Party Newspaper in English- <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/>
- Russia: Pravada- <http://english.pravda.ru/>
- Latin America: Council on Hemispheric Affairs -[www.coha.org](http://www.coha.org) COHA News
- Africa: [www.Allafrica.com](http://www.Allafrica.com)
- Japan: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>
- United Kingdom: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

***\*Please register for the UMD sustainability newsletter.***

<http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/content/resources/listserv.php>

***Videos – (all streamed to CANVAS)***

**1. When the cows come home**

by Jenny Richards; Brenda Kelly; Joost De Haas; Steve Bradshaw; Jacko van't Hof; Sotira Kyriacou; Television Trust for the Environment.; Bullfrog Films.; BBC Worldwide Ltd.;  
Language: English; Publisher: [London] : TVE ; Oley, Pa. : Distributed by Bullfrog Films, ©2004  
Call Number : JZ1318 .L5413 2005 v.7

**2. Rachel Carson's Silent spring**

by Neil Goodwin; Alex Chadwick; Meryl Streep; Peace River Films.; WGBH Educational Foundation.; WNET (Television station : New York, N.Y.); WGBH Video (Firm);  
Language: English; Publisher: Boston, Mass. : WGBH Boston Video, [2007]  
Call Number: SB959 .R33 2007

**3. An inconvenient truth**

by Albert Gore; Davis Guggenheim; Laurie David; Lawrence Bender; Scott Z Burns; Jeff Skoll; Lesley Chilcott; Bob Richman; Jay Cassidy; Dan Swietlik; Michael Brook; Participant Productions.; Paramount Classics (Firm); Paramount Pictures Corporation.; et al  
Language: English; Publisher: Hollywood, Calif. : Paramount, ©2006  
Call Number: QC981.8.G56 I53 2006

**4. Lighting the 7th fire**

by Sandy Sunrising Osawa; Upstream Productions.  
VHS video : VHS tape; Language: English  
Publisher: Seattle, WA : Upstream Productions, ©1999  
Call Number: E99.C6 L47 1999

## 5. Delicious peace grows in a Ugandan coffee bean

By Ed O'Neill; Ellen Friedland; Curt Fissel; Video Project.; Jemglo Productions.

Publisher: [San Francisco, CA] : Video Project, ©2010.

Call Number: HN794.A8 D455 2010

- ❖ *Scholarly Articles (Almost all will be posted on the Canvas site)*
- ❖ *Online resources*
- ❖ *Classroom lectures and activities AND YOU*

### Instruction Format:

Welcome to the changing world! This is a class **based on participation**, and the working of systems. Your work will be collaborative, with several additional opportunities to do individual assignments. Working in groups is one thing, being graded as a group makes students nervous.

There are 6 discussion groups and each one will be e a social/cultural system, doing the in-class exercises, dividing the work, and sharing information. Sustainability is not an individual pursuit.

One of the principles of this course is that different cultures interact with the environment in their own way. The cultural unit may be a nation, but it is becoming more common for environmental issues to be viewed regulated on a regional basis. You will be constantly comparing your own cultural beliefs to the beliefs of those from other cultures. You will be confronted by cultural issues throughout the course – be open! Each of you will be assigned to read an international newspaper so that you may keep abreast of sustainability issues important in other regions of the world.

### Newspaper Posts

Each of the six discussion groups will be assigned a newspaper. **Everyone should post a newspaper summary online.** At least **two** people from each group should present a short summary of news related to the topics discussed in the course before the lectures. The team will not be awarded any points if nobody presents. Only half of the points will be awarded if only one person presents the summary on the assigned day.

### Blogs

At the end of each module, students are required to post a blog related to the lecture topic. All blogs should be **2 complete paragraphs** and posted on CANVAS (time and date will be announced in class). The purpose of the blog is to connect the topics discussed in the classroom with the outside world today. You can use a current news article, scholarly article, or video. For example, if the topic relates to population geography, you are required to find a newspaper article or video related to that topic.

### Quizzes

Students will take a timed quizzed on CANVAS based on the textbook, lecture, and assigned course readings, at the beginning of each module. The date and time will be announced in the class. There will be total of 5 quizzes- there will be **NO MAKEUP** quizzes unless there is a medical excuse.

An **IMPORTANT** word about posting: The cut off time for posting quizzes and other assignments is **11:55 pm**. If everyone waits until then, the system will crash. In the past we have received panicked email from people who waited until 11:50 or later to post. When you post is entirely within your control. We will not accept late posts when the student has waited until after 11PM to first try to post. Please plan ahead.

### Discussions

Nine discussion sessions will take place during the semester (see specific dates), in addition to review sessions before each exam. Attendance is required. Students should come **PREPARED** to discuss the topics assigned for discussion and **COMPLETE** the assigned activity as a team. If the student is **LATE** to discussion, points will be deducted from their 'discussion grade'. If the student does not attend discussion, they will receive an automatic zero and there will be no make-up or extra credit, unless they have a medical excuse.

### Capstone Project

The description of the project is posted in Canvas. It will be discussed in class.

### Midterm and Final Exam

There will be two exams (75 points each) and a final exam (75 points). Exam format is a combination of multiple choice questions, short answers and essays. All exams will take place in the lecture hall. **THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT.**

### Grading

Activity	Points	%
Attendance and class participation	25	5%
Newspaper posts (individual and Team)	25	5%
Blogs	25	5%
Quizzes	50	10%
Discussions	75	15%
Capstone Project	75	15%
Exam I & II	150	30%
Final (is not cumulative)	75	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>*Two points will be deducted from your final point total for missing assignments in addition to receiving no points for the assignment.</b>		

**Class Outline:**

\*\*All readings are to be completed prior to the class they are listed for\*\*

Date		
	<b>Module 1 - Introduction to Geography and Sustainability</b>	
9/2	Introduction to Sustainability	
9/4	Formal Introduction to the course and Environmental Justice Overview	
	<b>Video:</b> Please watch the video “When the cows come home” before attending the next lecture	
9/5	<b>No Discussion</b>	
9/9	Let’s go to Jamaica	China
9/11	Experiencing spatial distribution	Russia
9/12	<b>Discussion 1</b>	
9/14	<b>Blog post: Foreign Direct Investment and Structural Adjustment? (two paragraphs)</b> <b>Video:</b> Please watch the video “Rachel Carson's Silent spring” before attending the next lecture.	<b>Blog due today before 11:55 PM</b>
	<b>Where is the Justice?</b>	
	<b>Module 2 - How Geographers Examine Sustainability</b>	
9/16	Our lens: Everything you ever wanted to know about scale. Building capacity Whitehead: Read pages 1-9	Latin America <b>Quiz 1 – due at 11:55 PM today</b>
9/18	Introduction to international discussions on sustainability Whitehead: Read pages:10-29	Africa
9/19	<b>Discussion 2</b>	
	<b>Video:</b> Please watch the video “An inconvenient truth” before attending next lecture.	
9/23	International Treaties on Sustainability <a href="http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/202293.pdf">http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/202293.pdf</a>	Japan
9/25	Introduction to the Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals 19 July 2014 <a href="http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf">http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf</a> (Canvas) 19 July 2014  Also read the main webpage for complete UN Conference <a href="http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org">www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org</a>	United Kingdom
9/26	<b>Discussion 3</b>	
9/28	<b>Blog post: Share your opinion on the Western Model of Sustainability (two paragraphs)</b>	<b>Blog due today before 11:55 PM</b>
	<b>Module 3 - The Politics of Sustainability – Macro analysis</b>	
9/30	Sustainability in the Western World Whitehead: Read Pages 33-58	China <b>Quiz 2 – due at 11:55 PM today</b>
10/2	Sustainability in the Post-Soviet World Whitehead: Read Pages 59-84	Russia

10/3	<b>Discussion 4</b>	
10/7	Sustainability in the Post-Soviet World- creation of capacity Krecek, J., and Z. Horicka. "Forests, air pollution and water quality: influencing health in the headwaters of Central Europe's" Black Triangle"." <i>Unasylva (FAO)</i> (2006).  Renner, Eberhard. "The Black Triangle Area-Fit for Europe? Numerical Air Quality Studies for the Black Triangle Area." <i>AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment</i> 31, no. 3 (2002): 231-235.	Latin America
10/9	<b>EXAM I</b>	
10/10	<b>No Discussion</b>	
10/14	The Pollution of Poverty Whitehead: Read Pages 85- 113	Africa
10/16	The Pollution of Poverty Urbanization of 3 <sup>rd</sup> world cities <b>McMichael</b> "The urban environment and health in a world of increasing globalization: issues for developing countries" Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2000 78(9) <b>Henderson</b> , Urbanization in Development World Bank Research Observer 17(1) Sp 2002, pp. 89-112	Japan
10/17	<b>Discussion 5</b>	
10/19	<b>Blog post: Share your opinion on the post-Soviet Eastern Model of Sustainability (two paragraphs)</b>	<b>Blog due today before 11:55 PM</b>
10/21	The role of NGOs and Governments in Sustainability Max, D. T. 2014. "Green is Good" Nature Conservancy, The New Yorker. (uploaded on Canvas)	United Kingdom
	<b>Module 4 – Lost in the Global? Let’s try local</b>	
10/23	Sustainability at UMD – Guest Speaker <a href="http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/documents/Carbon_Neutral_Terps_Flyer_Oct_1_2009.pdf">http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/documents/Carbon_Neutral_Terps_Flyer_Oct_1_2009.pdf</a> - an industrial world problem	China <b>Quiz 3 – due at 11:55 PM today</b>
10/24	<b>Discussion 6</b>	
10/28	Local Initiatives – Community-based Forestry Kanna K Siripurapu a low industrialized, local system	Russia
	<b>COFFEE (bring your OWN)</b> <b>Video:</b> Please watch “Delicious peace grows in a Ugandan coffee bean” before attending the next lecture	
10/30	Coffee as local, small scale sustainability – is it primarily social? How can it make a difference? Lyon: Read Pages 1-54	Latin America
10/31	<b>Discussion 7</b>	
11/4	Fair trade coffee: Lyon 55-122	Africa
11/6	If coffee takes the growers into the global economy, does it help or hurt? The political ecology of coffee Lyon: Read Pages 123-180	Japan
11/7	<b>No Discussion</b>	



11/9	<b>Blog post: Think Global, Act Local – Share your opinions (two paragraphs)</b>	<b>Blog due today before 11:55 PM</b>
11/11	Lyon: Read Pages 181-214 When the “free Market” takes over: Target and Direct Trade/Foreign Direct Investment Clayton, “The Direct Effect”, Imbibe May/June 2014	United Kingdom
11/13	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
11/14	<b>No Discussion</b>	
	<b>Module 5. Planning for Sustainability</b>	
11/18	Norway Ministry of Climate and Environment “Environmental cooperation with developing countries” <a href="http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kld/Selected-topics/international-environmental-cooperation/environmental-cooperation-with-developin.html?id=496122">http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kld/Selected-topics/international-environmental-cooperation/environmental-cooperation-with-developin.html?id=496122</a> Whitehead: Read Pages 117-138	China  <b>Capstone Project</b>  <b>Quiz 4 – due at 11:55 PM today</b>
11/20	Sustainable Regions Whitehead: Read Pages 161-186	Russia
11/21	<b>Discussion 8 (Capstone Project)</b>	
11/25	Whitehead: Read Pages 187-210 How does local become part of the regional discussion? What is the role of Developing countries in addressing climate change?	Latin America
	<b>Video:</b> Please watch the video “ <b>Lighting the 7<sup>th</sup> fire</b> ” before attending the next lecture.	
11/27	<b>No Lecture - Thanksgiving Recess</b>	
11/28	<b>No Discussion - Thanksgiving Recess</b>	
12/2	Cultural issues in sustainability Ethnic Conflict with Native Americans “Lighting the 7 <sup>th</sup> Fire”	Africa
12/4	Rio+20 Culture and cultural diversity as the 4 <sup>th</sup> pillar of sustainability. <a href="http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&amp;type=1000&amp;nr=506&amp;menu=126">http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&amp;type=1000&amp;nr=506&amp;menu=126</a>	Japan <b>Capstone project due today before 11:55 PM</b>
12/5	<b>Discussion 9 (Project Presentations)</b>	
12/7	<b>Blog post: Fair Trade (two paragraphs)</b>	<b>Blog due today before 11:55 PM</b>
12/9	Conclusion Whitehead: Read Pages 211-13	United Kingdom <b>Quiz 5 – due at 11:55 PM today</b>
12/16	<b>Final Exam: TBA</b>	