

## **GEOG330I: As the World Turns: Society and Sustainability in a Time of Great Change Fall 2017:** ESJ 2208

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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's an apt metaphor for this course since we will look at how societies cause and adapt to the changing social and environmental landscapes.

### **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**

In-class responses = 8 worth 5 points each. (40 points total)

Reflection activities = 8 worth 10 points each (80 points total)

Term papers = 2 worth 60 points each (120 points total)

Exams = 2 worth 40 points each (80 total)

First Round Debate = 1 (20 points)

Final Round Debate = 1 (10 points)

Guest Speaker Questions = 1 (5 points)

**Total Available Points: 355**

### **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

## 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).

## Accommodations

If you have disabilities, learning or otherwise, visit the Disability Support 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 Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS 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.

## Class absences

In the event that a class must be missed due to an illness, the policy in this class is as follows:

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, bring 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 (discussion activity, term paper, exam, debate) 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 bring documentation signed by a health care professional.
3. For more information on the UMD attendance policies, see <http://faculty.umd.edu/teach/attendance.html>.

If you will be absent due to religious observances you are responsible for notifying me and your TA in an email after the **first class** of the semester, and we will schedule revised due dates one business day after the assigned due date. If you will be absent due to an approved UMD athletic event on the day that an assignment is due uploaded to Canvas (term paper, discussion activity that you submit on your own), you must upload that assignment by the end of the next business day after the class you miss. If you are absent due to an approved UMD athletic event on a day with a graded activity takes place in class (exam, speaker, debate, in class lecture response) you must coordinate with your TA for a due date within one week of that athletic absence.

Outside of medical, religious, and athletic approved circumstances, turning in assignments late will result in a deduction of 10 points per day, or 5 points if turned in during the same day before 5pm EST.

## Office hours

I will be available for office hours from 3:00 – 4:00pm on M/W, or by appointment. I encourage you to use office hours for clarity on assignments, grading, or class content. Office hours are good method of communication for these issues. I will also respond to questions and concerns through email. My policy is to get back to your emails within 48 hours during the work week (M-F). Your TAs are also available to meet and discuss issues through office hours.

## Lectures

You are expected to remain actively engaged in each lecture. **Laptops, tablets and other electronic devices are not are permitted during lecture, unless you have a note from DSS accommodating these devices.** Come to class prepared to take notes on paper.

I recommend printing out the slides that I post on Canvas before class for note taking. Lectures will be posted on Canvas based on good class attendance: if class attendance falls, lectures will not be posted. Much of the lecture content is not on the Canvas-posted version. This means you will need to take notes and remain engaged during lecture to get all important content.

## Lecture responses

You will be asked to reflect, question, critique, and respond to several in class prompts. Responses will occur impromptu throughout the semester. You must be present to participate and earn points for your response. Responses are submitted individually through Canvas, using your smartphone or tablet. If you do not have a Canvas enabled smartphone or tablet, you may submit during class on paper. Each free text responses must be at least 4 sentences of text addressing the question to earn points.

## Reflection activities (RAs)

Reflection activities are an opportunity for dialog and application of the concepts from modules. You will self-sign up in teams of four in your discussion sections. Bring your laptop as you will access reading materials and submit your reflection activity electronically through Canvas before the end of the section. If you do not own one, laptops are available to rent from McKeldin Library. Reflection activities require that you read and watch materials PRIOR to the discussion in which the RA takes place. One team member will submit the RA through Canvas before the 50-minute section is over each week. Responses do not need to be in essay format, but do need to fully and accurately answer each prompt. You must fully participate in your weekly discussion section to earn points.

## Term papers

Two term papers require you to apply knowledge about society and sustainability to critically analyze issues. Papers will incorporate new information from lectures and readings, additional scholarly sources that you locate, and your own reflections. Papers should be uploaded to Canvas, and each is worth 60 points. You may choose to write each paper alone or with one additional student from your discussion section (more instructions to follow). Paper requirements:

- At least nine consecutive pages of text (you can go over if needed). Nine pages is the bare minimum for responding to each prompt. To fully and completely answer each prompt, your paper may extend several pages past the minimum of nine. Not included as one of the nine pages of paper content:
  - One additional (or more if needed) page for citations.
  - One additional page for photos, tables, figures.
  - One additional title page with name, date, paper title (do not repeat this information on the first page of text content).
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman size 12 font
- 1 inch margins
- 0 point spacing before and after paragraphs
- Numbered pages
- Saved as "Last Name\_First Name\_Paper1" (ex: Berndtson\_Rachel\_Paper1).
- Chicago (Author-Date style; Not Notes-Bibliography style) citations.
- Minimum of two scholarly sources. If you are unsure of whether a source is considered scholarly, consult your TA.

## Debates

The best way to understand an issue holistically is to familiarize yourself all sides of that issue.

- First Round: Within each discussion section, you will be divided into two "Debate Teams." Before discussion, teams will research the issue and prepare a PowerPoint making their case. During discussion, teams will present and answer questions from the TA – a neutral council to judge which team made the best case. The two highest ranking teams out of all sections will continue to the Final Debate during lecture. Each student must submit his/her own prompt through Canvas before discussion.
- Final Round: The two highest ranking teams (one pro-issue, one-anti issue) will participate in a Final Debate during lecture. The rest of the class will submit questions to ask during the debate before lecture begins, and will act as judges to determine the winning team. Judges must be present to earn full points. As before, each team will present its case, and take questions from the judges to defend the stance. The team that wins the Final Debate will earn one additional extra credit point.

## Exams

We will have two, noncumulative multiple choice exams. The exams will test your knowledge on lecture and reading content.

## Guest speaker

We will hear from a guest speaker on gentrification. You are expected to attend and remain engaged, and to submit to Canvas one question to ask the speaker. You will receive a grade for submitting that, as well as attending the speaker's talk. At the end of the talk, I will open the class for questions. If we hit a dearth of questions, I will call on you to ask the question you submitted on ELMS.

## Class Schedule

Date	In Class	Items to read/watch before class and assignments due
Aug. 28	Lecture 1: Course Intro Lecture 2: Society and Sustainability	GEOG330 Syllabus, Whitehead Chapter 1
Aug. 30	Lecture 2: Society and Sustainability	Whitehead Chapter 6
Discussion	<b>RA 1</b>	
Sept 4	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>	
Sept 6	Lecture 3: Pro-environmentalism	Kollmus & Ageyman 2002, EHP 2010
Discussion	<b>RA 2</b>	
Sept. 11	Lecture 3: Pro-environmentalism Lecture 4: Local Sustainability	Whitehead Chapter 8, Middlemiss 2010
Sept. 13	Lecture 4: Local Sustainability Paper 1 Assigned and Source Review	
Discussion	<b>RA 3</b>	
Sept. 18	Lecture 5: Industrial Agriculture	
Sept. 20	Lecture 5: Industrial Agriculture	<i>Video Myths of industrial agriculture</i> , DeLind 2010 <b>Contracts due @ 5:00PM if applicable</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>RA 4</b>	
Sept. 25	Lecture 6: Sustainable Agriculture – <i>online lecture</i>	
Sept. 27	Lecture 7: Community Agriculture	Saldivar-Tanaka & Krasny 2004
Discussion	<b>RA 5</b>	
Oct. 2	Lecture 8: Global Energy	EIA China 2014:1-3,6-12,28-30, IEA 2014
Oct. 4	Lecture 9: Nonrenewables	Bambrick 2012, Wihbey 2015
Discussion	Lecture 10: Renewables	<b>Paper 1 due @ 8:00AM</b>
Oct. 9	Debate Overview	
Oct. 11	Work on debate teams outside of lecture	<b>Debate prompts due @ 8:00PM</b>
Discussion	<b>Energy Debate – First Round</b>	
Oct. 16	No class: Work on Final Debate Teams	
Oct. 18	<b>Energy Debate – Second Round</b>	<b>Debate prompts due @ 8:00AM</b>
Discussion	Exam 1 Review	
Oct. 23	<b>Exam 1: Lectures 2-10</b>	
Oct. 25	Lecture 11: Global Water	BOA 2014: 3-8, 11-30, 38-44
Discussion	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Oct. 30	Lecture 11: Global Water	
Nov. 1	Lecture 12: Coastal Cities	
Discussion	<b>RA 6</b>	
Nov. 6	Lecture 12: Coastal Cities	
Nov. 8	Lecture 13: Global Urbanization	Seto et al 2010
Discussion	Paper 2 Assigned	
Nov. 13	Lecture 14: Urban Challenges <i>Video: NoBE</i>	
Nov. 15	Lecture 15: Urban Solutions	Wang et al 2012, Pierce et al 2011
Discussion	<b>RA 7</b>	<b>Contracts due @ 5:00pm if applicable</b>
Nov. 20	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Nov. 22	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Discussion	<b>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving</b>	
Nov. 27	Lecture 16: Urbanization and Cultural Sustainability	Chacko 2003, Kaya 2005
Nov. 29	Guest speaker on gentrification	<b>Speaker questions due @ 8:00AM</b>
Discussion	<b>RA 8</b>	<b>Paper 2 due @ 8:00am</b>
Dec. 4	Lecture 17: Industry and Development Overview	Whitehead Chapter 4
Dec. 6	Lecture 18: Industry, Development, and Sustainability	Kirchain & Olivetti 2013
Discussion	Exam 2 Review	
TBD/Final	<b>Exam 2: Lectures 11-18</b>	