

OFFERED ANNUALLY BEGINNING SPRING 2018!

ECON 2310: The Economics of Sustainability

Background and Description:

Sustainability is defined as producing and consuming in ways that allow future generations the possibility of a standard of living at least equal to ours. That includes many aspects of quality of life in society, the environment, and the economy as well as income. We will learn **basic concepts from traditional, ecological and pluralist economics that inform sustainability in the environment, economy and society**. Students will then apply these principles to challenges such as broadening economic opportunity and climate change amid rising income and wealth inequality and the pressures of globalization.

This new general education course requires sophomore standing but has no economics prerequisites. It is certified as **'sustainability related', 'writing intensive' and an 'explore' course in the Compass Curriculum**. This makes it a great recommendation for students exploring their interest in sustainability. It also fills the Economics requirement of the **Sustainable Development minor**.

Students complete the course with a better understanding of...

1. Basic economic principles that explain where markets work and where they don't
2. Linkages between the economy/environment/society and affects on performance
3. The roles of a) planetary boundaries b) social cohesion and c) human skills in sustainable development
4. Policy options for economic/environmental/social sustainability, consequences of each, and barriers to their implementation
5. Connections between economics and other disciplines/ interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research
6. Core ethical principles and responsible methods in practicing economics and as economic actors

Assignments include response papers on readings and films and a group competition in carbon reduction options and resulting economic, environmental and social impacts.

Required Texts:

1. *Local Economic Development in the 21st Century: Quality of Life and Sustainability*, D. T. Greenwood and R. P. F. Holt 2015
 2. *Building the New American Economy: Smart, Fair, and Sustainable*, Jeffrey Sachs 2017
 3. United Nations Sustainable Development Report 2017
- Additional videos, readings, and handouts will be available online.

This class will meet MW 1:40-2:55 in Spring 2018.

**Contact Professor Daphne Greenwood, Academic Office Bldg 205,
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