

PSJ 594-02 (CRN 2277):

Sustainable Development

Spring 2012

9:15-12:05 am, Thursday
Room IPJ-215

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Course Overview

The increasing resource demands of industrialized countries and the “Rising Rest,” met by increasingly globalized trade patterns, are eroding the resiliency of ecological systems. Many of the public goods provided by the natural world – from clean water and air, to abundant fisheries, to common lands used to supplement traditional livelihoods – are increasingly dependent for their provision on human institutions and technological interventions. And while the modern world lionizes “economic growth” as a panacea for conflict, unemployment and poverty, there is a growing chorus arguing that the global economy must soon cease expanding and conform to the limits of the steady-state system formed by our planet and its atmosphere. This course will explore some of the central questions raised in response to perceived problems with the growth model of development. Is there a “carrying capacity” of the planet, and what happens if and when it is exceeded? What role can and should we expect technology to play in offsetting our ecological impact? Should Development adopt a different model, and if so, which? Can the new models adequately value environmental health, equitable distribution, cultural integrity, and meaningful and stable employment?



The countless implications and permutations of these questions will far outstrip the time we will have to address them. Many of them bear heavily on peace and conflict dynamics and consequently have, to the extent possible, been confined to “PJS-570: Development & Conflict.” Nevertheless, we will grapple with a broad sample of relevant challenges to environmental, social, and economic sustainability – both theoretically and practically. In terms of theory, we will become acquainted with some basic concepts in environmental and natural resource economics, population biology, ecology, and urban planning. You will be asked not only to read and do (a few simple) mathematical problem sets, but to engage actively in debates on a regular basis. In terms of practice, you will be required to participate in a semester-long project of our (collective) design in support of the Linda Vista Community Garden at Bayside Community Center.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Please Note: This syllabus is a road map to get us started, not a final contract carved in stone! The instructor reserves the right to alter requirements and/or course content throughout the semester based on his assessment of student needs and attainment of learning objectives.

All required readings, and most of the recommended readings, will be uploaded to the course WebCT/Blackboard site. There you will also find folders labeled “Learning Tools” for many of the weeks, where I will post helpful diagrams, web links, and Powerpoint presentations made in class.

We will meet once per week. The structure of each session will differ depending on the material being presented and the preferences of the class. A typical session’s length will be broken into the following components:

- Assignment review (5%),
- Recommended reading presentations (~15%),
- Lecture and/or readings discussion (~15%),
- Student presentations (~15%),
- Presentations critiques (~15%),
- Activity (30%),
- Readings preview (5%).

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The following components will make up your final grade:

- **Class Participation.** Discussion-heavy classes depend for their effectiveness on the active engagement of all participants. That's you. Please come prepared to discuss the reading, to wrestle with the ideas out loud (< 80 db, please), and to use the richness of your own experience to gauge how convincing/useful the ideas are.

Particularly prominent in this class will be the use of Oxford-style debates in class.

- **Recommended Reading Presentation.** Each week's readings are divided into "required" and "recommended" readings. "Required" readings are required. "Recommended" readings are recommended, but probably aren't going to get read. For that reason, you will be asked to sign up for one recommended reading presentation over the course of the semester. You will have 10 minutes to present the basic argument, as well as its assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses. There will then be a 5 minute Q&A session.
- **Group Project.** Throughout the semester, you will work with a group on a hands-on project with the Linda Vista Community Garden at the Bayside Community Center.
- **Final Project Write-Up.** You will be asked to write a final paper proposal due about two weeks before the end of the semester. I will give you feedback to help you to craft and refine your idea, and you will then carry out the proposal (that is, write the paper). For students in the Peace Studies MA program, you may use the final paper as a springboard into your capstone project. They should be consistently cited.

Grades will be calculated using the weighting percentages below:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% Final Grade</i>
Class Debates	Throughout	20%
Recommended Reading Presentation No. 1	N/A	5%
Recommended Reading Presentation No. 2	N/A	5%
Project Concept Note	16 February	10%
Problem Set No. 1	23 February	5
Problem Set No. 2	1 March	5
Update No. 1	15 March	10%
Update No. 2	12 April	10%
Final Presentation/ Paper	10 May	30%

Timeline

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14																
Month	Jan	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	May	May																
Date	26	2	9	16	23	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10																
Module	Intro			Environmental Economics				Environmental Policy				Society, Local & Global																				
Assignment*	Introduction to the Course		Conservation & the State of Nature		Food and Where It Comes From		Markets and Market Failures		Climate Change & Environmental Governance		The Malthusian Trap and Ecological 'Overshoot'		Spring Holiday		Update No. 1		Update No. 2		Project Completion													
Subject	Introduction to the Course		Conservation & the State of Nature		Food and Where It Comes From		Markets and Market Failures		Climate Change & Environmental Governance		The Malthusian Trap and Ecological 'Overshoot'		Spring Holiday		Balancing Interests: Local, International, Ecological		Sustainable Energy		How Environmental Policy Happens		Easter Holiday		Large Dams: The Case of Narmada		Sustainable Urban Development		Capitalism, Consumerism, Employment & Globalization		Alternative Visions for a Sustainable Economy		Student Presentations	

* All assignment are placed under their respective due dates – NOT the dates they are assigned.

Weekly Readings

Part I:

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Required:

- United Nations (1992). The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Available at:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>

Recommended:

- United Nations Development Programme (2011). Sustainability & Equity: A Better Future for All (**Summary**). Human Development Report 2011.
http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/human_developmentreport2011.html
- Ashford, Nicholas A. and Ralph P. Hall (2011). "Section 0: Overview," "Section 1.4: A Conceptual Framework for Sustainable Development." In *Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development: Transforming the Industrial State*, pp. 1-15, 88-96.
- Pezzoli, Keith (1997). Sustainable Development: A Transdisciplinary Overview of the Literature. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 40(5): 549-574.
- Hanley, Nick, Jason F. Shogren and Ben White (1997). "Chapter 1: The Economy and the Environment: Two Parts of a Whole." In *Environmental Economics: In Theory and in Practice*, New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 1.

In Class:

- **Book:** Seuss, D. (1971). *The Lorax*. New York: Random House.

Week 2: Conservation & the State of Nature

Required:

- Wilson, Edward O. (1993) “Biophilia and the Conservation Ethic.” In *The Biophilia Hypothesis*, Kellert, Stephen R. and Edward O. Wilson, eds. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.
- Christian, David (2005). “Introduction: A Modern Creation Myth?” In *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 1-16.
- The Economist (2011). A Man-Made World: Science is Recognizing Humans as a Geological Force to Be Reckoned With. 26 May.
<http://www.economist.com/node/18741749>
- Weisman, Alan (2007). “Prelude: A Monkey Koan,” “A Lingering Scent of Eden,” “Unbuilding Our Home,” and “The City Without Us.” In *The World Without Us*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, pp. 1-38.

Recommended:

- Christian, David (2005). “Future” In *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 467-491.
- Friedman, Milton (2002[1962]). “The Role of Government in a Free Society.” In *Capitalism and Freedom*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 22-36.
- Shrader-Frechette, Kristin (2005). Flawed Attacks on Contemporary Human Rights: Laudan, Sunstein, and the Cost-Benefit State. *Human Rights Review*, October-December.

In Class:

- **Film:** Smith, Chris (2009). Collapse. Smith, Chris and K. Noble, Producers. Vitagraph Films.
- **Debate:** Does “nature” have intrinsic value and a right to be conserved, or is conservation subject to the cost-benefit calculus? (And whose costs and benefits do we count?)

Week 3: Food and Where It Comes From

Required:

- Pollan, Michael (2001). “Desire: Control Plant: The Potato.” In *The Botany of Desire: A Plant’s-Eye View of the World*. New York: Random House.
- Winne, Mark (2010). “The Industrial Food System: Ministry of Plenty or Department of Destruction?” In *Food Rebels, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cookin’ Mamas: Fighting Back in an Age of Industrial Agriculture*. Boston: Beacon Press.

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Required:

- Levenstein, Harvey A. (1999). "The Perils of Abundance: Food, Health, and Morality in American History." In *Food: A Culinary History*. Flandrin, Jean-Louis and Massimo Montanari, Sonnenfeld. Albert, trans. New York: Penguin Press.

In Class:

- **Film:** Kenner, Robert (2009). "Food, Inc."
- **Guest lecture:** Josh Robinson from Eden on Earth Ecological Landscaping.

Week 4: Markets and Market Failures

Required:

- Hanley, Nick, Jason F. Shogren and Ben White (1997). "Chapter 2: Market Failure." In *Environmental Economics: In Theory and in Practice*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hardin, Garrett (1968). The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162: 1243-1248.
- Coase, Ronald (1960). The Problem of Social Cost. *Journal of Law and Economics* 3(1): 1-44.

Recommended:

- Ellickson, R.C. (1993). Property in Land. *Yale Law Journal* 102: 1322-1335, 1341-1344.

Week 5: Climate Change & Environmental Governance

Required:

- The Economist (2011). The Sad Road from Kyoto to Durban. 3 December. <http://www.economist.com/node/21541028>
- Esty, Daniel C. (2008). Rethinking Global Environmental Governance to Deal with Climate Change: The Multiple Logics of Global Collective Action. *The American Economic Review* 98(2): 116-121.

Recommended:

- **Skim:** National Research Council (2010). *Limiting the Magnitude of Future Climate Change*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.
- **Skim:** National Research Council (2010). *Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

In Class:

- **HW Review:** Problem Set 1
- **Debate:** Pollution taxes versus cap-and-trade.

Week 6: The Malthusian Trap and Ecological ‘Overshoot’

Required:

- Ashford, Nicholas A. and Ralph P. Hall (2011). “Section 1.3: Living beyond Our Ecological Means: The Technology Debate.” In *Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development: Transforming the Industrial State*.
- Diamond, Jared (2004). “Prologue: A Tale of Two Farms” and “Chapter 5: The Maya Collapses.” In *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. New York: Viking Press.
- Meadows, Donella H., Jorgen Randers and Dennis L. Meadows (2004). *Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update*. Chelsea Green. Ch. 1-2.
- The Economist (2011). Now We Are Seven Billion. 22 October.
<http://www.economist.com/node/21533409>

Recommended:

- Ehrlich, Paul (1968). *The Population Bomb*. New York: Ballentine Books.
- Malthus, Thomas (1826 [1798]). An Essay on the Principle of Population. Book I, Chapter 1.
<http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPlong1.html#Chapter%20I>
- Rostow, W.W. (1990 [1960]). *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tietenberg, Tom (1992). *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*. New York: Harper Collins.
<http://dieoff.org/page25.htm>
- Van Dieren, Wouter ed. (1995). Taking Nature into Account: A Report to the Club of Rome. Springer-Verlag.
<http://dieoff.org/page25.htm>

In Class:

- **HW Review:** Problem Set 2
- **Debate:** Julian Simon versus Paul Ehrlich revisited.
- **Film:** Gardner, D. (2011). GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth.

Week 7: Balancing Interests: Local, International, Ecological

Required:

- **Skim:** Bonner, Raymond (1994). At the Hand of Man: Peril and Hope for Africa’s Wildlife. New York: Vintage Books, Ch 2 (pp. 39-159).

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- League Against Cruel Sports (2004). *The Myth of Trophy Hunting as Conservation*. Report Submitted to the Environment Minister Elliot Morley MP.

[http://www.animalrightsafrika.org/Archive/Hunting/The %20Myth of Trophy Hunting as Conservation.pdf](http://www.animalrightsafrika.org/Archive/Hunting/The%20Myth%20of%20Trophy%20Hunting%20as%20Conservation.pdf)

- The Economist (2010). Horns, Claws and the Bottom Line. 2 September.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16941705>

In Class:

- **Debate:** What does more good for wildlife: legal hunting or outright bans?

Week 8: Sustainable Energy

Required:

- MacKay, David J.C. (2009). “1: Motivations,” “2: The Balance Sheet,” “18: Can We Live On Renewables?” and “19: Every BIG Helps.” In *Sustainable Energy – Without the Hot Air*. Cambridge: UIT. Available:

<http://www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/sustainable/book/tex/sewtha.pdf>

In Class:

- **Debate:** Europe is looking to divest of nuclear reactors just as America is looking more closely at investing in it. Is a fossil fuel-less world possible without nuclear energy? (And is nuclear energy really “sustainable?”)

Week 9: How Environmental Policy Happens

Required:

- Layzer, Judith A. (2005). “Introduction: Defining Problems in U.S. Environmental Politics.” In *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy*, 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, pp. 1-23.
- Joshi, Anuradha (2000). “Chapter 1: The Origins of Joint Forest Policy Reform.” In *Roots of Change: Front Line Workers and Forest Policy Reform in West Bengal*.

Recommended:

- Anguelovski, Isabelle (2008). “Understanding the Dynamics of Community Engagement of Corporations in Communities: The Iterative Relationship Between Dialogue Processes and Local Protest at the Tintaya Copper Mine in Peru.” Manuscript. Cambridge, MA: MIT.

Week 10: Large Dams: The Case of Narmada

Required:

- Roy, Arundhati (1999). “The Greater Common Good.”
<http://www.narmada.org/gcg/gcg.html>.
- Omvedt, Gail (1999). “Open Letter to Arundhati Roy.”

<http://www.narmada.org/debates/gail/gail.open.letter.html>

- Rajagopal, Balakrishnan (2004). "Limits of Law in Counter-Hegemonic Globalization: The Indian Supreme Court and the Narmada Valley Struggle." Working Paper, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance. New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University.

<http://www.jnu.ac.in/csrg/workingpaper/csrg%20wp%2004-04%20balakrishnan%20rajgopal.pdf>

- World Commission on Dams (2000). "People and Large Dams: Social Performance." In *Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making*. London: Earthscan Publications, pp. 97-129 (32 pp.). Available at:

http://hqweb.unep.org/dams/WCD/report/WCD_DAMS%20report.pdf

In class:

- **Debate:** Narmada, pro and con
- **Film:** "Drowned Out"

Week 11: Sustainable Urban Development

Required:

- Leinberger, Christopher B. (2007). "Consequences of Drivable Su-urban Growth" and "Achieving the Next American Dream: Levelling the Playing Field and Implementing Walkable Urbanism." *The Option of Urbanism: Investing in the New American Dream*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.
- Calthorpe, Peter (2010). "Urbanism and Climate Change" and "Toward a Green Urban Future." *Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.
- Brennan-Galvin, Ellen (2002). "In Search of Sustainable Cities." In Tulchin, Joseph S., Diana H. Varat and Blair A Ruble, *Democratic Governance and Urban Sustainability*, Comparative Urban Studies Project, Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars:

http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNACT340.pdf

- Listen: RadioLab, "Cities," Season 8, Episode 4:

<http://www.radiolab.org/2010/oct/08/>

Recommended:

- Richard Florida (2005). The World Is Spiky. *The Atlantic Monthly* (October): 48-51.
- Krugman, Paul (1998). Space: The Final Frontier. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 12(2): 161-17

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- Duany, Andres, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk and Jeff Speck (2001). “The Physical Creation of Society” and “The American Transportation Mess.” In *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. New York: North Point Press, pp. 59-84, 85-98.
- Kotkin, Joel (2000). *The New Geography: How the Digital Revolution is Reshaping the American Landscape*. New York: Random House.
- Kunstler, James Howard (2008). *World Made by Hand: A Novel*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.

In Class:

- **Debate:** Urban walkability is the most ecologically sound human settlement pattern.

Week 12: Capitalism, Consumerism, Employment & Globalization

Required:

- Veblen, Thorstein (1933). “Introductory.” In *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. New York: The Modern Library, pp. 1-22.
- Santa Barbara, Jack, Fred Dubee and Johan Galtung (2009). *Peace Business: Human and Nature above Markets and Capital*. Transcend University Press, 11-40
- Schor, Juliet (2010). “Chapter 5: The Economics of Plenitude”. In *Plenitude: The Economics of True Wealth*.
- Ashford, Nicholas A. and Ralph P. Hall (2011). Sections 1.5-1.9. In *Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development: Transforming the Industrial State*, pp. 97-105.

Recommended:

- Rodrik, Dani (2011). “The Political Trilemma of the World Economy.” *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Week 13: Alternative Visions for a Sustainable Economy

Required:

- Daly, Herman E. (1991). *A Steady-State Economy*. London: Sustainable Development Commission.
http://steadystaterevolution.org/files/pdf/Daly_UK_Paper.pdf
- Korten, David (1996). *Sustainable Development: Conventional Versus Emergent Alternative Wisdom*. New York: The People Centered Development Forum.
<http://dieoff.org/page86.htm>
- Singer, Peter (2011). Can We Increase Gross Domestic Happiness? Project Syndicate, 13 September.

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<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/singer78/English>

- Sachs, Jeffrey D. (2011). The Economics of Happiness. Project Syndicate, 29 August.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/sachs181/English>

Week 14: Student Presentations