Introduction and Purposes
Sustainability has become perhaps the most pressing scientific and social challenge of our time. Typically defined as utilizing natural resources so as to create a high quality of life for future as well as current generations, the idea of sustainability has been strongly contested since its introduction in the 1980s. Nonetheless, global climate change, habitat loss and species endangerment, desertification and deforestation, and the effects of rapid urbanization have fueled political debates over sustainability policies in both the industrialized and industrializing worlds.

In this course, you will gain an understanding of how key global challenges, such as population growth and consumption, are creating a sense of urgency in terms of developing and promoting theories, methods, and practices that foster sustainability in our society. Through a concentrated study of this emerging sphere we call sustainability, you will learn to articulate the relationships among observed phenomena, the principles and policies those observations can inform, particularly how best to integrate technology, education, and policy to best meet identified goals. Finally, you will gain an appreciation for why interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability are often necessary and useful.

The course is divided into four interdependent sections or modules: 1. Concepts and Concepts for Sustainability; 2. Challenges of a Planet; 3. Global Economy and the Search for Solutions; and 4. Social Activism and Change Agents. In addition to the two weekly lectures, which students are expected to attend, the course has an experiential component consisting of field trips and in-class exercises.

Learning Objectives
At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Connect sustainability concepts and technology to real-world challenges, including individual/social needs and political debates;
2. Evaluate scientific and popular claims about sustainability;
3. Discuss pathways toward a more sustainability society and their significance to diverse audiences;
4. Learn how to write and read more effectively, both essential skills for your future.
Course Reading
Required Textbook: Paul Robbins, John Hinz, and Sarah A. Moore. 2010. *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction*. First Edition. London: Blackwell. This book has been stocked at local bookstores and you can buy it via the internet. The other required readings are posted on Ctools. Please note that only some chapters from the textbook are required. Also, the reading list may change slightly as the semester progresses. I will provide ample notice of these minor changes in class and a revised syllabus will be posted electronically on Ctools. Readings have been carefully selected, with particular attention to the reading load, which varies based on the topics, but averages less than fifty pages per week. In terms of how to read strategically, you might find this weblink useful: [http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/tburke1/reading.html](http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/tburke1/reading.html).

Grading
Your course grade will be based on a mid-term exam, a final exam, two short essay papers, and class participation and attendance. Please check the course schedule on Ctools for key deadlines. The grading breakdown is as follows:
- Midterm Examination: 30%
- Final Examination (non-cumulative): 30%
- Two essay papers (5 pages each): 24%
- Class participation and attendance: 16%

Essay Papers
You are required to write two short essays. These essays should be a minimum of five pages in length (double spaced, 1” margins, and 12 pt Times New Roman font). All ideas, terms, and quotes that are not your own need to be properly cited in your essay. You may choose a referencing style (e.g. author, date; footnotes; endnotes) and you will need to include a bibliography at the end of your essay. This bibliography does not count towards your five-page length requirement. Your essays will be evaluated based on the clarity and completeness of your answer, as well as on spelling, grammar, and referencing. These essays will be based largely on the course reading. The essay assignments will be distributed in class and posted on Ctools at least two weeks prior to their due date. The due dates for the essays are as follows: Essay #1, February 4th; Essay #2, April 3rd. These essays are due by the beginning of class on these days. You will turn in your essays via Ctools. Please be sure to answer the essay question(s) completely and be sure to proofread your essays carefully before submitting them.

Exams
There is an in-class mid-term exam on February 27th. This exam covers the first half of the course, while the final exam covers material from second half. In accordance with the UM exam schedule, the final exam will be held on Thursday, April 25th, 4-6 pm. There will not be any alternative dates for these exams. So as you make travel plans, please keep these dates in mind.
Plagiarism: Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own. This includes using someone else’s assignment as your own as well as failing to properly cite the sources of ideas or words. We will report students who plagiarize to the Academic Judiciary Board. Plagiarizing can also result in getting a zero on the assignment and failing the course. For information on citing sources, check the *Chicago Manual of Style* or contact me during office hours. Please see the following link for more information on plagiarism: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/undergraduate/advising/plagNote.asp

Writing Help: One of the objectives of this course is to develop your writing skills. You may want to contact the Sweetland Writing Center (1139 Angell Hall, 764-0429, http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/) to get feedback on drafts of your work, as well as general guidance on how to improve your writing.

Late Work: Please turn in all assignments on time. Late assignments will be marked down one letter grade per day late, beginning as soon as the assignment is due. If you have extenuating circumstances, then please contact Jenny Cooper at least one week in advance of the assignment due date.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Please contact the GSI during the first week of class so that your needs can be accommodated. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively; protect your legal rights by contacting the GSI before any graded assignments are turned in. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (G-664 Haven Hall, 505 South State St.: 734-763-3000, http://ssd.umich.edu).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Jan</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
<td>No reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Jan</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Sustainability: A Brief History</td>
<td>Kates et al. (2005)</td>
<td>Why do societies collapse?</td>
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<td>Writing Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Jan</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>A Brief Introduction to Environmental Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 5 in Robbins et al. (2010)</td>
<td>Hog Farming</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Jan</td>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Key Thinkers in Environmental Ethics / Section 1 Review</td>
<td>Devall &amp; Sessions (1985) Chapter 5 in Robbins et al. (2010)</td>
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**SECTION 1: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**SECTION 2: CHALLENGES OF A PLANET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 Jan</td>
<td>#6</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Introduction / Population and Scarcity</td>
<td>Chapter 2 in Robbins et al. (2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Feb</td>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Carrying Capacity and Biodiversity Loss</td>
<td>Living Planet Report (2012); Chapter 1 in Marsh and Grossa (2004)</td>
<td>Rabbits Grass Weeds</td>
<td>Essay #1 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Feb</td>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>Chapter 9 (pp. 138-144) in Robbins et al. (2010); McKibben (2012)</td>
<td>Carbon Footprint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>#11</td>
<td>Consumption and IPAT</td>
<td>Maniates (2002); Kates (2000)</td>
<td>The Story of Stuff</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>#12</td>
<td>Institutions and “The “Commons”</td>
<td>Chapter 4 in Robbins et al. (2010); Hardin (1968)</td>
<td>Tragedy of Commons Game;</td>
<td>Essay #1 returned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>#13</td>
<td>Summary 2 Review</td>
<td>No reading</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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## SECTION 3: ECONOMY AND THE SEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Introduction/Markets and Commodities</td>
<td>Chapter 3 in Robbins et al. (2010)</td>
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<td><strong>CRLT midterm assessment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Mar</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Critique of Capitalism: Political Economy 1</td>
<td>Chapter 7 in Robbins et al. (2007)</td>
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<td><strong>Review midterm exams</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Critique of Capitalism: Political Economy 2</td>
<td>Chapter 7 in Robbins et al. (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Market-based Approaches to Environmental Problems; Energy, Carbon Dioxide, and Wedges</td>
<td>Chapter 9 (pp. 145-159) in Robbins et al. (2010); Socolow, Hotinski et al. (2004), Pacala and Socolow (2004)</td>
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<td><strong>Wedge Game</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Negotiating Ecosystem Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Industrial Ecology and Greening of Production</td>
<td>Frosch et al. (1992), Lovins (2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Mar</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>“Green” Consumerism: Story of Wood / Section 3 Summary</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading/Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>#23</td>
<td>Introduction/Activism and Change Agents</td>
<td>Hawken (2007)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Browse AA web pages: <a href="http://www.a2gov.org/green">http://www.a2gov.org/green</a>; <a href="http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability">http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability</a></td>
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<td>10 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Apr</td>
<td>#28</td>
<td>Section 4 Summary/UM courses and Future Careers in Sustainability</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Apr</td>
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Reading List

You are required to purchase the primary course textbook, *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction*. You may also want to purchase *Blessed Unrest*, as we will read a significant portion of it. The other required readings are on Ctools.

January 9
Required Reading

No Reading.

January 14
Required Reading


January 16
Required Reading


January 21
Required Reading


January 23
Required Reading


January 28
Required Reading


January 30
Required Reading


February 4
Required Reading


February 6
Required Reading

To Be Determined.

February 11
Required Reading


February 13
Required Reading


February 18
Required Reading


February 20
Required Reading

No Reading.

February 25
Required Reading


February 27
Required Reading

No Reading.

March 11
Required Reading


March 13
Required Reading

March 18
Required Reading


March 20
Required Reading


March 25
Required Reading


March 27
Required Reading

To Be Determined.

April 1
Required Reading


April 3
Required Reading

Browse Ann Arbor City web page: http://www.a2gov.org/green
Browse Ann Arbor City web page:  http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability


**April 8**
Required Reading

Cortese 2011
http://sustainability.umich.edu/report/2013/

**April 10**
*No class*

**April 15**
Required Reading

http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6336/


**April 17**
Required Reading


Article and Video from *The University Record*:
http://record.umich.edu/articles/growing-community-campus-farm-engages-learning

**April 22**
Required Reading

No required reading.