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# SUSTAIN 2IS3 – INTERSECTIONALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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SPRING 2023  
(MAY 2nd – 26TH, 2023)

**Class:** Tuesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelsey Leonard, [leonardk@mcmaster.ca](mailto:leonardk@mcmaster.ca)

**Office:** Zoom

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Please schedule by booking a time on my Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/kelseytleonard/sustain-2is3-office-hours>

**Teaching Assistant:** Hamza Mansour, [mansouh@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mansouh@mcmaster.ca)

**Office:** Teams

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Please schedule via email.

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

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### *Calendar Description*

Explores complex dimensions of sustainability through a lens of intersectionality — how our individual identities shape our life experiences — with a focus on environmental injustices. Includes interdisciplinary teamwork, simulated case studies and UN Sustainable Development Goals

### *Course Overview*

The concepts discussed in this course are equally relevant to all forms of marginalization amongst which poverty status, gender, religion, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, caste and social class, varying abilities and cognitive differences, literacy and level of instruction, etc. all shape our understanding of intersectionality and sustainability. Historically, intersectionality has been studied and advanced by feminist scholars particularly women of colour. The term ‘intersectionality’ was in 1989 by professor Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how race, class, gender, and other individual characteristics “intersect” with one another and overlap. For these reasons, some of the readings will discuss women of colour’s experiences more exclusively, but the discussions in class will address a wider range of identities and their importance in sustainability as we work to “leave no one behind” in the broader sustainable development agenda.

This course will enable students to develop essential skills to examine sustainability through the lens of intersectionality while advancing real life applications for solutions to some of the planet’s most pressing justice challenges. Some of these injustices centre around topics such as but not limited to the climate crisis, food insecurity, environmental racism, gender inequality, water insecurity, and ocean exploitation.

Through various case studies, students will gain a deeper understanding of a range of social processes influencing sustainability and justice movements. Utilizing the Sustainable Development Goals students will develop solutions to pressing injustices facing our global society.

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## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of sustainability as complex interconnections between economics, culture, and the environment, and explain the significance of intersectionality in the context of sustainability.
- Develop a skillset to think critically and thoughtfully about the theoretical concepts for discussing development from an intersectional perspective.
- Apply a critical understanding of the intersectionality of identities and sustainability with concepts including power relations, environmentalism, politics, global health, class, race, religion, social movements, colonialism, economic development, and peace and justice movements.
- Reflect on a variety of sustainable development justice movements and their connection to intersectionality.

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## COURSE STRUCTURE

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SUSTAIN 2IS3 will include readings and learning resources, facilitated class discussions, and written assignments, which are aimed to assist students in mastering the course material and enhance their experiential learning.

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## ONLINE COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

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This course uses Avenue to Learn to post assignments, rubrics, readings, and other notices. It is important to visit Avenue to Learn regularly to be kept informed of any new information. Most course assignments will be submitted via Avenue to Learn (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>).

Classes will take place using Zoom.

Additional non-course-specific information, including events and opportunities, will be shared using MacSustain social media platforms, specifically [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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## REQUIRED READINGS, INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS, AND LEARNING RESOURCES

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Consistent with the goals of the Sustainable Future Program, all readings, instructional videos, and learning resources are available via open access and can be found on Avenue to Learn. There is no required textbook for this course.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PROCESS

### EVALUATION

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Please note that detailed guidelines and marking rubrics for each assignment can be found on Avenue to Learn.

#### *Weekly Reflections 30%*

Following class each week, students will reflect on course readings and/or lectures.

Students will be given a reflection prompt and guidance following each class. The reflections are casual and should not take more than ~30 minutes to complete.

#### *Mapping Water Assignment 20%*

Students will explore the meaning of water by venturing out into their community to explore the waterscape closest to them. Water justice depends on understanding our individual and collective relationship to water. Mapping affords a powerful lens through which to understand our current hydro-imagination of borders, boundaries, and intersectional identities. More detailed assignment information will be provided in lecture.

#### *Final Project - Podcast Pitch 30%*

For this assignment students will be pitching an idea for a potential podcast. Students will develop a proposal and presentation designed to “sell” the class on their idea. The pitch should introduce us to their vision for the podcast: What will the podcast be about? What kind of audience might it appeal to? What are some similar podcasts to it out there? What will it sound like? How will they record it and how often? While students need to provide some basic outline of the project, they should also do so creatively to bring their pitch to life. The Podcast should address one of the course themes on Intersectionality, Sustainability, Justice and the SDGs. The project will be divided across two assignments proposal and class presentation. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided on A2L.

#### *Term Reflection 20%*







Students are encouraged to utilize their weekly self-reflections or a personal journal to reflect on their experiences and learning. Students are then encouraged to pull from these personal reflections to prepare a final term reflection of academic quality. Students are encouraged to reflect on the challenges they faced, things that worked well, what they could have done differently, and how they can continue their learning. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.


### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### CONTENT OUTLINE BY TOPIC (COURSE SCHEDULE)

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| Week               | Unit/Topic                        | Readings/Activities (TBD)   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Week 1             |                                   |   |
| <b>May 2, 2023</b> | Introductions + Intersectionality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Course Introduction; Review of Syllabus</li></ul> |

|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <p><b>May 4, 2023</b></p>  | <p>Environmental Justice + Environmental Racism</p>   | <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menton, M., Larrea, C., Latorre, S., Martinez-Alier, J., Peck, M., Temper, L., &amp; Walter, M. (2020). Environmental justice and the SDGs: from synergies to gaps and contradictions. <i>Sustainability Science</i>, 15(6), 1621-1636.</li> <li>• Waldron, I. (2018). Re-thinking waste: mapping racial geographies of violence on the colonial landscape. <i>Environmental Sociology</i>, 4(1), 36-53.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>                              |
| <p>Week 2</p>              |   |  |
| <p><b>May 9, 2023</b></p>  | <p>Water Justice</p>   | <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sultana, F. (2018). Water justice: why it matters and how to achieve it. <i>Water International</i>, 43(4), 483-493.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weekly Reflection #1 due by 5PM</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>May 11, 2023</b></p> | <p>Gender Justice</p>   | <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthyse, L. (2020). Achieving gender equality by 2030: Transgender equality in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 5. <i>Agenda</i>, 34(1), 124-132.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Mapping Assignment Due by 11:59PM</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p>Week 3</p>              |   |  |
| <p><b>May 16, 2023</b></p> | <p>Ocean Justice</p>   | <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bennett, N. J., Blythe, J., White, C. S., &amp; Campero, C. (2021). Blue growth and blue justice: Ten risks and solutions for the ocean economy. <i>Marine Policy</i>, 125, 104387.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weekly Reflection #2 due by 5PM</b></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>May 18, 2023</b></p> | <p>Climate Justice</p>   | <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaijser, A., &amp; Kronsell, A. (2014). Climate change through the lens of intersectionality. <i>Environmental politics</i>, 23(3), 417-433.</li> <li>• Schlosberg, D., &amp; Collins, L. B. (2014). From environmental to climate justice: climate change and the discourse of environmental justice. <i>Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change</i>, 5(3), 359-374.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Podcast Pitch Presentation Slides Due by 11:59PM</b></li> </ul> |

| Week 4   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>May 23, 2023</b>                                      | Energy Justice +<br>Podcast Pitch<br>Presentations<br><br> | <b>Readings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Villavicencio Calzadilla, P., &amp; Mauger, R. (2018). The UN's new sustainable development agenda and renewable energy: the challenge to reach SDG7 while achieving energy justice. <i>Journal of Energy &amp; Natural Resources Law</i>, 36(2), 233-254.</li> </ul> <b>Assignments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Weekly Reflection #3 due by 5PM</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>May 25, 2023</b>                                      | Podcast Pitch<br>Presentations  | <b>Assignments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Podcast Pitch Proposal Due by 11:59PM</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Term Reflection Due by May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b> |   |  |

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## COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES

### *Class Attendance & Participation*

Students are expected to attend each class, be on time and stay for the full duration. Additionally, students are expected to be fully present, which includes removing all potential distractions, demonstrating respect for their own learning and the experience of those around them, and participating in activities and discussions.

### *Assignment Submission Guidelines*

*Format:* To ensure the instructor can include detailed feedback and comments, assignments should be submitted in Word format via Avenue to Learn, unless otherwise stated.

*Style:* Using APA, MLA or Chicago style is preferred, but consistency is of utmost importance. See [OWL](#) for support.

*Late Assignments:* Please make arrangements for the submission of any late assignment. A reasonable timeframe would be at least 24-hours before the assignment is due. That being said, the more notice the better. If arrangements are not made, late assignments will be penalized 15% each day, including Saturday, starting at 12:01 am the following day. A maximum of three

days will be permitted for late assignments, after which the assignment will receive a grade of zero.

### *Course Modifications*

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The University may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### *Communications*

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Maintain current contact information with the University, including address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information.
- Use the University provided e-mail address or maintain a valid forwarding e-mail address.
- Regularly check the official University communications channels. Official University communications are considered received if sent by postal mail, by fax, or by e-mail to the student's designated primary e-mail account via their "@mcmaster.ca" alias.

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## POLICIES

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### *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](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), 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 student 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 [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### *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, user names 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.

### *Conduct Expectations*

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of 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.

### *Academic Accommodations 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](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### *Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) applies to universities. Instructors should take care to protect student names, student numbers, grades and all other personal information at all times. For example, the submission and return of assignments and the posting of grades must be done in a manner that ensures confidentiality - see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/fippa/fippa.cfm>

### *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".

### *Academic Accommodations 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 their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of 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.

### *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 the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution. 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.

Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to



social media sites such as: Facebook, Twitter, TikTok etc., is strictly prohibited.

*Extreme Circumstances*

The University reserves the right to change 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.