

Syllabus – Spring 2014

Course Title: BGS 403 – Unfettered Thought

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BOOK: - There is **NO Book required for this course – the materials are within the course.**

Course Description

This course introduces students to the idea of sustainability, and examines the concept from a micro to a macro level. Overarching environmental factors in relation to maintaining quality of air, water, and wildlife are considered, and the meaning of sustainability is explored from the following perspectives: individual, community, city/business, nation/culture, and world. Topics include the triple-bottom line perspective, challenges and conflicts, global sustainability initiatives, and an individual evaluation.

Course Objectives

1. Define terms related to the study of sustainability.
2. Explain the evolution of the concept of sustainability.
3. Explain the requirements for achieving the various levels of sustainability.
4. Identify the social, environmental, and economic forces which impact the concept of sustainability.
5. Examine how the sustainability concerns of people, planet, and profit might be balanced.
6. Analyze the opportunities and challenges related to achieving sustainability.
7. Identify large-scale initiatives in support of sustainability.
8. Assess the impact of individual lifestyle decisions on sustainability and the environment.

Lesson Checklist

Every lesson has a prescribed checklist of activities required to successfully complete the lesson. Follow this checklist, in the specified order, to complete each lesson.

BE CREATIVE!!!!!! The assignments should be thought out, well written and have acceptable creativity added within them. **Also**, I suggest getting a calendar and write down assignments and due dates to help you stay on track. Once discussions and quizzes close, they will **NOT** be reopened and will **not** be accepted!!!

Activities

Survey of Sustainability is made up of the numerous assignments and activities listed below. Detailed instructions for activities are presented within the Lesson.

Graded Activities

- Student Introduction
- Academic Honesty Policy
- 8 Discussion Forums
- Ecological Footprint Assignment
- 12 Quizzes
- Finding the Balance Project

- Multimedia assignment

Grades

The following table shows the activity types contained within this course, and the assigned weighting to determine the final course grade.

| Activity Types | Weight | Due Date |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Student Introduction | 100 | January 24 |
| Academic Honesty Policy | 100 | January 24 |
| Quiz 1 (What is Sustainability) | 100 | January 24 |
| Ecological Footprint Assignment | 100 | January 24 |
| Quiz 2 | 100 | January 31 |
| Quiz 3 | 100 | February 7 |
| Sustainability & Society Discussion | 100 | February 7 |
| Quiz 4-Sustainability Quiz | 100 | February 14 |
| Global Issues Discussion | 100 | February 14 |
| No Quiz 5-Review Lecture | No points | February 28 |
| Quiz 6 Sustainable Solutions | 100 | February 28 |
| Quiz 7 | 100 | March 7 |
| Sustainability & Business Discussion | 100 | March 7 |
| <i>Spring Break</i> | | March 10-14 |
| Quiz 8 | 100 | March 21 |
| People, Planet, Profit Discussion | 100 | March 21 |
| Quiz 9 | 100 | March 28 |
| Challenges Discussion | 100 | March 28 |
| Quiz 10 | 100 | April 4 |
| Finding the Balance Discussion | 100 | April 4 |
| Quiz 11 | 100 | April 11 |
| Finding the Balance Project | 100 | April 11 |
| Quiz 12 | 100 | April 18 |
| The Big Picture Discussion | 100 | April 18 |
| Quiz 13 | 100 | May 2 |
| Multimedia Assignment | 100 | May 2 |
| The Small Picture Discussion | 100 | May 2 |
| | 2600 | |

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following grading scale.

| Letter Grade | Percentage |
|--------------|-------------|
| A | 2600 - 2340 |
| B | 2339 - 2106 |
| C | 2105 - 1895 |
| D | 1894 - 1705 |
| F | <1704 |

Course Participation

Unlike a traditional, instructor-led course, you do not need to show up to class at a specific time every day to earn your class participation grade. Instead, you need to make a constant effort to complete the online course lectures, complete all assignments, and participate in the class discussions. Although some of your activities will be ungraded, your instructor will keep track of whether you have completed them and will assign you a course participation grade based on your completion of these assignments.

Online Etiquette

The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, *not* combative. Please, proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more "traditional" classroom setting.

Professional Conduct:

The instructor reserves the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. If I feel that you have not contributed appropriately on discussion boards, or that you have complained unnecessarily about assignments and grading policies, your final course grade may be reduced accordingly. Additionally, I expect every student to maintain a professional level with respecting opinions of the instructor, students, and the General Studies office staff. Understand that this factor is highly subjective. In extreme cases, the instructor reserves the right to **withdraw** students from the class.

Academic Integrity:

If you are to excel in this course, the need for collaboration is undeniable, even in cases of individual work. There is a fine line in this process. You are encouraged to seek the help and advice of others. However, you **must** do your own work. My personal policy, which will guide this course, is this: **I trust you to behave honestly and ethically in all circumstances until you prove otherwise.** Please ask me if you have questions about what is proper and what is not.

Intellectual Ownership:

When reviewing the literature, one frequently peruses written thoughts, findings, conclusions, and perspectives of individuals and organizations that may be used to create credibility and/or rationale from investigative studies. A problem, however, is how to capitalize on such information, yet not violate the principles of intellectual ownership. One solution involves answering two questions:

1. What is plagiarism?

2. How is plagiarism avoided?

Simply stated, plagiarism is claiming another person's or organization's works as one's own. Such violations may be avoided by knowing how to use and acknowledge the works of others. The 6th Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association states: "Authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own work" (p. 16). "Whether paraphrasing, quoting an author directly, or describing an idea that influenced your work, you must credit the source" (p.170). Quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you will need to cite it in the text.

Some people seem to believe that anything found on the Internet is free to use as they please. The "cut and paste" option also makes it easy to plagiarize. However, information on the web must be properly cited just as you would any "hard copy" work. In this course, APA style citation is expected. Any written assignments must include in text citations as well as a separate reference page. The following web site provides valuable insight relating to what constitutes plagiarism and how it may be avoided:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>.

To avoid plagiarism an individual must give credit wherever he or she uses:

- another individual's idea, opinion, or theory
- facts, statistics, graphs, and drawings that are not common knowledge
- quotations of another individual's spoken or written words
- paraphrase another individual's spoken or written words

Any deviation from the guidelines concerning quotes and citations constitutes plagiarism, as it suggests that you are trying to submit someone else's work and creativity as your own. In accordance with the Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct Section 5.b [1, 2, 3], the penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Acts of plagiarism will result in writing assignments and research projects assigned a grade of zero for the first offense. Upon the second offense, student will be referred to the Dean of Student Services and will receive a grade of 'F' for the course with possible removal from the program and university. TAMU-C has purchased a license for TurnItIn.com which checks for plagiarism. All submitted course requirements may be submitted to this service. If the report generated notes that your work is plagiarized, you will receive an 'F' for that course requirement and course.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

2. “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment”. (See Student’s Guide Book –

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook67.pdf>.)

3. Student Appeal of Course Grade: CBE now has an online printable form for: **Student Appeal of Course Grade**. The form along with TAMU-C Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 is located here:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/cbt/facultyResources.asp?pageName=facultyResources>

Academic Honesty Policy:

Please take the time to read and ask questions at the beginning of the semester as this policy and procedures are strictly followed.

Academic Honesty Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce College of Business and Entrepreneurship

Statement of Ethical and Professional Conduct:

The College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Texas A&M University-Commerce faculty, staff and students will follow the highest level of ethical and professional behavior. We will strive to be recognized as a community with legal, ethical and moral principles and to teach and practice professionalism in all that we do.

In an academic environment we will endeavor to not only teach these values but also to live them in our daily lives and work. Faculty and staff will be held to the same standards and expectations as our students.

Failure to abide by these principles will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal.

Actionable Conduct:

There are five different types of actions that will bring sanction. They are:

1. **Illegal activity:** Violation of any local, state or federal laws that prohibit the offender from performance of his or her duty.
2. **Dishonest Conduct:** Seeking or obtaining unfair advantage by stealing or receiving copies of tests or intentionally preventing others from completing their work. In addition falsifying of records to enter or complete a program will also be considered dishonest conduct.
3. **Cheating:** The unauthorized use of another's work and reporting it as your own.
4. **Plagiarism:** Using someone else's ideas and not giving proper credit.
5. **Collusion:** Acting with others to perpetrate any of the above actions regardless of personal gain.

Sanctions:

In the case of staff or faculty the immediate supervisor will be the arbiter of actionable behavior and will use Texas A&M University-Commerce and/or Texas A&M University System Policy and Procedures as appropriate to guide sanctions.

Faculty, guided by clearly delineated policy in the course syllabus, will be the arbiter for in-class violations. All violations will be reported to the Dean of the College of Business and Entrepreneurship to assure equity and to provide appropriate counsel.

In addition, the Dean will maintain records of violations by students. Second violations will be reviewed by the Dean and sanctions beyond those of the faculty up to and including suspension and permanent expulsion from Texas A&M University-Commerce will be considered. Faculty and students are guided by the current undergraduate and graduate catalogs of the University as well as The Student's Guidebook.

Faculty, staff and students will always be afforded due process and review as appropriate.