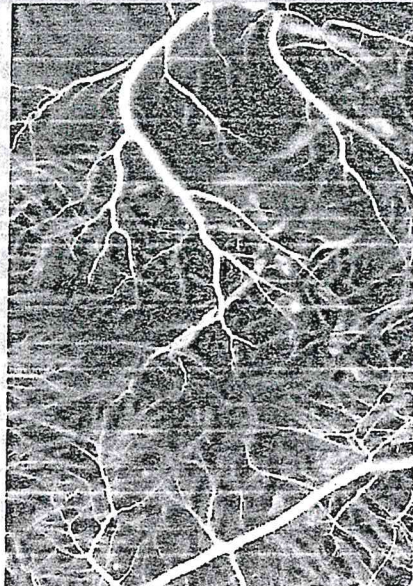


INTER 3450

Britain & Global Issues

Lecturer: Dr. C Garrity

WE ARE NATURE



Close-up of a small leaf

Blood vessels of a human heart

River network of the Amazon

INTER 3450

Britain & Global Issues

We live on a planet with finite resources which is challenged by the infinite aspirations of a growing population. Rising consumption, a consequence of population growth is projected to rise to 9 billion by 2050 due to increased demands from developing countries for a Western lifestyle. The achievement of such a goal would require continuous industrial growth which is impossible. Already the consequences of industrialization is being felt [global warming], threatening the very ecosystem on which we all depend. It has been estimated that a rise in temperature of over 2 degrees could be catastrophic. The seriousness of this issue was illustrated with the Paris Agreement of April 2016 where 175 members set out plans for ambitious climate action.

However, this goal is only one of the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations in 2016. In total 17 goals were adopted with the aim of to addressing over the next 15 years urgent global challenges. Therefore the subject of "sustainability" is more far reaching in ambition than just global warming.

One central concern is the obvious need to reconcile sustainability with the demand for increased prosperity for all.

Many of these challenges are viewed as consequences arising from the process of Globalization with the associated neo-liberal free market agenda resulting in greater resource demand, depletion and decline [oil, and water and food] which in turn has led to strained relationships and conflict, with knock-on effects on huge numbers of the world's population. Starvation and mass migration are two consequences. Clearly, the Capitalist system in its current formulation has little incentive to advocate for a more equitable planet. The seriousness of the problem was even discussed during the annual conference in Davos, Switzerland, in 2015 where the world's economic, political and media elite concluded pessimistically that the problem seemed insoluble.

This process coupled with space / time compression associated with global media means that we can no longer claim ignorance of the effects that the maintenance of the privileged lifestyles in Developed countries are having elsewhere. The levels of consumption currently experienced by us coupled by the projected demand for similar by developing countries is unsustainable for the carrying capacity of the ecosystem.

Acknowledgment that a problem/s exist is only the first step in dealing with it /them. In this case the solution lies in multi-level collective action which conflicts with ideological, political, economic and individual interests. Politically, there is the question of "sovereignty." Politicians are driven by short term personal and National power interests. As the recent referendum in the U.K demonstrated, a large percentage of the British public believed amongst other things that - a

non-elected European policy-making elite had overreached their devolved authority. This perceived "mission creep" has resulted in a loss of trust and undermined the positive collective policies that have enhanced lives world-wide. Similarly, in the U.S. the incoming Republican President elect seems to want to challenge International agreements made by his predecessor. Neither bode well for collective action. Increasingly, it seems that Corporate decision making is eclipsing that of Politicians. Ideologically, Progress is still measured by economic growth, as determined by G.D.P. with the true costs of business takes little account of the subsidies nature provides. What has been overlooked is that without the natural world there is no economy. Any solution requires the cooperation of corporations and individuals but this necessitates changes in attitudes and beliefs at numerous levels. Achieving a sustainable world will require a fundamental change in the way that people think and behave. In particular attitudes towards time need to alter to take account of future generations. Edmund Burke, a conservative philosopher, stated:-

"Society... becomes a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born. Each contract of each particular state is but a clause in the great primeval contract of eternal society."

The course will adopt an interdisciplinary approach to explore the Global issues associated with 'sustainability,' [Geology, geography, Environmentalism, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Geopolitics] Humanity is interwoven by many threads, some obvious and some out of our day- to- day awareness. The aim is to gain insights that can be used to illuminate the concerns, potential solutions and the obstacles to attaining a sustainable world. Where possible, British / European perspectives will be incorporated.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Enhance awareness of the interconnectedness of nature and human beings; personalizing sustainability.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the role that economic forces play in creating the environment.
3. Evaluate the differences and impacts experienced by Developed and Developing countries when dealing with economic and ecological sustainability.
4. Explain the role that Institutions and Networks play in improving, inhibiting and fostering sustainability
5. Critically examine contemporary issues arising from concern with sustainability.
6. Illustrate how gender and identity are impacted by the process of Globalization.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Information
Week 1		Introduction – Sustainability - Definitions
Week 2		Geology-Water - Time
Week 3		Climate change
Week 4		Global Warming
Week 5		Drivers of Change [1] - Population
Week 6		Population Growth -
Week 7		Food for the Future
TRAVEL BREAK		
Week 8		Drivers of change [2] - Consumption
Week 9		Capitalism 20 th Century - GDP
Week 10		Drivers of change – [3] –Energy-Geopolitics
Week 11		Geopolitics of oil –War
Week 12		The developing world
Week 13		Group presentations –alternative futures
Week 14		Sustainability in the 21st Century discussion – Course review
Week 15		

Teaching is by Seminar and Tutorial (including visual audio/material).

The course requirement for each student will be two assessed essays or one essay and a project, which along with class participation will count for 50% of the final grade. One 3 hour examination will count for the remaining 50%.

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N.B:-Unless there is a certified medical requirement, the use of computers during class is prohibited.

NB.	Tutorial attendance is compulsory and all students are expected to participate and make an intellectual contribution in tutorial discussions.
Essay 1 (Paper)	
Essay 2 (Paper)	

Essay titles will be handed out in Week 3.

Tutorial titles will be handed out two weeks before the presentation date.

Please Note :- Any student with documented medical, psychological or learning disabilities, who feels that they may need in-class academic adjustments, reasonable modifications, and / or auxiliary aids and services while taking this course, should first contact the disability Support Services [DSS] on their home campus to discuss specific needs. FDU Florham Campus students should contact the Director of Disability Support Services at 973-443-8079. FDU Metropolitan Campus students should contact the Associate Provost at 201-692-2477. Once the academic adjustments, modifications, or auxiliary aids and services are approved by DSS, the College Dean and the Faculty concerned will be notified.

Global Issues Reading List

Reflections of the Environment

Carson, R., Silent Spring	577.1 CAR
Lovelock, J., The Revenge of Gaia	577.1 LOV
Lovelock, J., The Vanishing Face of Gaia	577.1 LOV
The Prince of Wales., Harmony	577.1 WIN
Wulf, A., The Invention of Nature	577.1 WUL

Environmentalists

Juniper, T., How Many Lightbulbs does it take to change the planet?	577.2 JUN
Juniper, T., What's Really Happening to our Planet	577.2 JUN
Lomborg, B., Global Crises, Global Solutions	577.2 LOM
Lomborg, B., The Skeptical Environmentalist	577.2 LOM
Murray, P., The Sustainable Self	577.2 MUR
Porritt, J., A Decade to Confront the Climate Emergency	577.2 POR

Global Issues

Blewitt, J., Understanding Sustainable Development	577.3 BLE
Calvocoressi, P., World Politics since 1945	577.3 CAL
Campbell, P., An Introduction to Global Studies	577.3 CAM
Hite, K., Global Issues: AN Introduction	577.3 HIT
Keller, B., Environmental Science	577.3 KEL
Skinner, B., The Blue Planet	577.3 SKI
Morgan, J., The World as a Astage	148 MOR
Pine, B., The Experience Economy: Work is Theatre & Business a Stage	148 PIN

Sustainable Development Goals Report

United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals Report	577.4 UNI
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Factfulness

Rosling, H., Factfulness	577.5 ROS
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Population

Bricker, D., Empty Planet	577.6 BRI
Dobkowski, M., On the Edge of Scarcity	577.6 DOB
Dorling, D., Population 10 Billion	577.6 DOR

Global Warming

Booker, C., The Real Global Warming Disaster	577.7 BOO
Maslin, M., Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction	577.7 MAS
Le Miere, C., Arctic Opening	577.7 MIE
Singer, S., Unstoppable Global Warming	577.7 SIN
Stern, N., Why are we Waiting?	577.7 STE
Wallace-Wells, D., The Uninhabitable Earth	577.7 WAL

Scepticism

Agar, N., The Sceptical Optimist 577.8 AGA
Lawson, N., An Appeal to Reason 577.8 LAW
Taverne, D., The March of Unreason 577.8 TAV
Williams, A., The Enemies of Progress 577.8 WIL

Capitalism: Old and New Approaches

D'Alisa, G., Degrowth 577.9 DAL
Hertt, N., The Silent Takeover 577.9 HER
Porritt, J., Capitalism as if the World Matters 577.9 POR
Raworth, K., Doughnut Economics 577.9 RAW

Geopolitics of Oil

Anderson, J., Oil 577.10 AND
Clark, J., The Political Economy of World Energy 577.10 CLA
Engdahl, W., A Century of War 577.10 ENG
Klare, M., Blood and Oil 577.10 KLA
Klare, M., Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet 577.10 KLA
Nore, P., Oil and Class Struggle 577.10 NOR
Sampson, A., The Seven Sisters 577.10 SAM
Sayigh, Y., Arab Oil Policies in the 1970s 577.10 SAY
Venn, F., Oil Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century 577.10 VEN
Yergin, D., The Prize 577.10 YER

Globalization

Adams, M., Coming of Age in a Globalized World 577.11 ADA
Marshall, T., Prisoners of Geography 577.11 MAR
Steger, M., Globalization 577.11 STE

Plastics

Siegle, L., Turning the Tide on Plastic 577.12 SIE

Changing Behaviour

Chignell, A., Philosophy comes to Dinner 577.13 CHI
Halpern, D., Inside the Nudge Unit 577.13 HAL
Honore, C., In Praise of Slow 577.13 HON
Honore, C., The Slow Fix 577.13 HON
Safran Foer, J., We are the Weather 577.13 SAF
Sunstein, C., Why Nudge? 577.13 SUN