The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Social Work

Course Number: SoWo 880-238
Course Title: Sustainable Development
Faculty: Gary Nelson, DSW
School of Social Work
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Semester: Spring 2009—Tuesdays 2—4:50 p.m.
Tate Turner Kuralt Bldg. Room 114

Course Description

This course will examine issues and perspectives on sustainable development. In examining sustainable development, it will do so through a three part framework that combines local, national and global perspectives on the following goals: 1. economic prosperity; 2. social equity; and 3. environmental protection.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the effect of their personal social and cultural background (including personal and professional values) on their own thinking, views and practice for sustainable development. This understanding will be reflected in a plan for the student’s growth and work;
2. Articulate a working definition of sustainable development that incorporates information from the past, as well as current thinking about the term, and provides practical, ethically based direction for the student’s work in sustainable development;
3. Demonstrate a working knowledge of sustainable development challenges in their community, the United States and the world;
4. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the interface between sustainable development and poverty from local and global perspective;
5. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the interface between sustainable development, culture and gender; and
6. Demonstrate an ability to apply a learning framework to a sustainable development initiative in a community of interest that appreciates the strengths of current approaches, identifies continuing challenges to sustainability, and sets forth a series of recommendations to overcome those challenges.
Required Texts and Readings

4. Additional readings will be identified and assigned throughout the semester in conjunction with the course topics, lectures, and guests.

Recommended Readings

Course Calendar---Organizational Modules, Readings and Assignments

Module I: Getting Started and Framing the Issue in Sustainable Development

Session 1: January 13th—Introduction—Waves of Change—Necessary Revolution

Long Wave of Change—Necessary Revolution in Sustainable Development

Theory of Change

Communities of Practice—Green Plus

Guest Speaker: Carlos Garcia—Thinking About Development

Class Exercise—Small Group Exercise
- Knowledge assessment and course expectations.
- Exploring the relationship between sustainable development and issues of environmental protection, economic development, and social equity.

Assignments—Next Class Session
- Develop your own definitions of sustainable development as it pertains to your career goals—two pages double spaced.
- Write me letter—Over the next two weeks you must write me a letter dated April 21st, which begins with the words, “Dear Mr. Nelson, I got my __ (grade) because…..,” and in this letter you are to tell, in as much detail as you can, the story of what will have happened to you by this date that is in line with the grade you have earned.” In writing this letter everything must be written in the past tense. I am interested in knowledge and skills you will have gained but also the person you have become, e.g. your philosophy and stance toward social and economic development.
Session 2: January 20th – Framing the Issues of Sustainable Development

**Assigned Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Guest: Aaron Nelson and Chamber Team—The Foundation for a Sustainable Community and the Institute for Sustainable Development**

- History of the Foundation and Institute
- Vision and Business Plan
- Developing a Work Plan for the Semester

Session 3: January 27th — Green Plus as a Community of Practice for Sustainable Development Start-Up

**Assigned Reading:**


Module II: Green Plus—People, Planet, and Profit

Session 4: February 3rd – Overview of Sustainable Development

**Assigned Reading:**

Guest: Frank Phoenix—Fenwick Foundation and Greenbridge

Thinking Together (4)—Community Engagement for Sustainable Development
Session 5: February 10th – People

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Guest: Self-Help Credit Union

Session 6: February 17th — Planet

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:

Roseland, Mark. (2005). “Chapter 4-Greening the City (pgs. 44-56); Chapter 8 Atmospheric Change and Air Quality (pgs. 103-111); Chapter 9 Transportation and Traffic Management (114-128); and Chapter 10-Land Use and Urban Form (133-150).

Guests: Rural and Urban Sustainable Development

Session 7: February 24th ---Profit—Making a Sustainable Profit

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Guest: Restaurant
Session 8: March 3\textsuperscript{rd}—Metrics for Sustainable Development

Assigned Reading:


Guest: Jonathan Estes

Student Presentations: Feedback on the Green Plus Platform

Spring Break—March 6\textsuperscript{th} to 16\textsuperscript{th}

Module III: Creating a Framework for Sustainable Development

Session 9: March 17\textsuperscript{th}

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Guest: Triangle Community Foundation—A Community Perspective

Session 10: March 24\textsuperscript{th}—

Assigned Reading:


Guest: Micro Enterprises and Conservation Fund
Session 11: March 31st

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Guest: Energy

Session 12: April 7th

Assigned Reading


Guest: Sustainable Development as Community Development

Session 13: April 14th

Assigned Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Flip-It Presentations

Session 14: April 21st

Assigned Reading:

Flip-It Presentations
Class Assignments
There are three assignments due in this course:

1. **Letter—Course Grade:** Letter identifying grade earned and content learned: **Due on January 20th.**
2. **Thought Piece:** A thought piece on sustainable development—your personal working definition: **Due January 20th.**
3. **Feedback on Green Plus Web Platform:** Due on March 3rd.
4. **Essays and Presentations: Key Works on Sustainable Development**
5. **Flip It Exercises and Presentations**

Assignment of Course Grades

The following weights will be applied to the various assignments associated with this course.

1. Thought Piece 10%
2. Feedback on Green Plus 20%
3. Essays/Presentations 20%
4. Flip-It Presentations 40%
5. Class Participation 10%

Course Evaluation

The course will be evaluated using evaluation form developed by the School of Social Work.