

We recognize and acknowledge that McMaster University meets and learns on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “[Dish With One Spoon](#)” wampum, an agreement amongst all allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

SUSTAIN 2GS3 – Global Questions in Sustainability

2023 Intersession

Instructor: John Maclachlan. Note that this course will consist of multiple guest lectures

Office: GSB 320 | **Student Course Advisor:** John Maclachlan | **Email:** SUST2GS3@mcmaster.ca

Class Hours: None; all lectures are provided asynchronously

Office Hours: To be announced

Course Description

All questions surrounding sustainability and sustainable development are interdisciplinary in nature. This course aims to bring together the perspectives from all academic areas to explore sustainability as a global concern by gathering insight from academic experts. Students will apply this knowledge to their thoughts and perceptions of what sustainability is and ultimately should be. Through a series of asynchronous lectures, students will have a unique opportunity to hear the perspectives on multiple questions of sustainability from academic experts across academia. In following the mantra of ‘Think globally, act locally’ students will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired in the course towards assessing and proposing solutions to local questions of sustainability.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Antirequisite(s): INSPIRE 2GS3/SUSTAIN 2GS3. Not open to students with credit or registration in INSPIRE 3EL3 if the topic was Global Questions in Sustainability.

Course and Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and critically reflect on current global sustainability concerns, as discussed in the course.
2. Examine the perspectives of academic experts on questions of sustainability.
3. Apply course knowledge to propose solutions to local questions of sustainability.
4. Develop a proposed plan for a real-world, local sustainability issue by integrating strategies discussed in the course.
5. Reflect on different meanings of sustainability from diverse academic disciplines.

Class Activities

The course will consist of asynchronous teaching methods, and students are encouraged to complete the required content week by week. All asynchronous lectures and materials will be available to students on Avenue to Learn. More information about assignments will be available on Avenue to Learn.

Materials & Fees

There are no resources for you to purchase. All course material is available online. You may need to login to the McMaster Library Off-campus Access (<https://library.mcmaster.ca/services/off-campus-access>) to access some material.

Virtual Course Delivery

To follow and participate in virtual classes it is expected that you have reliable access to the following:

- A computer that meets performance requirements can be [found here](#).
- An internet connection that is fast enough to stream videos.
- Computer accessories that enable class participation, such as a microphone, speakers, and webcam when needed.

If you think that you will not be able to meet these requirements, please contact uts@mcmaster.ca as soon as you can. Please visit the [Technology Resources for Students page](#) for detailed requirements. If you use assistive technology or believe that our platforms might be a barrier to participating, please contact [Student Accessibility Services](#), sas@mcmaster.ca, for support.

Course Overview and Assessment

(Please note that the lectures are all discrete and could be viewed in any order except for the Wrap-Up lecture by Dr. Collins-Nelsen)

Topics

Lecture	Topic	Required Readings
1	Course Overview & Introduction <i>Lecturer: Dr. Kate Whalen</i>	NA
2	Peatlands and Fire <i>Lecturer: Dr. Sophie Wilkinson</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
3	Climate Research and Local Experiences <i>Lecturer: Dr. Karine Gagné</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
4	An Industry Perspective <i>Lecturer: Heather Stuart</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
5	Exploring Sustainability in Perú <i>Lecturer: Dr. Rodrigo Narro Perez</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
6	Sustainable Development in a Circular Economy <i>Lecturer: Dr. Greg Zilberbrant</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
7	Environmental History <i>Lecturer: Dr. Michael Eagan</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
8	Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Change <i>Lecturer: Jeff Monague</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
9	Climate Change, Data, and the Sustainability of Science <i>Lecturer: Dr. Jason Brodeur</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
10	Mental Health and Climate Change <i>Lecturer: Gustavo S. Betini</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
11	Climate Storytelling <i>Lecturer: Dr. Catherine Bush</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
12	Sustainable Engineering <i>Lecturer: Dr. Zobia Jawed</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable

13	Geological Perspective of Climate Change <i>Lecturer: Dr. Emmanuelle Arnaude</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable
14	Wrap Up – Interdisciplinary Experiences <i>Lecturer: Dr. Becca Collins-Nelsen</i>	Posted on Avenue if applicable

Evaluation

Assessment	Weight	Due Date
1) Participation	49%	Throughout Term
2) Student Information Quiz	1%	March 8th
3) Quizzes (best 3 of 3)	30%	Throughout Term
4) Assignment 1 – Mind Map	20%	March 22nd

Participation - 49%

Students are expected to engage with the weekly asynchronous lectures, as well as complete the required readings. Participation is worth 49%, and students will be evaluated using the Discussion Board Forum on Avenue to Learn. Students will be required to respond to 12 prompts following detailed instructions on Avenue. Students are only required to make 12 primary posts on the discussion board as well as 12 replies. Each module will pose a question with parameters; For example, a post may be 400 words or less, with responses around 250 words (word counts are not strict). Please check Avenue for details. Students are expected to discuss the weekly material within their responses as well as demonstrate personal reflection, integrating real-world examples and experiences when applicable. **There will be three due dates: March 8th (4:00 pm); March 15th (4:00pm); March 22nd (4:00pm).**

Quizzes – 30%

The course will have four quizzes throughout the term. Each quiz will primarily consist of multiple-choice, but may also include short answer, and long answer. This will be accessed through Avenue to Learn. There is no set time for the quizzes as they may be opened anytime over a 7-day period. The quizzes will cover a specific series of lectures (this will be clear on Avenue). **There will be four quiz due dates: March 9th (4:00 pm); March 16th (4:00pm); March 23nd (4:00pm); March 30th (4:00pm).**

Assignment 1: Mind Map/Reflection – 20%

Students will create a mind map, a visual representation of the interconnectedness of several concepts, to develop solutions to solving a local sustainability issue of their choice. Students will apply course knowledge by making connections and combining different disciplinary perspectives to a real-world scenario, which will be the central theme of their map. The mind map should encompass concepts from as many modules as possible and display how concepts from different disciplines are interrelated and should be considered when solving complex sustainability issues. It must include ideas from all lectures.

This is due on March 22nd (4:00pm).

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

MSAF Course Specific Information

To support universal design, and eliminate the need for an MSAF, a seven-day grace period is included for each assignment (not the quizzes). Seven days following the original due date, late marks will be applied. Late assignments will be penalized 20% each day, including Saturdays and Sundays. Assignments will be accepted to a maximum of 11 days following the original due date, after which the assignment will receive a grade of zero.

For the Participation and Mind Map Assignments, you will all be given a 7 day grace period. While the assignments are due on Tuesdays at 4pm, you can avoid any late penalties if it is handed in the following Tuesday at 4pm. As the quizzes are graded best 3 of 4, an MSAF is not necessary as a universal accommodation is built into the grading.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous, Or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous, or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit a request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of the term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Courses with An On-Line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used.

Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at

<https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to the [McMaster Office of Academic Integrity's](#) webpage.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities \(the "Code"\)](#). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with

university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright-protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The Instructor and University reserve the right to modify the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L , and/or McMaster email.