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# I. Course and Instructor

Format: live class with in-person student attendance required at all class sessions

Course Title: Introduction to Sustainability

Course Code: 19/FA: SUS 101-SB01: 18283

Semester: Fall 2019

Meeting Days & Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-10:20 AM

Class Location: Bristol Hall, Room 220

Syn. Number: 18283

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: College-level composition and reading placement.

Start Date: August 26, 2019   
End Date: December 13, 2019  
Refund Date: September 11, 2019  
Withdraw Date: November 15, 2019

**Instructor Information**

Tina Lynn Evans, Ph.D.

Phone: 970-870-4517

E-mail: tevans@coloradomtn.edu

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:30pm; Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am and 3:00-4:00pm

**Required Course Materials**

The following text is required for this course:

Robertson, M. (2017). *Sustainability: Principles and practice*. 2nd Ed. New York: Earthscan. ISBN:978-1-138-65024-4.

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.

CMC Learning Materials Program

Textbooks are automatically provided through the Learning Materials Program (LMP). CMC credit students participate in the LMP which provides all physical or digital textbooks, required digital course materials, and certain custom materials at an all-inclusive, flat, per credit fee (there are a few exceptions to included materials such as Lab Kits and a selected number of excluded courses). The LMP is a library-like lease rental system which leverages and reuses textbooks where possible. The flat fee, payable through payment plans and financial aid, provides a service to ensure students have required learning materials at the start of semester and that they also receive order and customer service support. Upon registration, an order for your books is automatically generated. Students receive a customized bundle of course materials at the start of the term.

Receiving Textbooks: Students at the Steamboat campus pick up physical textbook orders at the campus store.

**IMPORTANT:** Returns: If you are not choosing to buy them, you must return materials by the last date of the semester. After this strict deadline has passed, purchase fees based on the price of the textbooks are assessed to your student account. Students are permitted to keep books by paying these fees. If you do not wish to keep textbooks or incur additional fees, return textbooks by the deadline to the campus store, or use the free return label found on Basecamp under “manage my returns” (go to: Basecamp > MY CMC APPS > Learning Materials Program). For a dropped class, you must return textbooks within 7 days to avoid book purchase fees.

For information on additional book listings, excluded courses, and other LMP information, visit: Basecamp > MY CMC APPS > Learning Materials Program > home.Questions? Call CMC LMP Customer Service at 844-523-9056, email your question to [cmclmp@ecampus.com](mailto:cmclmp@ecampus.com), or visit: Basecamp > Student Services > [Learning Materials Program Student Resource](https://basecamp.coloradomtn.edu/studentservices/lmpstudent/Pages/default.aspx) page. You may also contact your **c**ampus representative (CMC LMP Customer Service 844-523-9056).

# II. 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.

# III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills

Upon completion of this course, students should:

1. Develop and explain a clear notion of sustainability as an integrative concept and practice.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of major drivers of unsustainability and means to address them.
3. Explain the historical interdependence and ethical interconnections of sustainability issues.
4. Identify avenues for advancing the value and relevance of sustainability, both personally and professionally.

# IV. Individual Development and Educational Assessment (IDEA) Objectives

The instructor has selected the following objectives as important or essential for student learning and progress for this course:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories).
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
3. Developing ethical reasoning and/or ethical decision making.
4. Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

# V. Evaluation Methods

**Overview of Required Coursework**

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 1-4.

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 1-4.

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 objectives 1-4.

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 2 and 4 and IDEA objectives 1-3.

Exercise in Hope and Agency: 20% 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 1-4 and IDEA objectives 2-4.

Final Course Reflection: 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.

* + Addresses learning outcomes 1-4 and IDEA objectives 1-4.

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.

**Grading Scale**

A 93.5%-100% 935-1000 points

A- 89.5%-93.4% 895-934 points

B+ 86.5%-89.4% 865-894 points

B 82.5%-86.4% 825-894 points

B- 79.5%-82.4% 795-824 points

C+ 76.5%-79.4% 765-794 points

C 72.5%-76.4% 725-764 points

C- 69.5%-72.4% 695-724 points

D+ 66.5%-69.4% 665-694 points

D 62.5%-66.4% 625-664 points

D- 59.5%-62.4% 595-624 points

F below 59.5% below 595 points

# VI. Class Management

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 pair of courses that students take as one block. Along with this course, you are required to enroll in Desert Orientation (OUT 113). 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!*

Processes and Expectations

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 use 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 it 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 13, 2019.
* 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.

# VII. Information You Should Know as a CMC Student

1. You have a right to know certain information that the College is required by law to provide. Links provided on this page (<https://coloradomtn.edu/your-right-to-know/>) will connect you to helpful information related to disability services, complaint processes, policies and procedures, textbooks, registration, attendance and grading, graduation rates, and much more.
2. **Notice of Nondiscrimination**: Colorado Mountain College does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information, or in its programs and activities, as required by Harassment and Discrimination Prevention (Title IX) of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and as provided in other applicable statutes and College policies. The College prohibits sexual and gender-based harassment, including sexual assault, and other forms of interpersonal violence. To obtain more information regarding non-discrimination policies, visit [**http://coloradomtn.edu/about-cmc/notice-of-nondiscrimination/**](http://coloradomtn.edu/about-cmc/notice-of-nondiscrimination/) or contact Lisa Doak, Harassment and Discrimination Prevention (Title IX) Coordinator, [ldoak@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:ldoak@coloradomtn.edu), 970-947-8351, or Angela Wurtsmith, Director of Human Resources, [awurtsmith@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:awurtsmith@coloradomtn.edu), 970-947-8311.

# VIII. Course Schedule

The full course schedule is provided in Canvas via detailed weekly modules. Descriptions of all required readings and assignments are included within the Canvas site. Note that the course schedule may change due to unforeseen circumstances or opportunities or to the need to improve student learning of particular aspects of course content.

# IX. CMC Libraries

As a CMC student, you have access to the CMC Libraries both in-person and virtually. Via the CMC Libraries link provided in both Basecamp and your Canvas course you have 24/7 access to thousands of online journals, magazines, newspapers, e-books, audio books, videos, images, career resources, and practice tests. Librarians are here to help you! Get to know them! You can get help with research, citations, and more in the following ways:

* In person,
* Online via e-mail (librarian/library contact information available on the [CMC Libraries website](http://library.coloradomtn.edu/home)),
* By telephone (numbers available on the [CMC Libraries website](http://library.coloradomtn.edu/home)),
* Through video tutorials (<http://library.coloradomtn.edu/home/modules>), and
* By accessing Ask A Librarian chat service (24/7 at <http://library.coloradomtn.edu>; simply type your question in the AskAcademic chat box, and you will be connected to a librarian).