Syllabus for MSMGT 740 Economics of Sustainability

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information about this course. The most current syllabus is available in the course.

Course Description

The course helps students 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. We will 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.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Course Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of economics especially as it relates to the environment and sustainability.
- Explain the concept of externality especially as it relates to polluting the environment and climate change.
- 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.

- 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.

Course Requirements/Components

Discussions: Each discussion assignment requires you to make an original post and respond to classmates.

Homework Assignments: Each lesson's MindTap activities correspond to the chapter in the Arnold textbook discussed in that lesson.

Exams: There are two exams in this course.

Term Paper: You are responsible for a substantive paper that demonstrates your ability to analyze a question or issue of interest within the broad topic 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.

Grading

The course grading breakdown is as follows:

Assessment	**Percentage**
10 Discussions	30%
7 Homework Assignments	20%
2 Exams (15% each)	30%
Term Paper	20%
Total	100%

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