Syllabus for MSMGT 740 Economics of Sustainability

Course Description

Understand the economy as a component of the ecosystem within which it resides, with natural capital added to the typical analysis of human, social, built, and financial capital. Explore traditional micro, macro, and international trade theory and policy and the implications of sustainability.

Topics include: history of economic systems and thought; globalization and localization; distinguishing between growth and development; the nature and causes of market failure; consumption, consumerism, and human well-being; emerging markets; technological change; business organization and financial market alternatives; demographic change; and the global food economy.

Course Learning Outcomes

Student learning objectives specific to each of the topical areas covered during the semester will be provided at the beginning of each lesson. More generally, upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Illustrate the sustainability challenge and imperative within an economic and systems thinking context, using relevant evidence, and distinguish the related analytical and paradigmatic weaknesses of conventional economics.
- Summarize the fundamental elements of economic, social, and ecological interdependence and the policy and economic implications of these relationships.
- Explain the (a) fundamental elements of microeconomic theory and market analysis and (b) market failure and its implications for resource allocation; and apply a related understanding of the micro-allocation problem as framed by ecological economics in terms of market policy implications and options.
- Explain the fundamental elements of macroeconomic and international trade theory and approaches; and apply a related understanding of the macro-allocation problem as framed by ecological economics within the context of social, environmental, and economic policies.
- Discuss heterodox economic approaches and analyses and their relevance to the economics of sustainability.

- Describe the analytical and policy implications raised by the fundamental sustainability questions of economic growth, population, consumption, technology, and valuing nature.
- Apply ecological economic and sustainability tools and concepts to a selected issue or topic, through a structured problem-solving and analytical process, and communicate the results in a written form.
- Interpret the global food economy as an analytical and policy-related exemplar for an application of the economics of sustainability.
- Work within and as part of a small group to develop and deliver a lesson to a specific audience on some element of the "new economy."

Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the textbook section of the SMGT website.

Additional reading materials provided in the course

Course Requirements

Discussions
There are fourteen (11) discussion assignments. Each discussion assignment requires you to make an original post and respond to at least one classmate.

Late discussion assignments, both original posts and responses, will not be accepted.

Issue Paper
You are responsible for a substantive paper (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, and one-inch margins) of no less than twelve (12) and no more than twenty-four (24) pages, excluding references or bibliography, that demonstrates your ability to analyze a question or issue of interest within the broad topical area of the economics of sustainability. You are expected to clearly explain in this paper the implications of what you have found and learned.

The expectation is that this paper will be an original piece of research and analysis specific to this course and semester. You should not be using previous papers (or large parts thereof) from other courses or projects without prior discussion with me to determine whether this is appropriate or allowable. All papers will be submitted to Turnitin for "originality checking" prior to evaluation and grading.

Exams
There are two (2) exams during the semester.

Grading Policy

The course grading breakdown (as a percentage of the total grade) is as follows:

Discussion Assignments (1 percent each; top 10 of 11 scores)	10
Quizzes (5 percent each; top 10 of 11 scores)	50
Exams (15 percent each)	30
Issue Paper Assignment	10
	100

The corresponding letter grades are as follows:

92.5 to 100.0 = A	90.0 to 92.49 = A-	
87.5 to 89.9 = B+	82.5 to 87.49 = B	80.0 to 82.49 = B-
77.5 to 79.9 = C+	72.5 to 77.49 = C	70.0 to 72.49 = C-
67.5 to 69.9 = D+	62.5 to 67.49 = D	60.0 to 62.49 = D-
Below 60.0 = F		

Your final grade for the course will be a weighted average in accordance with the course breakdown shown above.