**SUS 300-SB01, Introduction to Sustainability**

**Synonym Number: 05362**

**Fall 2017**

**3 credits**

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**I. Course Information:**

*Meeting Time and Day:* Mondays and Wednesdays

10:00-11:20 AM  *Class Location:* Academic Building, 216

*Start Date:* 08/28/17 *End Date:* 12/15/17

*Refund Date:* 9/13/17 *Withdraw Date:* 11/19/17

*Prerequisites:* Placement in college-level composition and *Class Format:* Classroom

Reading.

**Instructor Information**:

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

*Office Hours: Mon.: 12:00-2:00 PM, Tues.: 1:00-4:00 PM; also by appointment*

1. **Required Course Materials:** CMC Steamboat Springs Campus participates in a flat rate access fee program for course materials so that 100% of students have all of the required textbooks the first day of class based on a library-like access model. All student textbooks and digital access codes will be provided beginning the start of the semester, beginning August 28, 2017. Pick up textbooks at the Campus Store, Steamboat Academic Center, third floor.

The following texts is required for this course:

Abrams, John. *Companies We Keep: Employee Ownership and the Business of Community and Place*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green, 2008.

Homer-Dixon, Thomas. *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization*. Washington, DC: Island, 2006. ISBN: 1-59726-065-7.

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, and students will be notified during class of any such changes.

1. **Course Description:** Introduces sustainability as a concept and practice. Explores the history and evolution of sustainability and examines key social, environmental, economic, and other factors that point to the need for sustainability-oriented social change. Provides a foundation to begin to evaluate sustainability in its social and historical context as a critical, paradigm shifting process. Introduces issues related to overshoot and potential collapse of modern industrial societies such as pressing challenges to water, food, and energy systems. Also addresses innovative perspectives and practices related to increasing socio-ecological resilience such as ecological design, biomimicry, adaptive management, permaculture, sustainable business, and transition initiatives.

Topical Outline

This course focuses on developing students’ understanding of sustainability as an expansive and integrative concept and practice that is deeply relevant to the health and vitality of individuals, society at large, and the environment. The following major ideas and their application will be covered in an integrative fashion throughout the course:

1. Key developments in sustainability.
2. Evolution from environmentalism to the sustainability movement.
3. Definitions and models of sustainability.
4. Key principles such as limits to growth, overshoot, and interdependence.
5. Resilience in socio-ecological systems.
6. Approaches to operationalizing sustainability such as biomimicry, permaculture, ecological design, ecological restoration, transition initiatives, adaptive management, and sustainable business.
7. **Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Upon completion of this course, students should:
8. Explain the history of sustainability as a concept, practice, and movement.
9. Evaluate diverse conceptual and practical approaches to sustainability.
10. Explain sustainability as a critical, paradigm shifting process.
11. Explain core principles of sustainability as they apply to a variety of settings and scales.
12. Identify multiple tools and strategies to promote sustainability initiatives.
13. Writing Across the Curriculum Learning Outcome: Demonstrate abilities to formulate effective arguments through interpreting texts, organizing arguments, and supporting claims through use of evidence.
14. **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 #8: Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

Objective #9: Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.

Objective #11: Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

1. **Evaluation Methods and Class Management:** Your grade in this course will be determined by participation; weekly notes on assigned readings; research, and writing. 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 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.
* 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.
* We will be using the following online tool as primary means of communication:

Canvas: CMC’s chosen e-learning tool will provide an online site for our course. This is where you will find course announcements, assignments, class session outlines, and more. I will provide an overview of Canvas during the first week of class.

* Some written work assigned must be turned in via Canvas, and some must be printed to bring with you to class. All writing assignments must be word-processed.
* Your CMC e-mail address is considered 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.
* 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 the end of the term on December 15, 2017.
* If you need to miss a class in order to participate in a CMC-sanctioned activity, due to health reasons, or due to an emergency situation, 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 class participation grade. Being in class will influence your level of success in this course since many of the assignments stem from course discussions.
* Please do not expect me make course accommodations for you so that you may engage in personal travel (vacations, travel for concerts, etc.). If you choose to miss class for personal travel or other personal reasons, you are expected to use Canvas to keep up with course readings and assignments. Do not expect me to review with you the material you missed in class. You also will not have an opportunity to make up in-class work or participation credit.

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 10% of final grade**

**Weekly Reading Notes 20% of final grade**

**Take Home Exam I 20% of final grade**

**Take Home Exam II 20% of final grade**

**Resource Paper 20% of final grade**

**Final Analytical and Reflective Paper 10% of final grade**

 **Semester Total: 100%**

**Class participation: 10% 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 participation. As one gauge of your class participation, I will take attendance regularly. Attendance at all class meetings is expected. If you have questions about your participation grade, please consult with me.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 2-3, 8 - 9, and 11.*

**Weekly Reading Notes, 20% of final grade:** Each week, you will be asked to complete one or more reading notes forms for assigned readings. These notes are designed to help you consider the material you are reading in some depth and be prepared to engage well in class discussions. A standard, fillable form for completing these notes is available in Canvas. Each week, you will complete the form using a word processor, print out your completed form, and bring it to class. Your notes will serve as a vehicle to enhance your class participation and increase the depth and quality of learning for you and your classmates.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 2-3, 8. and 11.*

**Take Home Exams I and II: 40% of final grade (20% for each exam):** You will complete two short answer and essay based take home exams for this course. Exam prompts and questions will be provided in Canvas when the test is assigned in class. These directions will remain accessible online for the remainder of the term once the tests are assigned. Your responses to these exams must be word processed and handed in via Canvas.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 2-3, 8. and 11.*

**Resource Paper: 20% of final grade:** Near the end of the term, you will complete a research based paper on various perspectives/movements in support sustainability. You will discuss the key ideas and practices of each perspective/movement and analyze their relative potential to address the sustainability crisis. Assignment directions will be provided in class and posted on Canvas. This paper must be word processed and submitted via Canvas.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 2-3, 8-9, and 11.*

**Final Analytical and Reflective Paper: 10% of final grade:** Your final reflection for the course serves as an opportunity for you to synthesize major areas of learning from the course. Directions for this paper will be provided in class and via Canvas. This paper must be word processed and submitted via Canvas.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 2-3, 4, and 6 and IDEA objectives 2-3, 8, and 11.*

**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.

1. Information for You as a CMC Student:
2. 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.
3. 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 Feedback Studio (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.
4. Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required. Attendance at all class meetings is expected.
5. 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.
6. Withdrawal from this Course: Students wishing to withdraw from this course must **initiate** the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.
7. Grades will be posted to <https://webadvisor.coloradomtn.edu/> by the Friday following the last day of classes at the end of each semester.
8. This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.
9. 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 recipients 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>).
10. Students with Disabilities (<http://coloradomtn.edu/admissions/disability_services/>): 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: Carolyn Lawrence, 970‐870-4463.
11. Title IX Sexual Misconduct Contact Information: Colorado Mountain College is committed to the prompt and equitable investigation of all Sexual Misconduct complaints or reports, with appropriate remediation where it has been determined that this Policy has been violated. Each campus has a designated Deputy Title IX Coordinator to handle any reports of Sexual Misconduct or discrimination. Deputy Title IX Coordinator Contact Information:
	* **College/Employee Deputy Title IX Coordinator:** Lisa Doak, AVP of Student Services, 970-947-8351; ldoak@coloradomtn.edu.
	* **Campus Deputy Title IX Coordinator:** Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Carolyn Lawrence: 970‐870‐4463; cmlawrence@coloradomtn.edu.
12. Tentative Class Schedule: The Canvas course modules for this class comprise a tentative class schedule that may be modified during the term as necessary to foster student learning.
13. **Virtual Library Information:** 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 you Canvas course menu to access the CMC library website. The link will pass authentication credentials that will allow you to use online library collections. It will also take you directly to the library’s 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.

**Embedded Librarian for Our Course:** Librarian Tracey Urbick has access to our Canvas course materials. She can communicate directly with you via Canvas, and you can communicate with her as well. She will also be assisting you with research for our Resource Paper. Tracey completed this class last year and should be able to assist you very well!

1. **Learning Lab:** A great resource for you is the CMC learning lab in Bristol 146. Scheduled **tutors** are available in most curricular areas, and tutoring services can be arranged one for additional subjects. The Learning Lab staff WANTS to help you! Visit their website for further information: <http://coloradomtn.edu/campuses/steamboat_springs/tutoring/> .
2. **Research and Writing Center (RAW):** The RAW is an excellent place for you to get help with research and writing. Professors at the RAW can help you at any stage of the research and writing process: idea generation, finding high quality sources, organizing your work, citing sources properly, and/or polishing your work. The RAW is located in the Library on the third floor of Bristol Hall. Ask about current hours there. You are strongly encouraged to use this resource for this class, and please don’t wait until the last minute to do so!