

**Southeast Missouri State University
Course Syllabus**

Department of Human Environmental Studies

Course No. HE 601

Title of Course: Sustainable Environments in Human Services New Spring 2012

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Examination of models of sustainability and critical applications in human services. (3)

II. Prerequisite (s): Graduate standing.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of sustainability models and theories.
- B. Critically analyze the relative importance of human actions that affect environmental change.
- C. Compare scientific and popular press readings related to sustainability.
- D. Appraise personal responsibility for creating sustainable environments.
- E. Evaluate the impact of sustainable practices on selected environments.
- F. Identify cultural and ethical issues related to sustainable environments.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Evaluate the impact of sustainable practices on selected environments.
- B. Analyze human actions that affect environmental change.
- C. Compare interpretations of sustainability from scientific and popular press readings. .

V. Expectations of Students

- A. Successful completion of all written examinations.
- B. Active participation in class discussion.
- C. Satisfactory completion of all course assignments and projects.

VI. Course Outline

45 hours

- A. Sustainability – An Indictment of Human Actions 9
 - 1. What can the earth support?
 - 2. Population growth and sustainability
 - 3. The state of ecosystems
- B. The Future with Sustainability as a Paradigm 6
 - 1. Examining whether human actions can be altered to achieve sustainability
 - 2. Exploring the relationship of humans to ecosystems
- C. Exploring Earth’s Life Support Systems and Ecosystem Services 6
 - 1. Ecosystem services and their benefits to human life
- D. Examining Ways that Humans Behave in Relation to Sustainability 6
 - 1. Exploration of why people act in sustainable ways
 - 2. Exploration of the barriers to sustainable behavior

- 3. Ethical considerations
- E. Human Actions and How They Impact the Environment 6
 - 1. Affluence
 - 2. Effect on the global nitrogen cycle
 - 3. Phosphorus and global food security
- F. Moving Toward Sustainability/Correcting Human Actions 12
 - 1. What should be done to move toward sustainability
 - 2. Issues surrounding human consumption

VII. Textbook and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

Smith-Sebasto, Nicholas J., *Annual Editions 12/13: Sustainability*, McGraw Hill/Dushkin, 2012.

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Examinations 30%
- B. Paper 40%
- C. Activities/assignments 30%

IX. Grading Scale

- 100-90% A
- 89-80% B
- 79-70% C
- Below 70% F

X. Academic Policy Statement

Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to: <http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code/html>

The fundamental responsibility for the maintenance of honesty standards rests upon the student. It is the student's responsibility to be both familiar with the University policy on academic honesty and to uphold standards of academic honesty at all times and in all situations.

XI. Students with Disabilities

If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.