



**Course Number:** Sustainability Studies (SUST) 501

**Course Name:** Seminar: The Theory and Practice of Sustainability

**Classroom:** [REDACTED]

**Instructor:** Prof. Allen Habib

- Email: [anhabib@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anhabib@ucalgary.ca) Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email
- Phone: (403) 220-6461
- Office Hours and Location: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30am-12:30pm.
- Instructor Email Policy: Please communicate via email for course related issues.

**Class Dates:** Thursdays – 4:00-6:45 pm

**Course Description:**

- This course is an upper-level seminar on sustainability theory in different domains and traditions. We survey sustainability theory's intersection with science, justice, morality and law, using feminist theory, indigenous ways of knowing, theories of change and other approaches.
- Academic Calendar description: Emphasizes reflection and integration through experiential learning experiences from research projects and applied problem solving. Students will apply the lessons learned through reflective writing, presentations, case studies, and career goals development. Link: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/sustainability-studies-sust.html#42746>
- 3 units; (3S-0)

**Requisites:** See [Section 3.3.5](#) of the Academic Calendar for more information regarding School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape courses.

- Prerequisite(s): Sustainability Studies 403 and enrolment in the embedded Certificate in Sustainability Studies.

## Course Delivery:

- In-person Delivery

## Course Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1. Discuss different theoretical traditions, their views and problems
- 2. Analyze complex source material in various media
- 3. Synthesize material from different theoretical traditions
- 4. Present and engage with others to share their knowledge and ideas
- 5. Reflect closely on their own views and reasoning on sustainability

## Learning Resources:

Required readings, textbooks and learning materials:

- Students will be provided with a list of texts to read – with links to the UC library collection
- Technology requirements:

Students must have access to some computing and network resources, including:

- A computer able to run contemporary software (e.g. Zoom, Adobe) and access to the internet
- A UC ID to access the library databases
- A working UC e-mail address and access to a mail client (e.g. Outlook)

## Additional Classroom Conduct and Related Information:

- **Code of Conduct:** The SAPL Studio spaces and other SAPL/University-provided facilities and equipment are governed by the [University's Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. For more information, please refer to [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#), including the following categories: 1. Protection of Individuals; 2. Protection of Property; 3. Protection of University Functions, Activities and Services; 4. False Information and Identification; 5. Possession or Use of Dangerous Objects, Drugs or Alcohol; 6. Aiding in the Commission of an Offence; 7. Contravention of Other Laws and University Policies; and 8. Failure to Comply with a Sanction.

## Assessment Components:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the Academic Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Assessment Components				
Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome	Due Dates
Instructor graded	Group Presentation	35%	2 & 4	Groups and topics due Feb 15 Presentations on March 28 or April 4
Instructor graded	5 Short papers	25%	1 & 2	Between Jan 18 and March 21
Instructor graded	Research Paper	35%	1 & 3 & 4	Topic and reading list due Feb 15 Paper due March 28
Student graded	Learning Summaries	5%	5	April 4

Assessment and Evaluation Information
<p><b>Assessment components</b></p> <p>Short papers – 2-3 page (500-750 words) short summaries of the reading for a class – these papers will be used to lead discussions in class. Students must complete five papers over the sessions of the course. No short papers during the presentation days, March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Group Presentations – Students must organise into working group of 2-4 members. Groups will present 15-20 minute presentations of their research on a topic and paradigm that we cover in class. Power point or similar sorts of visuals are required, as well as a brief (2-3 page) write-up of the presentation. Topics for the presentations will be suggested in the first month of classes, and students must have a group and a topic by the break (Feb 15). The presentations will occur in the final two classes – on March 28 and April 4. Groups will be expected to provide the class with readings to aid with the understanding of their work at least one week in advance (March 21 or March 28)</p> <p>Research Paper – A 10-15 page (2500-3500 words) research paper focused on one of the research paradigms for sustainability we examine in class. The papers are expected to develop during the research for the group presentations, but take the issue further and in</p>

more detail. Like the presentations, students must have a topic and a reading list for the paper by the break (Feb 15)

Learning Summaries – Students must prepare a brief (3-5 page) summary of what they learned in the class, along with some reflection on it, and some critique. These are graded by the student's peers. The summaries are due on the final class day April 4

### **Attendance and Participation Expectations**

This is a graduate-style seminar, with fewer than 20 students. Seminar style means that course texts and topics are explored in an interactive, active, collaborative, conversational, engaging, and participatory manner. It requires students to engage in this way with new ideas, or rethink old ideas and assumptions from previous classes in new ways, embracing and struggling with the nuance, complexity, and even the ambiguity that is found. Students are expected to read the material in advance and participate in discussions and activities during class.

### **Guidelines for Submitting Assignments**

Assignments will be submitted through D2L.

### **Final Examinations**

No final examination.

### **Expectations for Writing**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be handled on a case by case basis, and may be subject to a penalty.

### **Criteria that must be met to pass**

Students must complete all elements of the course to pass the class.

### Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade):

As per [Section 3.5.1](#) of the Academic Calendar, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School.

### Grading Scale:

Based on [Section F.1.1](#) of the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Good performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	Approaching satisfactory performance. <b>Minimum grade requirement for prerequisite courses.</b>
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.
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## Topic Areas and Detailed Class Schedule:

Class Schedule		
Topics for the weeks are provisional and may change. Please refer to the most up to date version of the syllabus.		
Date	Topic	Material
Jan 11	Introduction to the course	-
Jan 18	Sustainability and Justice	Michael Jacobs – Sustainable Development as a Contested Concept/ Brian Barry – Sustainability and Intergenerational Justice in Fairness and Futurity, Andrew Dobson, ed.
Jan 25	Just Breathe	Performance/Multi Media -
Feb 1	Sustainability and the Commons	Hardin, Garrett (1968). The Tragedy of the Commons. Science, 162(3859), 1243–1248.  Ostrom, E., Burger, J., Field, C. B., Norgaard, R. B., & Policansky, D. (1999). Revisiting the commons: local lessons, global challenges. science, 284(5412), 278-282.  de la Cadena, M. (2015) “Uncommoning nature” in e-flux August 2015. <a href="http://supercommunity.e-flux.com/texts/uncommoning-nature/">http://supercommunity.e-flux.com/texts/uncommoning-nature/</a>
Feb 8	Braiding Sweetgrass	Kimmerer, R. (2013). Braiding sweetgrass: Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants. Milkweed editions.  Sections: Preface, Skywoman Falling, The Three Sisters, In the Footsteps of Nanabozho: Becoming Indigenous to Place  Twitter thread from Dr Zoe Todd: <a href="https://twitter.com/ZoeSTodd/status/1356658436872626176">https://twitter.com/ZoeSTodd/status/1356658436872626176</a>  The Spouter-Inn; or, A Conversation with Great Books podcast episode on Braiding Sweetgrass: <a href="https://www.megaphonic.fm/spouter/43">https://www.megaphonic.fm/spouter/43</a>
Feb 15	Morality and the Future	Derek Parfit – Reasons and Person, Section IV – Future Generations

Feb 22	Term break	
Feb 29	Power and sustainability	<p>Partzsch, L. (2017). 'Power with' and 'power to' in environmental politics and the transition to sustainability. <i>Environmental Politics</i>, 26(2), 193-211.</p> <p>Avelino, F. (2017). Power in sustainability transitions: Analysing power and (dis) empowerment in transformative change towards sustainability. <i>Environmental Policy and Governance</i>, 27(6), 505-520.</p> <p>Fritz, L., &amp; Meinherz, F. (2020). The politics of participatory sustainability assessments: An analysis of power (pp. 87-122). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>
Mar 7	Theorising change: the theory	<p>Belcher, B., Claus, R., Davel, R., Jones, S., &amp; Ramirez, L. (2019). <i>Research Theory of Change: A Practical Tool for Planning and Evaluating Change-oriented Research</i>. Research Effectiveness.</p> <p>Dhillon, L., &amp; Vaca, S. (2018). Refining theories of change. <i>Evaluation</i>, 14(30).</p> <p>Oberlack, C., Breu, T., Giger, M., Harari, N., Herweg, K., Mathez-Stiefel, S. L., ... &amp; Tribaldos, T. (2019). Theories of change in sustainability science: understanding how change happens. <i>GAIA-Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society</i>, 28(2), 106-111.</p>
Mar 14	Leverage points	<p>Meadows, D. (1999). Leverage points. <i>Places to Intervene in a System</i>, 19.</p> <p>Fischer, J., &amp; Riechers, M. (2019). A leverage points perspective on sustainability. <i>People and Nature</i>, 1(1), 115-120.</p>
Mar 21	Ecofeminism	TBD
Mar 28	Group presentations	Chosen by presenters
Apr 4	Group presentations	Chosen by presenters

## **University of Calgary Policies and Supports:**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES AND PROCEDURES**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus>

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

[Student Accessibility Services](#) will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures please visit:

- Student Academic Misconduct Policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>
- Student Academic Misconduct Procedure: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.



## **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

## **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

## **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual and/or gender-based violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual/gender-based violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual/gender-based violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>.

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE**

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk