

# **ANT 2402/LAS 3930 Anthropology of Sustainability**

**Spring 2021**

**Mondays 10:40 – 12:35, Wednesdays 10:40- 11:30**

**Professor:** Catherine Tucker

**Email:** [tuckerc@ufl.edu](mailto:tuckerc@ufl.edu)

**Online Office Hours:** Mondays 1:30-3:30 pm and By Appointment

Please make an appointment in advance to avoid waiting in the Zoom waiting room.

Zoom Link for Office Hours: TBA

Meeting ID: TBA

**Office Location:** Grinter 309 (Office meetings by appointment only. A facemask must be worn.)

**Teaching Assistant:** Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez

**Email:** [osmedina@ufl.edu](mailto:osmedina@ufl.edu)

**Online Office Hours:** TBA

**This course includes a 100% online and a face-to-face section. It is a HyFlex class that will be taught synchronously with simultaneous face-to-face and online classes.**

- The online section will meet by Zoom for all class meetings.
- The face-to-face section will meet in person on Mondays, 10:40-12:35 in Grinter 376. Masks must be worn and a minimum separation of 6 feet will be maintained.
- Wednesday class periods will be used primarily for lecture and will be held online only by Zoom for both sections. This will facilitate access and clear communication during lectures for all students. It has been shown that lecturing through a mask increases risks of misunderstanding and difficulty hearing, especially in teaching contexts with a mixed in-person and online audience.

## **Abstract**

Achieving sustainability constitutes one of the greatest challenges confronting humanity and modern global society. This course will apply anthropological approaches (sociocultural, biophysical, and archaeological) to explore the concept of sustainability. By examining human-environment interactions over time and across diverse sociocultural and ecological contexts, we will consider cross-cultural experiences of sustainability -- and unsustainability -- and what they reveal about modern dilemmas and enduring human conundrums. Drawing on interdisciplinary anthropological studies we will investigate major challenges for sustainability, such as environmental degradation, climate change, societal inequities, waste and planned obsolescence, rapid urban growth, governance shortcomings, energy demands, and assumptions of unlimited economic growth. In the process, we will critically examine existing knowledge and our own understandings as we ask a central question: What opportunities and pathways exist toward sustainability? The course will address the four clusters of sustainability studies: Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.

## **Required and Recommended Readings:**

- Pdfs or links to each required and recommended reading will be posted on Canvas in each Module for the class

## Learning Objectives and Goals

- Understand concepts of sustainability from diverse cultural and ethical perspectives
- Develop holistic and systems-based understanding of human-environment interactions over time and across differing contexts
- Examine and assess inter-relationships among human behavior, societal arrangements and current social-environmental challenges
- Critically evaluate approaches for fostering sustainability in social-ecological systems

## Evaluative Components

- Attendance: sign in with a poll each class, including in-class activities: small group and full class discussions, Q+A, exercises. (You can miss 2 classes during the semester without consequences for your grade) (10%)
- Pre- and post-class surveys (2%)
- Discussion posts, comments on peers' discussion posts, and contributing questions for discussion and clarification (15%)
- Quizzes: Three short quizzes (total 13%)
- Critical assessment/ commentary (5%)
- Carbon Footprint assignment (5%)
- Midterm project (25%)
- Final project (25%)

## Grading Policy

The course will be graded by standard percentages:

A = 94- 100%	A- = 90- 93.99%	B+ = 87-89.99%,
B = 84-86.99%	B- = 80-83.99%	C+ = 77-79.99%
C = 74-76.99%	C- = 70-73.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
D = 64-66.99%	D- = 61-63.99%	F = below 61%

Late Submissions: Late submissions of assignments will be discounted 10% per day. This is simply fair to those in the class who meet deadlines, otherwise they would be disadvantaged relative to those who take more time.

Policy on Plagiarism / Cheating: Plagiarism in written assignments (i.e. the copying of material without citation of the source) is unacceptable. It will lead to a zero on the assignment or paper if it is of a minor degree (less than a paragraph), and to a failing grade in the course in cases of extensive copying without citation. If you have doubts about when and how to cite sources, Dr Tucker will be glad to answer your questions.

## Emergencies:

If you have a medical or family emergency that prevents you from attending class, completing an assignment on time, or results in extended absence, bring it to the attention of professor as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made with proper documentation. Medical conditions must be documented by a doctor's note. Other emergencies must be documented by an appropriate authority (check with Dr. Tucker).

## Communications:

- Please email Prof. Tucker or Oswaldo with any questions or concerns. Emails are normally answered within 2 business days (usually sooner). If you do not receive an answer within 2 days, please send the email again.
- For Zoom meetings during normal office hours, it is wise to request an appointment to avoid waiting in the Zoom waiting room. If Dr. Tucker is meeting with other students, you may wait quite a long time.
  - You can request a slot any time up until 5 minutes prior to the start of normal office hours.
  - In-person meetings outside of office hours need to be scheduled at least a day in advance. If you wish to meet outside of regular office hours, email Dr. Tucker to make the request. Please include the times that you are available.
- Please Note: For in-person meetings, you will need to wear a mask.
- Before emailing Dr. Tucker with a question, please check the information on Canvas thoroughly, including the Welcome page, the Course Overview and Policies, and the Syllabus.
- It is vitally important to keep your instructor and TA informed if you are facing difficulties with meeting course expectations or deadlines. This is all the more necessary in the current pandemic. If you let us know promptly of difficulties that you are facing, we will work with you to find a reasonable accommodation. Do not wait until the end of the semester. The sooner we learn of problems you may be encountering, the sooner we can find a way to address them or assist in finding resources that can help.

## Netiquette:

- **Remember that all discussion, posts, chats and email communications should be respectful and polite.**
- Intellectual debate and contestation is an important part of learning and intellectual exchange. It is expected that students will have different perspectives and opinions, and everyone is welcome (and expected) to share their perspectives and understanding of information and concepts relevant to the course content. In all cases, the language and tone of the words is expected to remain respectful.
- When asserting a statement of fact, be prepared to support it with a reference to a reading or publication, reputable source, or other verifiable source.
- When communicating with Dr. Tucker, please use professional language ("Dear Dr. Tucker.." and complete words and sentences (Not "r u available" but "Are you available..."). This is practice for future business and professional communications.

## Virtual Classroom Comportment:

- **Remember that virtual meetings are our virtual classroom, therefore all regular classroom policies apply. When in our virtual classroom remember the following etiquette rules:**
  - Do not share the Zoom link for our class meeting.
  - Find a quiet, private place to attend the meeting. If possible, avoid highly "personal" places such as bedrooms, bathrooms, or lounging on the couch. A desk or table is ideal and can help you retain your focus in the session.
  - Be "camera ready" or presentable, wearing regular classroom or business appropriate attire. Avoid overly casual or suggestive clothing.
  - No eating, smoking, or adult beverages are permitted in the virtual classroom.
  - Avoid potentially offensive backgrounds (real or virtual).
  - Treat your classmates with respect.
  - Limit video distractions such as children or excessive noise.
  - Use proper grammar and spelling when using the chat. Avoid "text talk."
  - Adhere to all course netiquette and college conduct guidelines.

## Preparing for a Virtual Classroom Session:

The following tips will help you prepare for a virtual classroom session:

- Test all technology, including the web cam, internet and Wi-Fi connection, audio (headset, microphone, and/or speakers), and (if applicable) screen sharing *before* the meeting.
- Protect sensitive information. If you are sharing your screen make sure that only intended content is seen. Prior to hosting or attending a meeting, close all unnecessary tabs and apps, clear the browser to avoid potentially embarrassing auto-complete results, and ensure that nothing personal or sensitive is on the desktop.
- Open any material that will be shared, including audio, video, documents or websites, prior to the meeting. This will ensure that they are working, and help the meeting flow smoothly, avoiding unnecessary delays.
- Log into the meeting a few minutes early so that any technical issues can be addressed and resolved.
- Be mindful of and check your background and lighting.
  - Ensure that there is nothing personal, potentially embarrassing or offensive in the video background. Use of a virtual background (if permitted) can help masquerade unsightly backgrounds.
  - Check the lighting on the video. Avoid sitting with your back against a window, as well as, too little or too much direct light.
- Position your camera to show your face, avoid directing it too high or too low.
- Mute your audio if you are not speaking, and be mindful of background noise when you unmute to speak. Excessive background noise is distracting and disruptive to the class. Do not type while your microphone is unmuted, as it is loud and distracting. Look at the camera when you are speaking.

## Tips for Success During a Virtual Class Meeting:

- Stay seated and present during the virtual class. Pay attention and participate.
- Be ready for interaction. As with the physical classroom, be prepared to discuss course material and assignments, interact with your instructor and classmates, and ask questions.
- Do not interrupt other people when they are speaking or attempt to speak over them.
- Prepare for class by reading materials prior to the session, and formulating your questions.
- Turn off all notifications, and ensure your cell phone is turned off or on silent.
- Avoid multi-tasking during the class session. Do not work on other tasks, such as checking your Email, texting, gaming or working on other classwork. Give the class your full attention and focus.

By attending a virtual class session, you are agreeing to adhere to the guidelines established above. The goal of these guidelines is to create the most supportive, inclusive, and productive learning environment possible for everyone.

## This course is aligned with the UF policies below.

- Contact Hours: "Contact Hours" refers to the hours per week in which students are in contact with the instructor, excluding office hours or other voluntary contact. The number of contact hours in this course equals the number of credits the course offers.
- Workload: As a Carnegie I, research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.
- Accommodation for Student with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability

Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. This class supports the needs of different learners; it is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

- **Statement Regarding Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available from the [Gatorevals website](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [the evaluation system](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the [public results website](#).
- **Statement Regarding Course Recording:** Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to and for use of enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

## **Additional Course Policies and Information**

### **Honor Code**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

The Honor Code ([sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

## **UF Resources**

### **University Police**

The UF police are together for a safe campus. Phone: 392-111 (911 for emergencies)  
<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

### **Career Connections Center**

[Career Connections Center](#) (352-392-1601 | [CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu)) connects job seekers with employers and offers guidance to enrich your collegiate experience and prepare you for life after graduation.

## **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575) provides counseling and support as well as crisis and wellness services including a variety of workshops throughout the semester (e.g., Yappy Hour, Relaxation and Resilience).

## **Dean of Students Office**

Dean of Students Office (352-392-1261) provides a variety of services to students and families, including Field and Fork (UF's food pantry) and New Student and Family programs

## **Disability Resource Center**

Disability Resource Center([DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu) | 352-392-8565) helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## **Multicultural and Diversity Affairs**

Multicultural and Diversity Affairs (352-294-7850) celebrates and empowers diverse communities and advocates for an inclusive campus.

## **Office of Student Veteran Services**

Office of Student Veteran Services (352-294-2948 | [vacounselor@ufl.edu](mailto:vacounselor@ufl.edu)) assists student military veterans with access to benefits.

## **ONE.UF**

ONE.UF is the home of all the student self-service applications, including access to:

- Advising
- Bursar (352-392-0181)
- Financial Aid (352-392-1275)
- Registrar (352-392-1374)

## **Official Sources of Rules and Regulations**

The official source of rules and regulations for UF students is the Undergraduate Catalog and Graduate Catalog. Quick links to other information have also been provided below.

- Student Handbook
- Student Responsibilities, including academic honesty and student conduct code
- e-Learning Supported Services Policies includes links to relevant policies including Acceptable Use, Privacy, and many more
- Accessibility, including the Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Policy and ADA Compliance
- Student Computing Requirements, including minimum and recommended technology requirements and competencies

**Course Plan** (Subject to adjustments to accommodate unforeseen events or course objectives.)

Wk	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	Jan 11 - Class overview/ Pre-class survey - Syllabus escape room/Communication - Attendance poll orientation	Jan 13 - Concepts + definitions - Online introductions due	Jan 15 Quiz
2	Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day (No Class)	Jan 20 - Human-environment interactions in egalitarian societies -Gatherer-hunters -Horticulturalists	Jan 22 Discussion post + question
3	Jan 25 -Comment on peer discussion post due - Discussion: Non industrial societies	Jan 27 -Human-environment interactions in early stratified societies	Jan 29 Quiz + Discussion question
4	Feb 1 -Discussion on early stratified societies	Feb 3 -Human-environment interactions in industrial societies	Feb 5 Discussion post + question
5	Feb 8 - Announce Midterm Project - Discussion on industrial societies	Feb 10 - Growth, capitalism, and social inequities	Feb 12 Quiz + discussion question
6	Feb 15 - Discussion on assumptions of growth	Feb 17 - Deforestation and environmental degradation	Feb 19 Discussion post + question
7	Feb 22 - Guest lecture by Zoom - Discussion on deforestation	Feb 24 -Water challenges & social equity	Feb 26 Discussion post + question
8	Mar 1 - Guest lecture by Zoom - Discussion on water challenges	Mar 3 - Environmental governance	Mar 5 Midterm due
9	Mar 8 -Discuss midterm project	Mar 10 - Garbage, waste, and obsolescence	Mar 12 Discussion post + question
10	Mar 15 - Guest lecture on waste - Discussion on waste	Mar 17 - Energy options and alternatives	Mar 19 Discussion post + question
11	Mar 22 - Discussion on energy issues	Mar 24 Recharge Day (No Class)	Mar 26 Carbon footprint project due
12	Mar 29 - Discussion on carbon footprints	Mar 31 - Climate change	Apr 2 Discussion post + question
13	Apr 5 - Guest lecture by Zoom - Discussion on climate change	Apr 7 - Pathways to a sustainable society	Apr 9 Discussion question
14	Apr 12 -Discussion on building sustainability	Apr 14 - Case studies of sustainability	Apr 16 -Draft Final Paper Due
15	Apr 19 – Discussion of Final Papers	Apr 21 Class Wrap-up Post-class survey	Apr 23 Reading Day
16	Apr 26 Finals Week – <b>Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm</b>		