

**ECON 299: OUR CAMPUS AND THE ECONOMICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
SYS (Writing intensive)
Spring 2008- Jan 23-May 13**

Syllabus (DRAFT)

Instructor:	Soma Ghosh
E-mail:	sghosh@bridgew.edu
Class meetings:	T R 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Location:	Hunt Hall Room
Office hrs:	T R: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Location:	HUNT HALL RM# 205
Tel #:	(508) 531-2560

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING BLACKBOARD

We will use Electronic Blackboard for this course. **You are required to check your BSC e-mail and the Blackboard site regularly for announcements and updates. It is your responsibility to make sure that your BSC e-mail account is active and working.**

For help in using Blackboard, click on this link

http://blackboard.bridgew.edu/student_help/quickstart_sheets/quickstart_tips.htm.

Students can enroll themselves. These are the steps students will take to enroll in your Blackboard course(s):

1. Go to <http://blackboard.bridgew.edu>
2. Click the **Course Catalog** button
3. Locate your course name from the course listing
4. Click the **Enroll** button next to your course name
5. Enter your Blackboard username and password. Click the **Login** button
6. Click the **Submit** button to enroll in the course
7. You are now enrolled in the course. Click the **OK** button to proceed into your course.

YOU MUST ENROLL INTO BLACKBOARD BY (date). THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS. *FOR HELP WITH BLACKBOARD CALL-X2555*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Have you ever wondered how much energy you use each day as you flick the lights, computers, and stereos on? Have you ever counted the number of plug-ins you have in your dorm room? Almost every talk that we have today involves concerns about rising oil-prices, energy shortages, and the collapse of various ecosystems, global warming, and the pressures of a world population that may reach nine billion by mid-century. But is it possible for each one of us to be responsible for tiny activities and do our bit that will save us from the consequences of consuming too much and preserving too little? We will begin with an exposure to topics such as renewable and non-renewable energy resources, solid-waste and recycling, and water scarcity, among others. This will provide an understanding of the intrinsic incompatibility of a modern industrialized society and concern for natural resources. Finally, we will diagnose the extent of major environmental issues on our campus (using sustainability indicators), search for remedies, and create sustainable strategies to solve them.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand the concept of environmental sustainability.
- Demonstrate an understanding of current global, economic issues related to sustainability, real-world public policy decisions and their outcomes.
- Learn how to integrate concepts of sustainability into your own lifestyle.
- Demonstrate the application of the basic principles of sustainability in a research paper that will enable the student to work on his/her writing skills, critical thinking, and research skills.

COURSE MATERIALS

Note that there is no textbook assigned for this class.

Class handouts, PowerPoint slides, and materials posted on Blackboard will form the main study materials. There will be pre-assigned readings for every class. I will also provide a list of websites for the major topics that will be covered in this course.

LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

Readings are assigned from the text, and are given in the schedule below. **You are required to go through the assigned readings before each class. Please pay careful attention to the schedule given below.** This is a tentative schedule and some changes may be made from time to time. **Please mark your calendars for the important dates.**

<u>Week # & Dates</u>	<u>Topic Schedule</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Quizzes & Exams</u>
1 Jan 24	Discussion of the syllabus, Introduction, Let's find out what do we already know about sustainability- 5 minute paper and discussion.		
2 Jan 29 & 31	Exploring the origin and meaning of Sustainability		
3 Feb 5 & 7	Sustainability: Past, present, and future		
4 Feb 12 & 14	Sustainable development indicators, measurement tools, and other information.		Quiz #1
5 Feb 19 & 21	Food and Agriculture		Project outline is due
6 Feb 26 & 28	Waste management, Recycle and reuse		Quiz #2
7 Mar 4 & 6	Green Buildings		Project Presentation I
8 Mar 11 & 13	Water and Energy conservation		Quiz #3
9 Mar 18 & 20	SPRING BREAK		
10 Mar 25 & 27	Transportation		
11 Apr 1 & 3	Land Use and Biodiversity		Quiz #4
12 Apr 8 & 10	The Green Task Force: Issues, challenges, and possible solutions		Project Presentation II Paper draft is due.

13 Apr 15 & 17	Green Ethics and Corporate Sustainability		
14 Apr 22 & 24	Green Living: Incorporating sustainability practices into our daily lifestyle, taking responsibility, keeping track, and reporting results		
15 Apr 29 & May 1	Additional topics, Sharing what we have learned, and continuing with the good practices.		Final Project presentation
	FINAL EXAM		

LINKS TO SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES (More links will be added)

- <http://www.bridgew.edu/Sustainability/> The Center for Sustainability at BSC
- <http://chronicle.com/subscribe/login?url=/weekly/v53/i09/09a01001.htm> Article on Sustainable practices on a University campus
- <http://chronicle.com/subscribe/login?url=/weekly/v52/i10/10a03402.htm> Article on greener, more socially conscious business schools?
- <http://www.secondnature.org/efs/efs.htm> Education for Sustainability

GRADING

Your performance in this course will be graded using the following grade allocation.

Quizzes: 40% (4 quizzes, 10% each)

Class presentation: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

Research Paper*: 20%

Attendance and class participation: 10%

*Detailed guidelines about the research paper and class presentations will be provided during the first week of classes.

A	100-90
A-	89-85
B+	84-80
B	79-75
B-	74-70
C	69-65
C-	64-60
D	59-55
F	Less than 55

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each student is advised to attend class regularly because much of the material on the weekly quizzes and exams are from class lectures. It is difficult to pass the course by reading the materials on your own. This course requires active class participation. In addition to formal grading, attendance and class participation will be taken into account in the determination of final grades. **If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, you will lose 10% of the course grade allocated to attendance.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is expected of all students; plagiarism and cheating are not condoned and are subject to academic penalty, which may be failure for the course in which the violation took place. A record of the violation is kept and repeated offenses may result in suspension or dismissal from the college. Please refer to the Student Handbook 2007-2008 for the details.

<http://www.bridgew.edu/Handbook/PoliciesProcedures/academicintegrity.htm>