Sustainable Development & the Global Future (ENVI368)
Cross-listed as INTL368 and with Political Science
Macalester College, Spring 2015
Tues/Thurs 9:40am – 11:10am    Room 301

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Course Description

The concept of “development” is as old as ideas of progress and modernization. Driven out of a set of enlightenment ideas about what a “good society” should be, in the post-war era development was mainstreamed through international institutions, economic orders and narratives of inclusion and exclusion. Since the 1970s, activists, scholars and government leaders have drawn attention to a strong tension inherent in development – the marginalization of people and the natural resource base.

This course is focused on critically examining the possibility of “green development”. What does sustainable development mean in theory and practice? Can it be modeled and measured? By whom, with what tools and expectations? We will try to answer these questions by examining sustainable development at the scales of nation, region and community.

Student Evaluation

1) Attendance & participation (20%)

You are expected to attend every class and actively participate in class discussion. If you must be absent due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, contact me as soon as possible. More than one absence may result in a reduction in your participation grade. If you are regularly late to class, this may be counted as an absence. You are responsible for checking in with your peers for missed material.

Your participation grade will be based on thoughtful, respectful, and productive engagement in class discussions. Your curiosity and creativity are always encouraged.
2) Submission of 12 short reading reflections over the semester (30%)

Reading reflections are to help you synthesize the reading material and guide our class discussions. Your reflections are due by 9pm the night before class. This allows us time to review your pieces before class in the morning. Your reflections should be approximately 300 words in length, about two-three paragraphs. They must be submitted through the course website. DO NOT e-mail reflections. Late reading reflections will not be accepted because it sets us both back in our coursework.

Reflections will be graded one a five point scale: outstanding (A), excellent (A-/B+), good (B), satisfactory (C) or unsatisfactory (D) each submission. Occasionally, I will respond directly to your submission on Moodle. Most times, I will refer to issues raised in reflections in class. See the Reading Reflections Instructions document on Moodle for more information.

3) Small group projects (25%) 

There are three small group projects spread over the semester: Foundation Case Study (5%), Microfinance Project (10%), and a local NGO Sustainability Assessment (10%). More instructions will follow about each. Because this makes up a significant part of your grade, it is important to make your group process work! In-class time is allocated for working on group projects.

4) Final Paper: Sustainable Development Project Proposal (25%) 

For your final project, you will write a 10 page proposal to the Phadke Foundation for a sustainable development project that you would like to implement. You can submit this grant on behalf of a student organization, as a NGO, corporation or government agency. Your project should be in the range of $50,000-200,000. You can propose a one-time pilot or a multiyear project. Your project can be located anywhere. Your proposal must: 1) provide a working definition of sustainable development based on our class readings, 2) describe the goals of your project and the model you are replicating, scaling or inventing, and 3) describe potential outcomes and how you will measure success.

Your project grade will be based on the clarity and originality of your proposal, the timeliness of your topic and your ability to contextualize the project within the Sustainable Development scholarship. More details will follow. The final paper is due on Moodle on Monday May 11 at 4pm.

If you submit any of the above assignments late, you WILL be graded down one full step for each day past the deadline. For example, an assignment handed in one day late will begin with a B+; two days late a C+.

Final Grade Scale: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82)

Similar ranges for C grades (70-79) and D grades (60-69); Below 60 is a failing grade.

Academic Integrity: It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college’s policy on academic honesty.
Laptops, Cell Phones, & Other Electronic Devices: Please turn off all electronic devices before class begins.

Required Books

*Summary of Topics and Readings*

* Reading response due

**Part I: Defining the Sustainability Paradigm**

**Thurs Jan 22: Course Introduction**

* Tues Jan 27: Are We Striving for Utopia?* 

**Part II: Sustainable Development Paradigms and Institutions**

*Thurs Jan 29: What does development mean?*
Read in the following order:

*Thurs Feb 3: The MDB Campaign*
- Watch the film *The Burning Season* (1994) (two copies on reserve in Media Services – please note there is a more recent movie with the same title – we are watching the one from 1994)

*Thurs Feb 5: The Rio Summit and Rio+20*
Read in the following order:
- P. Schabecoff. 1996. “At the Summit,” in *A New Name for Peace: International Environmentalism, Sustainable Development, and Democracy*. Hanover, NH: Univ. of New England Press, pp. 160-177. *SKIM this one for a feel for what the meeting was like.*
* Tues Feb 10: Measuring Sustainability

* Thurs Feb 12: Greening the Multilaterals
Read in the following order:

Tues Feb 17: Millennium Development Goals and the Global Compact

* Introduction to first group project

Part III: Social Change Models for Sustainable Development
* Thurs Feb 19: Philanthropy and Development

*In class time to work on group project*

Tues Feb 24: In-class group reports on Foundation case studies

* Thurs Feb 26: Participatory Development/Participation as Tyranny with guest Paul Dosh

Tues March 3: Sustainable Livelihoods led by Gabby Queenan ’15 and Charnelle Etti ’15

+ Intro to second group project
Thurs March 5: In-class group project worktime

*Tues March 10: Social Entrepreneurs and Development Change

*Thurs March 12: Microfinance model

***SPRING BREAK March 16-20***

Tues March 24: Microfinance model - workshop with Elyse Gordon ’08
In-class group project worktime

Thurs March 26: In-class group presentations - Lending Decisions

Tues March 31: Appropriate Technology - guest Ross Donihue ’11, founder of Maps for Good
- Visit the honey bee network at: http://www.sristi.org/hbnew/honeybee_innovation.php

+ Intro to third group project

*Thurs April 2: Fair trade and Commodity Case Studies
- Students will be assigned an additional commodity specific chapter to read on bananas, flowers and coffee (See Moodle for your assignment).
In class screening of Chocolate Country

*Tues April 7: Critical engagements with ecotourism with Amy Damon

Thurs April 9: Time to work on group projects and conduct meetings with NGO leaders
*Tues April 14: Sustainable Living*

**Thurs April 16: In-class group presentations – NGO Assessments**

**Part IV: Bringing Sustainability Home**

**Tues April 21:** Guest lecture from Shelley Shreffler, Program Officer, Margaret A Cargill Foundation

**Thurs April 23:** Individual meetings with Gabby about your projects

**Tues April 28: Your Sustainability Grant Proposal – workshop in class**

**Thurs April 30: Wrap up class - Can/Should I have a career in sustainable development?**
- Letters home from recent ENVI368 alumni working in development

**Final Paper due in hard copy to ES office on Monday May 11 by 4pm**