Course Syllabus

PUP 3204, Sustainability

Environmental politics, the economy, and society are in a state of crisis. Sustainability is the concept of collective survival. Sustainability is the concept of collective survival.

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Jason A. Kaplan
- Office Hours: Wednesday, 1pm to 3pm (room), Thursday, 11 am to 1pm (room), other times by appointment
- Office Location: Office 1 Kaplan, Pavilion, 1147 West Curtain - on Research 1 Room 160 (room to be physical distancing)
- **Preferred contact means have to be sent through Webcourses/PUP (Canvas), any questions not related to the course can be sent to my email (jkaplan@pup.edu) or communicated in person (or in the Zoom during holidays). Communication initiated Friday after 5pm may not receive a reply until Monday.**
- Office Location: Office 1 Kaplan, Pavilion, 1147 West Curtain - on Research 1 Room 160 (room to be physical distancing)

Communication means have to be sent through Webcourses/PUP (Canvas), any questions not related to the course can be sent to my email (jkaplan@pup.edu) or communicated in person (or in the Zoom during holidays). Communication initiated Friday after 5pm may not receive a reply until Monday.

Office Hours: Wednesday, 1pm to 3pm (room), Thursday, 11 am to 1pm (room), other times by appointment

SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER:

This syllabus is NOT a contract. Alterations of the syllabus can be announced by the instructor given students' educational needs and convenience. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class.

Course Information

- Term Fall 2025
- Course Number: Section: PUP 3204 (9960)
- Course Name: Sustainability
- Credit Hours: 3
- Course Prerequisites: None
- Course Modality: Bi-Hybrid, (Hybrid)

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites (if applicable): none, but an interest in sustainability is recommended :)

COVID - 19 Related Policies

To ensure continuity of course instruction, I have created a set of contingency plans for various scenarios, including Community Service Learning and Accommodations for Pandemic Conditions, Students who are unable to attend class due to COVID-19 related issues, will be able to participate in the course via Zoom. Students who are participating in Community Service Learning, then may be considered independent study students, and will have alternate assignments. Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in question. Students will be informed of any changes to the course via Webcourses/PUP (Canvas) and their school email.

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes in the way classes are taught. Students will be informed of any changes or announcements in Webcourses/PUP (Canvas) and their school email.

COVID-19 and Office Hours - Students who believe they may have COVID-19 diagnosis should contact VICE Dean Kaplan and Dean Hall (0121-2020) to discuss arrangements for the course.

Students should not come to campus if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. Use hybrid/bi-hybrid/Zoom/Webex/Teams/Webcourses/PUP (Canvas) to communicate with the instructor. Office hours will be held via Zoom, and students can contact the instructor via Webcourses/PUP (Canvas).

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. Alternatively, students should contact their academic advisor or Dean of Students.

In Case of Class Illness - If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to the course, including changes to course dates and the course. Please look for announcements in Webcourses/PUP (Canvas) or Webcourses/PUP or Google Email for any alterations.

Course Materials - Students should bring their own laptop or tablet computer. Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should the course shift from an in-person course to a hybrid or online course. Students should check with their instructor and consult course Canvas for discussion specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Course Introduction

Today the world is changing at an unprecedented rate. Changes are coming fast, due to environmental degradation, climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and technological issues creating new challenges. Humanity is at a crossroads, and the future is uncertain. Sustainability is the concept of future generations and future flourishing remaining unscathed.

The objective of this course is giving students the ability to critically think and assess environmental, economic, and sociopolitical issues. Students will be introduced to sustainability, political ideologies, processes as well as environmental issues, and will be able to critically think about the future of humanity and the planet. Students will be introduced to potential solutions and possible future outcomes in relation to sustainability.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to core concepts in sustainability, including environmental and economic. The course will focus on introducing concepts, metrics, and examples of concepts and problems that fall under the umbrella of sustainability. Students will be introduced to environmental issues, including climate change, pollution, and other ecological concerns. Both traditional focus and student-led discussions/presentations will be used in the course.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester students should be more familiar with pressing issues related to sustainability, understand the complexity of the issues, and be able to critically think about the future of humanity. Students will be "switched" and have to make their own related to problems and solutions to the environment. Further, by the end of the course, students should:

- Have a basic understanding of terms related to sustainability (sustainability, sustainability, lightness/darkness), common good (resources, common good resources, public), and ecological footprint (ecological footprint, ecosystem services, carrying capacity, etc.).
- Have a basic understanding of economic and critically aspects and discussions.
- Be able to assess the adequate information (using the internet, Google Scholar, or the library, or Google and Wikipedia, etc.).

Finally, students will be evaluated on:

- Weekly Group Discussions (10)
- Weekly Reflections (10) - (the reflections may be on the topic of our choice that related to sustainability
- One 1000 word essay (the students concept-based thinking, the course and a topic of your choice.
- Mid-Term and Final Exam

Expectations

It is expected that students read the material provided. Students should engage with **all the material provided and be able to discuss the material in class and in the weekly reflections.**

- Read the course material, think critically about the material, and be able to discuss it.
- Search for papers assigned and other that are important for your class discussion.
- Be able to critically think about the material.
- Read the material.
- Turn in the assignments on time.

Students are expected to be active participants, an automatic passing grade (which is equivalent to an "A") is not guaranteed, and participation is expected. Participation will be graded on a weekly basis, and students will be given a grade that grows with weekly submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit assignments through the Canvas/Webcourses/PUP (Canvas) website. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions, and students will be expected to read, discuss, and reflect on the material. Students will be expected to participate in the discussion of the presentations, and **they will be responsible for** the material.

Accessible accommodations and make-up work will be offered for the week's material on the 11th of each week.

Late assignments - Late and missed assignments will be penalized 1 point every 4 hours, after 48hrs passed the deadline, assignments will not be considered and will receive 0 points.

Details of the video presentation and reviews will be discussed on Webcourses/PUP (Canvas) conversation boards and in class.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

For university policy, students who miss an exam or assignment due to an excused absence (documented by a physician, university or professional excuse, religious observance, or legal obligation) must give the instructor a participation conflict with your course assignments, I will offer a comparable opportunity for you to complete the assignment or exam. Students who miss a class due to a university-sanctioned event will be given a comparable assignment and/or grading scale. In the case of an unexcused absence, students will be given a chance to make up a legitimate reason for the absence. Students who miss a class due to a reason that is not a legitimate reason, or are absent without a reason, will be given a zero for the assignment.

Weekly Discussions

Weekly you will be required to post a discussion post and reply twice to two different original discussion posts of your choice. Each original discussion post must be at least 300 words in length and need to be presented in the high discussion (Each "response" must be at least 50 words in length). Failure to post an original 300 words discussion post, AND 2 responses will result in a 0 for the week's discussion.

Video Presentation

If you choose to make a video presentation (not mandatory), the evaluation will take into account content (you will be responsible for material not covered in class) and the quality of the presentation (video, audio, and the ability of the presentation as well as the delivery).

Presentation requirements:

- Contact instructor with topic of your choice and how and you intend to cover content
- Overall logical flow of the ensuple
- Ability to answer questions from the instructor and the class
- Consideration of the presentation to be a presentation or a 3 page paper of studies and "sub-stories" presented in class.

Essays

All Essays will be submitted to Turnitin, avoid plagiarism!

Essays are due on the date on the "topic" of your choice. Essays must be:

- Minimum 1000 words
- Times New Roman
- Line spacing 1.15
- Times New Roman or Arial or Calibri
- Cover page, bibliography
- Contact at least 2 days in advance with the instructor your intended topic. These will be will need to be approved by the instructor. Essays will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Essays will be evaluated on:

- Contact at least 2 days in advance with the instructor your intended topic to cover content
- Overall logical flow of the essay
- Ability to answer questions from the instructor and the class and organized readings of the syllabus, plus summarized and presented in the classroom
- Concluding paragraph in which the student evaluates the argument, the views and does not/does not convinced.

Based on the readings assigned books and papers and students' content. Essays will be in the form of multiple choice questions (MC) and open-ended questions.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted to Webcourses/PUP (Canvas). They will need to be uploaded as pdf, .docx/.doc files, or .rtf files. Students will be responsible for making sure that the file is not corrupted and that the file is the correct file (please upload only the correct file). Email will NOT be accepted. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Summary of Assignment, points and due dates

Due Date	Assignment	Max Points	Submitting Assignment
Weekly Discussions, Week 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, Discussion Due Date: Sundays at 23:59pm.	Discussion	10 points each (max 100 points)	Use discussion board for the weekly/week on webcourses/PUP (Canvas)
Week 3, Week 6, 27th of October	1000 word Mid-Term Essay or Video Presentation	100	Upload essay or video presentation on Webcourses/PUP
Week 8, Oct. 18th	Mid-Term Exam	100	On Webcourses/PUP
Week 14, Nov. 29th or 21st	1000 word Essay	100	Upload essay on Webcourses/PUP
Final Exam - Between Dec. 5th and Dec. 12th	Final Exam	100	On Webcourses/PUP

Grade Conversion (Points acquired in this course to Letter)

Grade Points acquired	Grade
>=95	A
>=90	A-
>=87	B+
>=80	B
>=77	B-
>=70	C+
>=60	C
>=57	C-
>=50	D
<50	F

Grade Dissemination

Grades will be recorded and posted on Webcourses/PUP and will include student data classification and security standards.

Extra Credit: NO extra credit will be offered during this course.

Course Schedule and important dates

This course schedule is used as the syllabus can change depending on class ratio and overall. Some topics / skills / concepts may take longer than others, and I may need to adjust the schedule to fit the needs of the class. Students will be informed of any changes to the course schedule/syllabus assigned. It is better for readings that are considered necessary and mandatory.

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments/Class Zoom Readings (Bold = mandatory)
Week 1	Aug. 25th - Aug. 29th	Introduction, Sustainability, Sustainability, Ecological Footprint, Ecosystem Services, Carrying Capacity

Sun Sep 27, 2020	Video Presentation or Essay	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2020	Week 6 - Measuring Sustainability and Planetary Boundaries	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	Week 7 - Ethics, Fairness and Inequality	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2020	Mid-Term Exam	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 25, 2020	Week 9 - Social Dilemmas	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 1, 2020	Week 10 - Complex Adaptive Systems	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 8, 2020	Week 11 - Social Ecological Systems	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 15, 2020	Week 12 - Resilience Principles	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 22, 2020	Week 13 - Politics and Sustainability	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 29, 2020	Essay	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 6, 2020	Final Exam	due by 11:59pm