**SUS 175, Introduction to Sustainability**

**Synonym Number: 90370**

**Fall 2015**

**3 credits**



**I. Course Information:**

*Meeting Time and Day:* Mondays and Wednesdays

10:00-11:20 PM  *Class Location:* Academic Building, 215

*Start Date:* 08/24/15 *End Date:* 12/09/15

*Refund Date:* 09/08/15 *Withdraw Date:* 11/15/15

**Instructor Information**:

*Name: Tina Evans*

*Phone: 970-870-4517 (prefer e-mail)*

*Fax: 970-879-0485*

*E-mail: tevans@coloradomtn.edu*

*Office: Bristol Hall 109 (enter through room 111)*

*Office Hours: Tues.: 10:00 AM -12:00 PM and 1:00-4:00 PM, and by appointment.*

1. **Course Description:** This course introduces the student to principles, ideas, and practices of sustainability as an expansive academic discipline and important personal/public practice. It uses the 3E model of ecological health, sustainability-oriented economics, and social equity as its overarching framework for understanding sustainability issues and sustainability-oriented social change. Four additional E’s will also be addressed: education, engagement, empathy, and empowerment. The course will utilize issue-based case studies as an important foundation for exploring sustainability as a concept and practice. The course is discussion-based with an experiential component. It is open to anyone interested in learning more about sustainability.

Topical Outline

Conceptual Foundations of Sustainability:

* The 3E model of sustainability
* Additional Es: education, engagement, empathy, and empowerment
* Sustainability as a normative concept and practice
* Relationships as central to sustainability

Case Studies: The course will address at least five case studies in which important themes of sustainability are present.

Synthesis: The course will call upon students to synthesize their learning through engaging in the following:

* Recognizing central themes of sustainability evident in case studies
* Articulating one’s understanding of sustainability as a concept and practice
* Connecting this understanding at a personal level in the areas of education, engagement, empathy, and empowerment
1. **The Sustainability Learning Community:** As a member of this class, you are also a member of the Sustainability Learning Community (SLC). The SLC is a group of courses that students take as one block. The idea behind the SLC is to foster your deep learning about sustainability as well as your meaningful connection to college, to the community of Steamboat, and to the wider society and ecology of the region. If you engage with your professors and other students in the SLC and you actively pursue your coursework, you can expect the SLC to be a powerful learning experience and an avenue for forming lasting relationships with your professors/mentors as well as with other students. *Welcome!*
2. **Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Upon completion of this course, students should:
3. Demonstrate introductory-level comprehension of the 3E model of sustainability.
4. Recognize the value of education, engagement, empathy, and empowerment to sustainability as a concept and practice.
5. Explain sustainability issues present in case studies and the need for sustainability-oriented change.
6. Demonstrate an ability to communicate about issues relevant to sustainability.
7. Articulate which sustainability ideals and practices resonate with one’s personal values.
8. Communicate about relationships among sustainability issues studied.
9. **IDEA** Objectives: In addition to the above learning outcomes, you can be expected to achieve the following competencies—provided that you participate fully in the course and complete all requirements:

Objective #2: Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.

Objective #3: Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions.

Objective #10: Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.

1. **Evaluation Methods and Class Management:** Your grade in this course will be determined by participation, regular course assignments, research and writing/presentation projects, and a final course reflection. Class participation consists of a variety of ways of engaging as well as being both present and actively listening/discussing during class. You are required to read assigned readings **prior** to each class session and be prepared to discuss relevant ideas and concepts in class. Please try to avoid entering class late or leaving early because doing so disrupts the class. Here are some general guidelines to help you understand the structure of this course, the expectations I have of you, and what you can expect from me.
* We will be using the following online tool as primary means of communication:

Canvas (<https://coloradomtn.instructure.com/>) CMC’s chosen e-learning tool will provide an online site for our course. This is where you will find course announcements, assignments, and more. I will provide an overview of Canvas during the first week of class.

* All written work assigned must be turned in via Canvas, which means they must be word processed.
* Your CMC e-mail address is considered to be an official means of contacting you about this course. Therefore, you are expected to check your CMC e-mail regularly.
* I may choose to alter the course material and assignments as the semester progresses. These changes will be conveyed to you in class and reflected in Canvas. Any such changes will be finalized by the date they are assigned.
* I will accept late assignments for one week following the original due date. All late assignments will be docked one full grade (10%). No assignments will be accepted following our last class meeting on December 9, 2015.
* If you need to miss a class, please notify me as soon as you are aware of this to make arrangements to get the course material and make up any missed activities. Course attendance is part of your grade, and being in class will influence your level of success in this course since many of the assignments stem from course discussions.
* You create your path in this life, and building a meaningful and satisfying path takes effort. Information means nothing unless you take it in, consider it within the framework of what you already know, reflect upon it, and create your own interpretation and meaning from this process. This course is designed to help you learn vital information about sustainability, but it is your own efforts in this process that matter the most.
* A note on academic honesty: plagiarism is not acceptable in this class. Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else’s work, do not cite them for their work, and claim such work as your own. Plagiarism is considered academic misconduct and will be treated as such as defined in the “Academic Policies and Requirements” section of the *Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook*.

Grades will be assessed as follows:

Grade % Quality Points

A 93.5%-100% 4.0

A- 89.5%-93.4% 3.7

B+ 86.5%-89.4% 3.3

B 82.5%-86.4% 3.0

B- 79.5%-82.4% 2.7

C+ 76.5%-79.4% 2.3

C 72.5%-76.4% 2.0

C- 69.5%-72.4% 1.7

D+ 66.5%-69.4% 1.3

D 62.5%-66.4% 1.0

D- 59.5%-62.4% 0.7

F below 59.5% 0.0

**Class Participation 15% of final grade**

**Regular Class Assignments 40% of final grade**

**Research Project on the Social and Ecological**

 **Context of a Chosen Product 15% of final grade**

**Transition Network Exercise in Hope and**

 **Agency 20% of final grade**

**Final Course Reflection 10% of final grade**

 **Semester Total: 100%**

**Class participation: 15% of final grade:** The success of this course—for you and for your classmates—depends largely on your commitment to attending, preparing for, and participating in class. Readings will be assigned for each class—do them! Also, step up to contribute your ideas to class discussions. Know, though, that you will not be graded on the *quantity* of your participation. Having a great amount of poor quality, uninformed participation is not beneficial to you or to the class and will not result in a high grade for attendance, preparation, and participation. As one gauge of your class participation, I will take attendance regularly. If you have questions about your participation grade, please consult with me.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 2, 3, and 10.*

**Regular Class Assignments, 40% of final grade:** You will not be taking tests in this class. Instead,you will engage deeply with course materials, ideas, and related practices through completing regular course assignments. You will be required to complete and hand in written notes in response to each chapter of our course text. Additional brief writing assignments, activities, participation in events, library research, group work, informal presentations, and online discussions may also be assigned. These assignments are designed to encourage your thoughtful and full engagement in this course and foster your learning at a deep level.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 2, 3, and 10.*

**Research Project on the Social and Ecological Context of a Chosen Product: 15% of final grade:** In order to move modern industrial societies toward sustainable living, it is important to connect all sorts of dots that, when not connected, obscure connections between cause and effect. One such relationship is that between products (effects) and their production processes (causes) that are too often unseen by product consumers. Early in the course, you will be asked to research the social and ecological aspects of production of a particular product of your choice and to present your findings informally in class. This assignment is designed to help you consider the environmental and social effects of the product production process, whether these effects are positive, negative, or a mixture of both.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-4 and 6 and IDEA outcome 3.*

**Transition Network Exercise in Hope and Agency: 20% of final grade:** Near the end of the term, you will research how the Transition Network, a loosely associated network of sustainability-oriented projects, is taking hopeful, effective steps to move communities all over the world toward more sustainable living. You will choose one sustainability effort underway by a group, business, organization, government, or community participating in the Transition effort, research this effort in some detail, write up the results of your research, and present them to the class. These efforts are inspiring! And this exercise is designed to get you thinking about how you can participate in sustainability efforts in your own home and community!

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA outcomes 3 and 10.*

**Extra Credit:** I may identify in class and/or via Canvas opportunities to earn extra credit. All such opportunities will be open to all students.

**Notice:** A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the “Academic Policies and Requirements” section of the *Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook* will, at a minimum, receive a “zero” for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to turnitin.com (or another anti-plagiarism program) at the instructor’s discretion. “Academic Expectations,” the “Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Process,” and more information about academic misconduct can be found in the *Student Handbook*.

Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required. The instructor may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester as the learning environment requires. Students will be notified in writing of changes. Attendance at all class meetings is expected.

1. **Attendance and No-show Reporting:** Attendance and early engagement are important elements for your success in this course. All students who do not attend the first class(es) or meet early attendance requirements must be reported by the instructor to the Registrar’s Office. Financial aid students or students receiving veteran’s benefits who do not attend the first class(es) or meet early attendance requirements will be dropped from the course and may not receive financial assistance ([**http://coloradomtn.edu/financial\_aid**](http://coloradomtn.edu/financial_aid)).
2. Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and feel you may need classroom accommodations based on the impact of your disability, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator for our campus: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
3. Withdrawal from this Course: Students wishing to withdraw from this course must INITIATE the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office. This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.
4. Grading System and Options**:** Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. Grades will be posted to <https://webadvisor.coloradomtn.edu/> (WebAdvisor) by Thursday following the last day of classes at the end of each semester.
5. **Required Course Materials:** The following text is required for this course:

Mulligan, M. (2015). *An introduction to sustainability: Environmental, social and personal perspectives*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-70643-8.

Additional course materials will be made available via the Internet or Canvas. This material will be listed in the weekly modules within Canvas. As the course progresses, I may alter the readings to better address/explore a topic/area of interest/concern. Any such changes will be reflected in Canvas at least one class period prior to the originally assigned date, and students will be notified during class of any such changes.

**Colorado Mountain College has chosen to partner with Follett Virtual Bookstores to operate textbook services.**

The official textbook list for CMC will be available on Follett's site, [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com).  You also can easily access this site by choosing "bookstore" from the quick links on [www.coloradomtn.edu](http://www.coloradomtn.edu).  Students and other members of the campus community may sign up for the Online Textbook Store's email mailing list here [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email) to receive important messages from the CMC Online Textbook Store. Students can sell back books anytime online or in-person at Follett's CMC buyback events.  Sign up for the online store's email list at [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email) for more info on future buyback dates and times. If you have any online bookstore questions, you can email coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com or call 800-621-4088.

1. **Other Information:** A course outline/schedule is available in Canvas. This outline/schedule is tentative and many be modified during the semester as needed. You will be notified of any changes both via Canvas and in class.

**XI. Virtual Library Information:** [**http://coloradomtn.edu/library**](http://coloradomtn.edu/library)

The Virtual Library has its doors open 24/7, providing access to thousands of online journals and newspapers, e-books and art images, downloadable videos and audiobooks, career resources, and practice tests.

**Login Instructions:** Use the CMC Libraries link from Canvas course menu to access the CMC libraries web site. The link will pass authentication credentials to the server that will allow you to use online library collections. It will also take you directly to the libraries’ home page.

**Ask a Librarian:** If you need assistance with a research project, you can ask a librarian online. Select the AskAcademic chat box on the libraries’ home page, and type in your question. This service is available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also email reference@coloradomtn.edu or call the library staff at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.