

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **HMG4980.001 Applied Sustainability for a Changing World (Experimental Course – spring 2019)**

Class Schedule: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM -11:20 AM (Physical Education Building 216)

Instructor: Eliecer Vargas, PhD, Chilton 359 M Chilton Hall

Email: eliecer.vargasortega@unt.edu; Phone: (940) 369-7680

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 PM-3:00 PM or by appointment

Student Assistant: Victoria Baghaei (Email: victoriabaghaei@my.unt.edu)

#### ***I. Description***

**HMG4 4980 Applied Sustainability for a Changing World.** 3 hours.

Challenges faced when implementing sustainability in different industries, scales and country contexts are examined. The foundation and principles of sustainability hold the key to understanding and appreciating the complexity of the world we live in. Course offers perspectives and case studies from around the world. Applied sustainability practices for your personal life, the operation of a successful business, or for seekers of global solutions are featured.

#### ***II. Expected Outcomes***

- Have not only a textbook understanding of sustainability, but having seen, heard, and experienced successful examples of sustainability in practice, you should feel confident in finding ways to work towards improving resilience.
- Possess an expanded knowledge base after being exposed to a variety of subjects including; biology, economics, tourism, agriculture and sociology.
- Interpret life differently, with a holistic sense of the world.
- Be able to analyze systems strategically, finding interactions through linkages, as well as opportunities to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Behave consciously, knowing how your choices affect communities, economies, and ecosystems around the world.

### **III. Recommended Textbook**

Wheeler, B., Wheeler, G., & Church, W. (2005). *It's all connected: A comprehensive guide to global issues and sustainable solutions*.

Elliott, Jennifer A. (2013). *An introduction to Sustainable Development*. Fourth Edition. Routledge Perspectives on Development. 360 p.p.

Ukaga, O., Maser, C. and Reichenback, M. (2010). *Sustainable Development: principles, Frameworks, and Case Studies*. CRC Press.

**Note\*:** Additional readings and handouts will be provided on Canvas (Make sure to visit Canvas regularly to get updates on the course materials)

**NOTE:** This is not an on-line class. Some materials and grades will be available on-line to assist you. This is a regular lecture/discussion in-class format class! The classroom is the main forum for all activities, announcements, changes to the syllabus, exam dates etc. If you miss a class, you might miss such important announcements. Please be sure to be in touch with some of your classmates to catch up on missed assignments and announcements.

### **IV. Pre-requisites:**

None

### **V. Course Outline:**

- **Introduction**, (1) Population Trends and Ecological Footprints, (2) What is Sustainability? (3) Understanding Sustainability and Resources
- **The Science of Sustainability**, (1) Complexity vs. Linearity, (2) Systems Thinking, (3) Dynamic vs. Static Systems
- **Food webs & Ecosystems**, (1) Terrestrial, Freshwater, and Marine Ecosystems, (2) Biodiversity Status and Trends
- **Global Climate Change**, (1) Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (2) Dealing with Change: Adaptation & Mitigation Strategies
- **Global Energy Production & Use**, (1) Sustainable Energy: Possibilities & Limits, (2) The Future, Roles of Technology and Markets
- **Food and Water Resources**, (1) Extraction & Distribution, (2) Agri-business, (3) Consumer Lifestyles
- **Sustainable Livelihoods**, (1) Meeting Essential Human Needs, (2) sustainable vs economic development, (3) Consumerism & the Media, (4) Economy, Inequality, and Poverty
- **Environmental Policy & local action**, (1) Demand-Side Tools including Certifications, (2) Supply-Side Tools including Protected Areas (3) Global Governance and Sustainability

## **VI. Instructional Methods:**

Because sustainability is an emerging and multi-disciplinary field, traditional textbooks are best utilized as sources of topical information and as reference material. To provide more relevant and timely illustrations of various aspects of sustainability, you will be provided with articles, video clips, and other forms of media via the course **Canvas**. These materials will comprise the course reading list. The application of concepts and strategies will be accomplished by implementing group projects where a good sustainable practice will be put in place, requiring a report on lessons learned, to be submitted by end of semester.

## **VII. Performance Evaluation:**

Class Participation 10%	100 points
Report on lessons learned 50%	500 points
Projects and Reading Assignments 20%	200 points
Final 20%	200 points

## **VIII. Classroom Expectations**

- Arrive on time to class. If you miss an assignment collection or an in-class activity due to an unexcused absence, you will not receive credit for that particular assignment.
- Arrive prepared to participate in the discussion session. Do not sleep, read newspapers, books, magazines, or work on other assignments during class time.
- Refrain from using your cell phone in the classroom.
- Be respectful of your classmate's opinions and contributions to classroom discussions. Inevitably, others will have different views than you on a certain topic. These dialogues should encourage each of us to think about topics from a new perspective, and will contribute to a lively discussion.

Honest and ethical conduct is both a required academic and professional behavior. Students who are found cheating, plagiarizing, or demonstrating poor ethical decision making will be subject to the full range of academic penalties presented in the Student Code of Conduct.

## **College of Merchandising, Hospitality & Tourism**

### **Syllabus Statements**

**Spring, 2019**

#### **Have you met with your advisor?**

- **ALL** students are expected to meet with their Academic Advisor **each semester** to update your degree plan and to stay on track for a timely graduation.

#### **Do you want to graduate on time?**

- Advisors help you sequence courses correctly for an “on time” graduation. Ultimately, it is a student’s responsibility to ensure they have met all prerequisites before enrolling in a class.
- A prerequisite is a course or other preparation that must be successfully completed before enrollment in another course. All prerequisites are included in catalog course descriptions.
- Students that lack prerequisites for a course are not allowed to remain in the course.
- Once classes begin, students often have few, if any, options for adding a different course, which can be an issue for financial aid.

#### **Are You Considering Transferring a Course to Meet UNT Degree Requirements?**

Any transfer course(s) from another institution must receive *prior approval* from your CMHT Academic Advisor to ensure that the course(s) will be applicable to your degree plan at UNT.

***Advising Contact Information (Chilton Hall 385 – 940.565.4635)***

#### **Could you be dropped?**

- Students will be dropped for nonpayment for enrolled courses, parking fees, schedule change fees, etc. Please check your account daily through the 12<sup>th</sup> class day to ensure you have not been dropped for non-payment of any amount. It is the student’s responsibility to make all payments on time.
- ***Students cannot be reinstated for any reason after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day regardless of situation.***

#### **Are you receiving financial aid?**

- A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue receiving financial aid by maintaining a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and successfully completing the required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per semester. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose financial aid eligibility. Visit <https://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

### **Are you thinking about dropping course?**

- **A decision to drop a course may affect your current and future financial aid eligibility.** Talk to your academic advisor or Student Financial Aid if you are thinking about dropping a course.
- Speak with the course instructor to discuss any possible options to be successful in the course before dropping.
- Meeting deadlines for dropping a course are the student's responsibility.
- **After the 12<sup>th</sup> class day, students cannot drop a course online** through your my.UNT Student Portal. Effective Fall 2018, the procedure to drop a course changed. See <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>

### **Do you know these important dates in Spring 2019**

January 14	First day of class
January 21	MLK Jr. Day – UNT is closed, so no classes
January 18	Last day for change of schedule other than a drop. (Last day to add a class.)