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# I. Course and Instructor

Format: Flex -- These courses will have a designated class schedule. The designated schedule will include virtual meetings conducted using videoconferencing technology like Webex or Zoom. Students must have access to technology to attend the course and attend the Webex or Zoom sessions. Some of these courses may have optional face-to-face components such as small group discussions, group projects, or similar activities.

Course Title: Foundations of Sustainability

Course Code: SUS-300-SB01

Semester: Fall 2020

Meeting Days & Times: Mondays 12:20-3:10pm

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: ENV 101, MAT 120 (or higher), and ENG 122. Students may take these courses

concurrently if they have not successfully completed them with a with a grade of C- or higher prior to enrollment.

Start Date: 8/24/20   
End Date: 12/7/20   
Refund Date: 9/10/20   
Withdraw Date: 11/13/20

No Show Reporting Date: 8/31/20. Your professors are required to report any “no-show” student to the Registrar’s office. No-show status is determined based on your attendance and engagement in the first seven days of this course. You will be reported as a no-show for this course if you have not attended our first in-person, online class and have not logged into Canvas within the first seven days from the course start date. As per the CMC catalog, if you are dropped for non-attendance, a refund is not automatic nor guaranteed.

If you have not attended, be sure to check Student Planning to see whether you are still registered in the class. If you are still registered and you do not attend, you risk receiving a failing grade.

If you are dropped as a no-show student, class reinstatement cannot occur without significant documentation of extenuating circumstances. You would first need to contact the course instructor for approval. If reinstatement were approved, you would need to proceed with the late registration process.

No Show Reporting & Financial Aid: If a student is dropped from a course (or courses) for non-attendance, the resultant loss in credit hours may cause a reduction and/or cancellation of his/her financial aid award. Like class reinstatement, financial aid awards can only be reinstated with documentation of extreme extenuating circumstances. Reinstatement in a class does not guarantee financial aid reinstatement.

**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: Call or e-mail me at the following times: Mondays, 3:30-4:30; Tuesdays, 11:30-2:30; Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00. I am also available by appointment.

**Required Course Materials**

The following texts are required for this course:

Matson, P., Clark, W.C., Andersson, K. (2016). *Pursuing sustainability: A guide to the science and practice*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Thiele, L.P. (2016). *Sustainability*. 2nd Ed. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Polity Press.

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 of any such changes.

Credit-based students participate in CMC’s Learning Materials Program (LMP). It is through this program that all physical or digital textbooks, digital course materials, and relevant custom materials listed above are provided to students an all-inclusive, flat, per-credit fee. Detailed information about the LMP, including how to ensure you receive your textbooks and how to return texts at the end of a course, can be found at <https://coloradomtn.edu/classes/textbooks/>.

**LMP REMINDERS**: To ensure proper shipment, you must verify your shipping address on the [LMP dashboard in Basecamp](https://coloradomtn.sharepoint.com/sites/lmpstudent). By the last date of the course or within seven days of dropping a course, all LMP materials must be returned if you are not choosing to buy them. Students will incur fees for late or missing returns. Questions or concerns about LMP? Use one of the customer service contact methods listed [here](https://coloradomtn.sharepoint.com/sites/lmpstudent). Students with LMP order questions should call CMC LMP Customer Service at 844-523-9056.

# II. 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 for students to begin to evaluate sustainability in its social and historical context as a critical, paradigm shifting process. Introduces students to 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.

# III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills

Through taking this course, students should learn to:

1. Explain the history of sustainability as a concept, practice, and movement.
2. Evaluate diverse conceptual and practical approaches to sustainability.
3. Explain sustainability as a critical, paradigm shifting process.
4. Explain core principles of sustainability as they apply to a variety of settings and scales.
5. Identify multiple tools and strategies to promote sustainability initiatives.
6. Demonstrate abilities to formulate effective arguments through interpreting texts, organizing arguments, and supporting claims through use of evidence.

# IV. Student Feedback for Instructors

Near the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a survey about your experiences in this course. The survey will be available through Canvas.

# V. Evaluation Methods

**Overview of Required Coursework**

Class participation: 10% of final grade or 100 points: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.

Video and Podcast Responses: 25% of final grade or 250 points: Videos and podcasts assigned for this class serve as additional texts through which we can learn quickly and also visually experience phenomena, demonstrations, and examples. These materials powerfully communicate some key sustainability concepts and questions and offer us case studies of sustainability in action. Videos and podcasts will be discussed in class. To ensure that you are well prepared for these discussions, your written responses to them will be due before the classes during which they will be discussed. Specific instructions for each response will be provided in Canvas.

* Addresses learning outcomes 1-5.

Regular Course Assignments, 15% of final grade or 150 points:You will complete a set of regular course assignments designed to help you integrate your learning from the course and apply that learning meaningfully to your own life. These assignments will be written and/or participatory activities that will be important but fairly brief. Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided in Canvas.

* Addresses learning outcome 1-6.

Journal of Questions and Reflections, 10% of final grade or 100 points:Each week for weeks one through 14, you will complete a journal entry that captures your questions and reflections from recent classes and related to the material with which you engage outside of class. These entries will offer you opportunities to track and synthesize your learning throughout the course, as well as opportunities to bring questions forward for discussion during class. Your journal entries may also serve as bases for composing your final course reflection and your closing definition of sustainability, two important regular course assignments.

* Addresses learning outcomes 1-6.

Biography and Writings if a Sustainability Change Maker, 15% of final grade or 150 points:Learning is about more than the materials and ideas with which we engage in classes. It is also about relationships and mentoring. Some forms of mentoring occur through our remote observation of a person or people as they engage with sustainability through their writings and actions. Part of the beauty and potential of writing as a vehicle for learning and social change is its ability to help us forge such relationships across time and space. This assignment calls for you to begin to build such a relationship with a sustainability change maker. As we read course texts, you will remain on the lookout for a person whose work you would like to explore in more depth. For this assignment, you will read a portion of your chosen person’s work and also learn a bit more about that person’s life. You will hand in your work in writing and also present a summary of it to the class. Specific instructions will be provided in Canvas and during class.

* Addresses learning outcomes 1-6.

Sustainability Case Study, Case Study Presentation, and Related Scaffolding Assignments, 25% of final grade or 250 points: As one way to apply your growing understanding of sustainability to a real world challenge/opportunity and to develop your academic thinking and writing abilities as a future graduate of the CMC Sustainability Studies program, you will complete a case study of a phenomenon/effort/issue/event related to sustainability. Near the end of the term, you will also present via videoconferencing software a summary of your case to the class. Several scaffolding assignments will enable you to develop your case study in a step-by-step, well organized way. For all scaffolding assignments, you will receive instructor feedback and, sometimes, the feedback of peers as well. Together, the scaffolding assignments, the case study write up itself, and the in-class presentation of your work comprise a significant portion of your grade for this class. Specific assignment instructions will be provided in Canvas and during class.

* Addresses learning outcomes 1-6.

**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

Your grade in this course will be determined by participation and the course assignments outlined above. Class participation and involvement in the discussions and learning activities are part of your grade. You are required to read weekly assigned readings **prior** to each class session; be prepared to discuss relevant ideas and concepts in class. Please avoid accessing class late or leaving early because doing so limits your learning experience and may interfere with your understanding of course assignments and requirements.

Here are some additional general guidelines to help you understand the structure of this course, the expectations I have of you, and what you can expect from me.

* This course is designed to help you learn foundational knowledge about sustainability, but it is your own efforts in this process that matter the most. Stay current with course readings and other requirements, and come to class ready to engage in stimulating discussions and individualized hands-on/action projects.
* We will be using the following online tool as a 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, and more. I will provide an overview of Canvas during the first class.
* Most written assignments must be turned in via Canvas, which means they must be word-processed.
* Your CMC e-mail address and your Canvas e-mail are considered official means of contacting you about this course. Therefore, you are expected to check your CMC and Canvas e-mail accounts regularly.
* I may choose to alter the course material as the term 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.
* Late assignments will be docked one full grade (10%). No assignments will be accepted following our last class meeting day.
* If you need to miss a class, please notify me as soon as you are aware of this to make arrangements to 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.
* A note on academic honesty: plagiarism is not acceptable in this class. Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else’s work, do not cite that person as the source of the 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*.

# VII. Student Information about CMC

1. You have a right to know certain information that the College is required by law to provide. Links on [this page](https://coloradomtn.edu/your-right-to-know/) will connect you with helpful information including disability services, complaint processes, policies and procedures, textbook information, registration, attendance and grading, graduation rates, and much more.
2. **Students Rights and Responsibilities**: The *Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook*, published annually and available online at <https://coloradomtn.edu/student-services/>, outlines the expectations for student conduct on campus and in classes as well as the college’s academic policies and expectations.
3. **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/> 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 the need to improve student learning of particular aspects of course content.

# IX. CMC Libraries

Online library resources and services are available at <http://library.coloradomtn.edu> or from the Libraries links in Basecamp and Canvas.

You have 24/7 access to thousands of online journals, magazines, newspapers, e-books, audiobooks, videos, images, career resources, statistics, and practice tests.

Librarians are here to help you. You can use any or all of these ways to get help!

•       Via email, 24/7 chat (AskAcademic), telephone, or video conferencing: <http://library.coloradomtn.edu/home/help>.

•       Video tutorials <http://library.coloradomtn.edu/home/modules>.

Consult your local campus for in-person library services.