

+CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM:	SPRING 2015	COURSE NO:	GEOG 360
INSTRUCTOR:	TBA	COURSE NAME:	THE GEOGRAPHY OF A SUSTAINABLE WORLD
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100 level or higher coursework

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course assesses the environmental challenges that human civilization faces and sets out possible courses for action, based on ideas, technology, and systems that are already being put in place around the world. Widespread and deep change is essential to meet looming problems such as ecosystem destruction, species extinction, runaway climate change, and food security. Human 'operating systems' based on hyper-consumption, the perception of unlimited resources, and an over-reliance on fossil fuels must make way for holistic alternatives that recognize the interconnected natural systems that support life on Earth. This course will show that transition to a sustainable operating system for humankind is not only possible, but already underway.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify causes of our current ecologic crisis
- Outline the local and global environmental consequences of our current social, economic, and technological systems
- Describe alternative social, economic and technological systems that focus on environmental sustainability
- Analyze the potential of alternative systems to deliver sustainable outcomes, especially in a local context

COURSE WEBSITE:

<https://moodle.capilanou.ca>

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Barrera, Magda, and Jody Heymann (eds.) Ensuring a Sustainable Future: Making progress on environment and equity. Oxford University Press, 2013.
2. GEOG 360 Course Readings – available online / or posted on Moodle.

COURSE CONTENT:

Note: The following list is a general guide to the topics to be covered each week. A detailed outline, complete with assigned readings and assignment due dates, can be found on the course website.

- Wk 1** **The sustainable vision:** Where we are, and where we can be.
Introduction to the course and overview of the readings and assignments
- Wks 2 – 5** **Breaking fossil fuel dependency**
Renewable energy systems
Building efficient transportation systems
Food security
- Wks 6 – 8** **Sustainable communities**
Urban planning – Confronting current & future challenges
Resilient communities – The Transition Town movement
Sustainable by design – LEED & other building certification programs
- Wks 9 – 11** **Creating the infrastructure for change**
The economics of sustainability
The ideology of sustainability / building non-partisan consensus
- Wks 12-13** **Repairing the damage**
Rewilding and ecological restoration
Re-booting civilization: Transformational change
- Wks 14 – 15** Final Exam Period

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Topic Review/Annotated bibliography	15%
Oral presentation (group)	15%
Research paper	30%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

ASSIGNMENTS: Note: Assignment details and due dates can be found on the course website.

Topic Review: Summary (500 words) and annotated bibliography on an assigned topic.

Oral Presentation: Based on the topic review; group presentation/seminar of approximately 30 minutes that discusses key themes

Research Paper: Students will choose a topic from a range of options related to the course readings. The paper will entail both primary and secondary research, and focus (in part) on a local issue.

Final Exam: Cumulative assessment from beginning of term.

Participation: Both effort and quality of participation will determine the student participation grade. Students are expected to participate in weekly online discussion forums, and attend 4th hour lectures, films, and events (ie. through EarthWorks.) A wide range of options will allow students a choice of activities and time slots.

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Office Hours: To be announced in the first class. Please note that email and Moodle messages will be read and answered during these times.

Attendance: Regular attendance is strongly recommended. When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence, including announcements, assigned readings and handouts.

Late Assignments: Marks will be deducted for lateness (10% reduction per day). Late assignments must be delivered in class or to the instructor's office -- no email submissions will be accepted.

Missed Exams: Students will be allowed to make up exams and quizzes only under the following conditions: if a doctor's certificate of illness is provided; if suitable documentation is provided for other instances (i.e. death of a close family member); if **prior** approval of the instructor has been obtained.

Incomplete Grades: On rare occasions, a student may be in a situation that warrants the granting of an incomplete grade. Students seeking this grade should submit a written request as soon as the need becomes apparent.

English Usage: University-level writing skills are required for all assignments. Spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors will result in a reduced grade and, if they are excessive, may result in a refusal to grade the paper. See the English Writing Centre for help.

Electronic Devices: Laptops may be used only for course purposes in class, and cell phones must be turned off. No personal electronic devices (cell phones, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor.

Emergency Procedures: Please familiarise yourself with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of your classroom.