**SUS 101-SB01, Introduction to Sustainability**

**Synonym Number: 05364**

**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. Pickup of textbooks is located at the Campus Store, Steamboat Academic Center, third floor.

The following text is required for this course:

Robertson, M. (2014). *Sustainability: Principles and practice*. New York: Earthscan. ISBN: 978-0-415-84018-7.

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 at least one class period prior to the originally assigned date, and students will be notified during class of any such changes.

1. **Course Description:** Introduces the principles of sustainability as a whole-systems approach, important personal/public practice, and global movement. Explores the historical, philosophical, and ethical pillars of sustainability and pursues a wide range of sustainability topics. Develops an integrated and systemic understanding of the drivers of major sustainability issues and challenges, and identifies avenues for sustainability-oriented individual and collective action toward positive change.

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. The historical, cultural, and political evolution of sustainability.
2. The relevance of sustainability to individuals, communities, and the environment.
3. Water and food justice.
4. Energy supply and use, including transportation, urban planning, and green infrastructure.
5. Overconsumption and the extraction, production, distribution and disposal of manufactured goods.
6. Public policy including public lands management.
7. Ecosystem restoration and health, including species conservation.
8. The concept of social business.
9. Role of education, engagement, empathy and empowerment in sustainability movement.
10. Identification of solutions within sustainability for positive change (both personal and social).
11. **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!*
12. **Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Upon completion of this course, students should:
13. Develop and explain a clear notion of sustainability as an integrative concept and practice.
14. Demonstrate an understanding of major drivers of unsustainability and means to address them.
15. Explain the historical interdependence and ethical interconnections of sustainability issues.
16. Identify avenues for advancing the value and relevance of sustainability, both personally and professionally.
17. **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, writing, presentation, and action projects; and a final course reflective paper. 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.

* 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.
* 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 13, 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 grade, and 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 15% of final grade**

**Regular Class Assignments 35% of final grade**

**Research Project on the Social and Ecological**

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

**Sustainability Action Project on Food**

**Recovery 5% of final grade**

**Exercise in Hope and Agency 15% of final grade**

**Final Course Reflection 15% 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. Attendance at all class meetings is expected. If you have questions about your participation grade, please consult with me.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-4 and IDEA objectives 2, 3, and 10.*

**Regular Class Assignments, 35% 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 responses to assigned discussion questions for 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. Assignment instructions will be posted in Canvas.

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

**Sustainability Action Project on Food Recovery: 5% of final grade:** As part of this course, you will participate in an ongoing sustainability effort related to the CMC food system: the Food Recovery Network. This project entails packaging and delivering left over food from the CMC dining hall for consumption by people in need in our community. You will learn about these efforts in class where you will also sign up to participate at specific dates and times. Full instructions for this project will be provided in class and via Canvas.

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

**Exercise in Hope and Agency: 15% of final grade:** Near the end of the term, you will choose one sustainability effort underway by a group, business, organization, government, or community, 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 2 and 4 and IDEA outcomes 3 and 10.*

**Final Course Reflection: 15% 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.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1 and 4 and IDEA outcomes 2, 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.

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](mailto:ldoak@coloradomtn.edu).
    * **Campus Deputy Title IX Coordinator:** Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Carolyn Lawrence: 970‐870‐4463; [cmlawrence@coloradomtn.edu](mailto: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.

**XI. 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](mailto:reference@coloradomtn.edu) or call the library staff at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

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/> .