

**ENVR5UST 9011
FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY**

COURSE OUTLINE

Location: Ivey 2B04

Days: Thursdays

Time: 2 – 5 pm

INSTRUCTORS

Tima Bansal

Ivey Business School

IVEY 2N34

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Charlie Trick

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

Ecosystem Health

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Natalie Slawinski

Ivey Business School

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Alex Kleiman

Biotron-North Campus Building

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OBJECTIVES

1. To see sustainability through different disciplinary lenses.
2. To identify the key issues and questions that are raised within the different disciplines.
3. To gain insights into the ways in which these issues, questions and solutions are approached.

COURSE CONTENT

This is a seminar based course in which students meet once weekly from September to February. The pedagogical model is collaborative learning. So, the classes will be discussion-based, as opposed to lecture-based. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings with your classmates.

Professors Charlie Trick and Tima Bansal will be jointly administering the course. However, each class will be moderated by a different faculty member drawn from different departments across the University of Western Ontario.

A tentative schedule is provided at the end of this document.

ASSIGNMENTS

Reflection Papers

A reflection paper of the readings is due on the Monday (no later than 9 am) before each Thursday class (Tuesday at 9 am if Monday is a statutory holiday). The objectives of these papers are to help guide class discussion, develop the student's writing and analysis skills, and ensure good preparedness for class. In the reflection papers, you can synthesize the readings, state your reactions to the readings, raise issues and questions, or just be provocative. It is up to you as to what you write.

The reflection paper cannot exceed 1 page, single spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins. You will be required to upload the paper in Word format (no pdf's please) to OWLCT. Details of the upload process will be provided in class. If you encounter computer problems, please email the reflection paper to Alexander Kleiman (akleiman@uwo.ca).

You will earn a grade between 0 and 3 for each reflection paper, with the mode, median and mean being 2. Only exceptional papers will earn a 3, 1, or 0, based on the following criteria:

- 3** shows exceptional insights into the readings; raises issues that are unique and thoughtful that go beyond a summary of the readings; demonstrates excellent writing skills
- 2** meets expectations
- 1** does not demonstrate basic knowledge of the readings; does not demonstrate any reflections and merely repeats the main points of each reading, as opposed to synthesis; commits numerous writing mistakes
- 0** is late or missing

Class Contributions

As this is a seminar type course, you are expected to contribute to the collective learning of the class. In order to do so, you must prepare the readings carefully. During class, you must listen actively to the class conversation, ask questions of your classmates, offer insights, and contribute meaningfully. It also means that you are respectful of your classmates and their opinions, are punctual to class, and do not engage in negative or disruptive behaviours.

It is important to discriminate between class participation and contribution. Class participation focuses on the benefits of your comments to you, whereas class

contributions focus on the benefits to the class. It is only by deeply engaging in the class process will you be able to contribute to the collective learning of the class.

The contribution grades will be assigned by the teaching assistants and at least one professor. The mean, median, and mode will be a 2. The following provides a guide:

- 3** shows exceptional insights into the topic and conveys those insights meaningfully to the class
- 2** is engaged, contributes to the class discussion
- 1** is silent but attentive
- 0** is late, or has excused his/her absence
- 1** is unattentive, disruptive, or has not asked to be excused for his/her absence

Video Project

You will be required to produce a video up to 6 minutes in length that pertains to a sustainability issue, such as advertising to children or the use of pesticides in lawn care. The video will creatively explore what would happen if the issue was not addressed and the ways in which it can be addressed.

On February 11, you will be given the details of the project and assigned to a team. The video will be due on February 26 and shown on March 5.

Prior to that time, you are encouraged to think about an issue that you find provocative and that you would like to explore in an entertaining and creative way. The better issues are relatively narrowly defined (e.g. water shortage is just too big), relatively unknown (e.g. climate change is too widely known), and for which the cause and effect are discernable (e.g. it's too hard to know how to address cancer).

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Given that so much of the course depends on collective learning, it is important for you to attend class. Inevitably, sometimes a class has to be missed, so please inform Alexandra Kleiman by email (akleiman@uwo.ca) who will inform the instructors just prior to class. If you miss more than 2 classes, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

COURSE MATERIALS

Readings will be assigned through OWLCT two weeks prior to the class. You are responsible for downloading the readings yourself.

METHODS OF EVALUATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

The overall grade for the course will be assigned based on the following weightings:

Class contribution:	35%
Reflection papers:	35%
Video project:	30%

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Prerequisite checking – the student's responsibility

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. Use of laptops, other than minimal note-taking, is discouraged.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Website:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com. (<http://www.turnitin.com>)

Code of Conduct

Students in the Environment and Sustainability Program are expected to conduct themselves in a polite and civil manner. Students are reminded of the University Code of Conduct for Students: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>. Please read the code of conduct prior to the participation of this (or any) course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

	Date	Instructor	Topic
1.	Sept 18	Charlie Trick and Tima Bansal	Introduction Fishbanks Simulation
2.	Sept 25	Charlie Trick	Sustainability and Earth Services
3.	Oct 2	Tima Bansal	Business sustainability
4.	Oct 9	Charles Weijer	Bioethics
5.	Oct 16	Sara Seck	International Law, Human Rights and Environment
6.	Nov 6	Peter Duinker	Scenario Analysis, Dalhousie
7.	Nov 13	Robert Lannigan	System Resilience and Sustainability
8.	Nov 20	Alan MacEachern	Environmental History
9.	Nov 27	Oana Branzei	Sustainability in Emerging Markets
10.	Dec 4	Karen Pennesi	Human relations with the Environment
11.	Jan 15	TBA	
12.	Jan 22	TBA	
13.	Jan 29	TBA	
14.	Feb 5	TBA	
15.	Feb 12	Charlie Trick and Tima Bansal	Summarizing learnings Details of video projects Team assignments