

NRM 111 INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE
ON-LINE

SPRING 2019; CRN: 36278

Prerequisites: NRM 101, Placement in English 111

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Trainor. Phone: 907 474 7878; email: sarah.trainor@alaska.edu
Office Hours by Appointment.

Readings: You are expected to read all assigned readings.

Edwards, A. R. 2005. The Sustainability Revolution, Portrait of a Paradigm Shift. New Society Publishers. Gabriola Island, BC Canada.

Available as an EBook: <https://www.newsociety.com/Books/T/Thriving-Beyond-Sustainability>

Available in print used at Amazon.com.

Edwards, A. R. 2010. Thriving Beyond Sustainability, Pathways to a Resilient Society. New Society Publishers. Gabriola Island, BC Canada.

Available in print and as an EBook:

<https://www.newsociety.com/Books/T/Thriving-Beyond-Sustainability>

Paul, R. and Elder, L. 2016. The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking. Foundation for Critical Thinking. 7th Edition.

Available at www.criticalthinking.org.

Other assigned readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Course Description

Sustaining the health, wellbeing, and productivity of the global social- ecological system requires considerations from many disciplinary and cultural perspectives. Social, economic, and ecological assessment of sustainability challenges need to be considered in an integrated way to arrive at robust solutions that avoid unanticipated consequences. Meeting these challenges often requires action plans that move from understanding theory to the implementation of new policies and facilitation of behavioral change.

This course studies dimensions of achieving sustainability with the foundation of the 4 “E”s” environment/ecology, economy/employment, equity/equality and education. It draws on several underlying principles, including systems thinking, resilience theory, ecological economics, vulnerability analysis, and adaptive governance. Students are expected to enter the course with basic knowledge and understanding of contemporary sustainability challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and solid waste management, over-fishing, and ecosystem degradation. The class emphasizes principles and practices for sustainable solutions to these challenges. If you have requested an exemption from the NRM 101 prerequisite, you are responsible for knowing or learning any material from that course.

Course Goals

- Develop an understanding of conceptual frameworks for analyzing and understanding sustainability
- Develop core skills in critical thinking, writing, listening, and oral presentation
- Develop knowledge of tools and methods for analyzing and solving real-world issues related to sustainability
- Apply these principles and methods through student led projects, focusing on solutions to sustainability problems

Learning Objectives

- Familiarity with terms and concepts used in sustainability science
- The ability to identify social, economic, and ecological aspects of sustainability
- Development of critical thinking skills
- Knowledge to integrate social, economic, and ecological aspects of sustainability to create solutions for contemporary issues

Skills Development

The following skills are important for solving sustainability problems in the world. This course aims to help you develop and hone these skills.

- Read, understand, and interpret readings from a variety of sources, including peer-reviewed literature
- Critically assess arguments related to societal actions for sustainability
- Clearly, logically, and confidently present information and ideas in oral presentation.
- Write text to a variety of audiences in such a way that clearly conveys information, is based on the best available science, is grammatically correct, and is interesting to read.

Technical Requirements

Students must have regular access to a computer and the Internet to access online materials in Blackboard. Students will be expected to download course material as well as upload assignments.

Instructional Methods

This class will engage video, lectures, readings, online surveys and learning comprehension questions, self-reflection, group projects, and written and oral assignments.

Course Calendar

The course schedule is published separately. See Blackboard under “Syllabus and Schedule.”

Assignments/Requirements & Grades

Your grade will be calculated according to the table below. More information about these assignments can be found on Blackboard under “Assignments.” Extra credit will be

available, however, if you would like extra credit opportunities, you must discuss this option with the professor **no later than week 10**.

		Point Value
1)	Participation – submitting forms, communicating with instructor, contributing to non-graded discussions, etc.	25
2)	Paradigm Shift/Sustainability Revolution Essay	10
3)	Critical Thinking Reading Analysis Exercises (3 exercises; point values graduated so later assignments are worth more points as the expectation is that you will learn and improve as you go)	32
4)	Self-Reflection Essays (#1 & #2, 5 points each)	10
5)	Course Concept Reflection Essay	15
6)	Critical Thinking Essay – The 3 “E”s	43
7)	Sustainability In Practice Project Presentation (35 points) & Fact Sheet (10 points)	45
8)	Field Trip Write-Up	45
9)	Final Self-Reflection Essay	10
10)	Final Exam	45
	Total Points Available	280

Consult the course schedule and related updates and messages on Blackboard for due dates.

Course Participation

Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings and on-line modules and to turn in the assignments by the due dates. If you fall behind it is your responsibility to contact the instructor with a work plan for catching up.

Successful, timely completion of this course depends on committing yourself early and maintaining your effort. To this end, this course adheres to the following UAF eLearning Procedures:

1. The first *contact* assignment (Week 1 - Introduction) is due one week after the first day of instruction. ***Failure to submit this assignment within the first two weeks of the course could result in withdrawal from the course.***
2. The first *content* assignment (Week 2 – Introduction to Sustainability Science) is due two weeks after the first day of instruction. ***Failure to submit this assignment within the first three weeks of the course could result in withdrawal from the course.***
3. ***Failure to submit the first three content assignments (weeks 2, 3 and 4) by the deadline for faculty-initiated withdrawals (the ninth Friday after the first day of classes) could result in instructor initiated withdrawal from the course (W).***

Assignments handed in after the due dates will receive reduced credit. Assignments more than 1 week late will receive a zero unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Instructor Response Time

The professor will be reading discussion board posts, emails and comments every other business day. You can expect a response within 48 hours. Graded material will be returned within 1 week.

Grading

Each assignment and requirement will be evaluated based on the [UAF grading system](#):

- A "A" (including A+ and A-) indicates a thorough mastery of course content and outstanding performance in completion of course requirements.
- B "B" (including B+ and B-) indicates a high level of acquired knowledge and performance in completion of course requirements.
- C "C" (including C+ and C-) indicates a satisfactory level of acquired knowledge and performance in completion of course requirements.
- D "D" (including D+ and D-) indicates a minimal level of acquired knowledge and minimal performance in completion of course requirements. This grade does not satisfy requirements for courses in the major, minor, core or graduate programs.
- F "F" indicates failure to meet a minimal level of understanding of course content and/or performance in completion of course requirements. All F grades, including those earned in pass/fail courses, are included in the GPA calculations.

C- (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for another course. A minimum grade of C (2.0), however, MAY be required by specific programs for prerequisite and/or major / minor courses. Please consult specific program listings in the UAF Catalog.

C- (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade required for all Core (X) Courses.

The following grading scale will apply:

- A - 90 to 100 (A- 90-91; A+ 99-100)
- B - 80 to 89 (B- 80-81; B+ 88-89)
- C - 70 to 79 (C- 70-71; C+ 78-79)
- D - 60 to 69 (D- 60-61; D+ 68-69)
- F - < 60

How To Check Your Grade

To check your grades for assignments/quizzes and find comments from your instructor, click on the My Grades link in the sidebar menu. All assignments and any due dates are listed. If your instructor has left overall assessment comments, Click on the speech bubble icon to view overall comments and feedback.

If the score is for a test or quiz, the title of the test is a link. Then click on the check mark or your score to see results and feedback.

If the score is for an assignment, the title of the assignment is a link and by clicking this link you'll be taken to your submission, grade and comments.

If you see a green exclamation point, your assignment has not been graded yet.

Expectation of Student Effort

Students should expect to spend 10-12 hours per week on this class. Students are expected to complete the weekly assignments by their due dates. If circumstances arise that cause you to need extra time on any assignment(s), e-mail your instructor for guidance.

Extensions of due dates may be granted, but your instructor expects to be informed in advance if you are not able to submit your assignment on time. (Emergency situations will be dealt with as needed.) Students are expected to maintain a working backup plan to be implemented in the event of a computer malfunction or an interruption of their normal Internet service during the course.

Explanation of NB/I/W grades

This course adheres to the UAF regarding the granting of NB Grades. Instructors may award a No Basis (NB) grade if there is insufficient student progress and/or attendance for evaluation to occur. No credit is given, nor is NB calculated in the GPA. This is a permanent grade and may not be used to substitute for the Incomplete. It cannot be removed by later completing outstanding work. The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a grade.

Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy: "The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

Successful, timely completion of this course depends on committing yourself early and maintaining your effort. Failure to submit assignments in a timely manner may result in faculty-initiated Withdrawal from the course, which can result in a W on your transcript.

Adaptation

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule based. **You are responsible for reading update messages on Blackboard for course schedule updates.** Final grades may also take into account notable progress demonstrated by an individual, or unforeseen and extenuating circumstances. In such cases, extra credit assignments and/or makeup work may be used at the discretion of the instructor

Instructional Methods

This is an on-line course developed using the principles and guidance of the UAF iTeach program.

Backup policy:

Students are strongly advised to save backup copies of their assignments on Google Drive or your personal computer. Do not store your projects only on the lab computers. Please save often and backup your files.

Academic Integrity/ Student Code of Conduct

As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of "F." For more information go to [Student Code of Conduct](#).

An explanation of plagiarism and how to properly cite sources are available at the following two sites:

<http://library.uaf.edu/lis101-plagiarism>
<http://library.uaf.edu/lis101-citing>

Plagiarism is grounds for course failure.

UAF Policies Disabilities Services

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. We will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. **If you have a physical or learning disability, please advise us in writing of any special consideration necessary by the beginning of the second class.** I will do everything possible to accommodate you in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Priority seating close to the board and screen is provided for students who need to be in close proximity to the board.

If you have a learning disability that may interfere with your ability to perform the work in this course, I am happy to make any necessary accommodations. However, **it is the student's responsibility to obtain an Accommodation Letter from the Disabilities Office of the Health Center (ext.6158). This letter MUST be presented to the instructor within the first two weeks of class.** No accommodations will be made until this letter is given to the professor. Accommodations will NOT be made retroactively (i.e. if

you have a spelling disability, you must present the letter before any points are deducted for spelling).

Student Protections And Services Statement

Every qualified student is welcome in this course. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disability services, veterans' services, rural student services, etc. to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site:

<https://www.uaf.edu/handbook/>

Student Services

Go to the Student Handbook (<https://www.uaf.edu/handbook/>) for things like: academic advising, tutoring, library and academic support, disability services, computing and technology, veteran and military support, academic complaint and appeals, late withdrawals, "classroom" behavior expectations and more.

UAF eLearning Student Services helps students with registration and course schedules, provides information about lessons and student records, assists with the examination process, and answers general questions. Our Academic Advisor can help students communicate with instructors, locate helpful resources, and maximize their distance learning experience. Contact the UAF eLearning Student Services staff at 907.455.2060 or toll free 1.800.277.8060 or contact staff directly – for directory listing see:

<http://elearning.uaf.edu/contact>

UAF Help Desk

Go to <http://www.alaska.edu/oit/> to see about current network outages and technology news.

For technical questions, contact the Help Desk at:

- e-mail at helpdesk@alaska.edu
- phone: 450.8300 (in the Fairbanks area) or 1.800.478.8226 (outside of Fairbanks)

Effective Communication

Students who have difficulties with oral presentations and/or writing are strongly encouraged to get help from:

[UAF Department of Communication's Speaking Center](#) (907.474.5470, speak@uaf.edu)

[UAF English's Department's Writing Center](#) (907.474.5314, Gruening 8th floor)

[CTC's Learning Center](#) (604 Barnette st, 907.455.2860).

Notice of nondiscrimination

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination