

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: C.T. (Tat) Smith
Professor and Dean Emeritus (Forestry)

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Office hours: 4:00-5:00 pm Wednesday or by appointment

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION: 3:10 – 5:00 p.m. Monday
Room 4000 ESC, Earth Sciences Centre

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a senior undergraduate science course that focuses on the scientific foundation for sustainable natural resource management, and the challenges and opportunities for developing management and production systems and governmental policies that enable sustainability goals to be achieved in the long term. Theoretical and case study evaluations will be drawn from a global array of renewable natural resource and energy development topics. The curriculum format will allow students to pursue self-directed inquiry through a mix of individual and team projects, and will develop oral and written communication skills.

FIELD TRIPS: As scheduled

REQUIRED TEXT: There is no required text.

RESERVE READINGS: Readings will be assigned from a variety of sources. Books and journal articles may alternatively be placed on 2-hour reserve in the Noranda Earth Sciences Library, or found on the web, as indicated in lecture notes.

COURSE WEB SITE: Course materials will be posted to a Blackboard-based site throughout the semester. Students in the class are encouraged to attend Blackboard training, and will be provided passwords for access to the site.

COURSE EVALUATION: The course grade will be based on the following.

Active participation	15%
-- incl. lectures, student-lead seminars	
Discussion leader	15%
Term paper	40% (incl. 10% for proposal)
Oral project presentation	10%
Take home essay exam	20%

Term papers will typically be a review paper on a topic of interest to individuals in the class. Topic and scope selection should be approved by the instructor. Each student will prepare a typed report, and present their paper to the class at the end of the semester.

Paper schedule:

- Paper topic and outline 2 February
- Paper submitted 16 March
- Paper seminars presented 9 March - 30 March

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Sustainable Natural Resource Management
Winter 2015

DATE	TIME	TOPIC
5 Jan	1-3 pm	Course overview
12 Jan	1-3 pm	Sustainability concepts
19 Jan	1-3 pm	Application of sustainability concepts to natural resources
26 Jan	1-3 pm	Governance of sustainability, incl. certification systems
2 Feb	1-3 pm	Case study 1&2*
		Term papers topic and outline due
9 Feb	1-3 pm	Case study 3&4*
16 Feb	No class	Reading Week
23 Feb	1-3 pm	Case study 5&6*
2 Mar	1-3 pm	Challenges & opportunities for sustainable natural resource management
9 Mar	1-3 pm	Student term paper seminars
16 Mar	1-3 pm	Student term paper seminars
		Term papers due
23 Mar	1-3 pm	Student term paper seminars
30 Mar	1-3 pm	Student term paper seminars (last class)
1 Apr	5 pm	Take-home final available on Blackboard
2 Apr	5 pm	Take-home exams due

* Student panel-led discussions will be based upon six case studies organized around environmental, economic and social sustainability values

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DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS
5 Jan	Course overview	
12 Jan	Sustainability concepts	Floyd 2002 pp. vii-34; Brundtland 1987
19 Jan	Application of sustainability concepts to natural resources	Lattimore et al. 2009; FAO 2010 pp. 1-12 & 31-79
26 Jan	Governance of sustainability, incl. certification systems	FAO 2010 pp. 13-30; Kittler et al. 2012; Van Dam et al. 2010
2 Feb	Case study 1&2	<i>*Student assigned readings</i>
9 Feb	Case study 3&4	<i>*Student assigned readings</i>
16 Feb	Reading week	
23 Feb	Case study 5&6	<i>*Student assigned readings</i>
2 Mar	Challenges & opportunities for sustainable natural resource management	Floyd 2002 pp. 35-77; Nonhebel 2005
9 Mar	Student term paper seminars	
16 Mar	Term papers due Student term paper seminars	
23 Mar	Student term paper seminars	
30 Mar	Student term paper seminars	
1 Apr	Take home exam posted to B'board	
2 Apr	Take home exams due 5 p.m.	

Required readings:

Brundtland 1987. Brundtland Report – Our Common Future. 1987. UN World Commission on Environment and Development.

Available at: <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>.

FAO. Criteria and indicators for sustainable woodfuels. FAO Forestry Paper 160. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome (2010).

- Available on course reserve at Noranda Earth Sciences Library.

Floyd, Donald W. 2002. Forest Sustainability – The History, the Challenge, the Promise. Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina. 83 pp.

- Available on course reserve at Noranda Earth Sciences Library.

Kittler, Brian, Will Price, Will McDow and Ben Larson. 2012. Pathways to sustainability – an evaluation of forestry programs to meet European biomass supply chain requirements. Environmental Defense Fund.

Available at: <http://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/pathwaysToSustainability.pdf>

Lattimore, B., C.T. Smith, B.D. Titus, I. Stupak, G. Egnell. Environmental factors in woodfuel production: risks, and criteria and indicators for sustainable practices. *Biomass & Bioenergy* 33(10): 1321-1342 (2009).

- Access through U of T library website.

Nonhebel S. 2005. Renewable energy and food supply: will there be enough land? *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 9: 191-201.

- Access through U of T library website.

van Dam, J., M. Junginger, A.P.C. Faaij. From the global efforts on certification of bioenergy towards an integrated approach based on sustainable land use planning. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 14(9): 2445-2472 (December 2010).

- Access through U of T library website.

* Plus student assigned readings related to three case studies.

Student led discussions

Student led discussions will take place on dates listed in the Topic Outline (2, 9 and 23 Feb). Each person will be expected to assume a specific role and responsibility for the topic they have selected. Please allocate those roles in any way that works for individuals and the whole group. No one should be standing silently in the background; and no one should do it all alone. We will allocate specific time for each person's portion and for the whole team (50 minutes all together).

Be prepared to:

1. present the theoretical framework underpinning the sustainability of the natural resource being discussed, the ways in which the case study serves as a good example of the science supporting our knowledge of the sustainability of the system, as well as the opportunities and challenges involved (40 minutes for this portion); and
2. serve as discussion leaders (approximately 10 minutes for this portion) for the ways in which your topic and assigned readings contribute to our understanding of the sustainability of the natural resources associated with the specific case, and the linkages between science-based and traditional cultural knowledge and policy and management.

Please distribute the following materials to the class **one week prior to your presentation** so that everyone can prepare for a lively discussion.

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|----------------------|---|
| Topic outline: | Please develop a brief outline of the material you will be presenting to the class. Your main focus should be on developing an overview including theoretical sustainability concepts, the opportunities and challenges underpinning a topic, and ways in which the case study helps us understand the relevant issues. |
| Reading list: | Please recommend 2-3 readings for the whole class to read prior to your topic being discussed. Readings might be drawn from peer-reviewed journals, trade magazines, government reports and policies, and reports from NGOs. Case studies should be selected on the basis of their ability to illustrate the salient points of the conceptual framework (context, issues, theory) and/or excellent examples of the challenges associated with implementing sustainable natural resource management. |
| Discussion Questions | Please develop a list of thought-provoking questions to stimulate active discussion of your topic. |

2, 9 and 23 February – Social, economic and environmental sustainability of cases

Case study 1 to 6 (?)

Topic: tbd (e.g. sustainability of forest bioenergy production systems in a developing country -- example below)

Suggested number of students: 5

Time: 50 min.

Structure:

Students lecturing (with accompanying Powerpoint) – 40 min (4 x 10 min each)

- Economic sustainability of forest bioenergy production (~10 min)
- Environmental sustainability of forest bioenergy production (~10 min)
- Social sustainability of forest bioenergy production (~10 min)
- Case study selected from a developing region (i.e., Africa, Central/South America, Asia) (~10 min)

Class discussion – 10 min

- Student(s) in the group will have prepared a set of thought-provoking questions and will use these to actively lead the rest of the class in a discussion of their topic.

Evaluation – Students in the class will evaluate the presenting team using the evaluation matrix provided.

GUIDELINES FOR TERM PAPER WORK

Term papers will provide an excellent opportunity for students to develop and strengthen library research skills, as well as the skills associated with critical analysis, synthesis and integration. Another major learning objective associated with this course is to develop student communication skills. Opportunities for developing oral and written communication skills include student lead discussions, term papers, and seminar presentations based on term projects. The following describes the assessment procedures to be used in this course so that students will have a clear understanding of the criteria for excellence.

TERM PAPER TOPIC AND OUTLINE (due 2 February 2015) (10% of semester grade, incl. in 40% for term paper):

There are four components I typically look for (all assumed to be in draft form/status):

1. Title
2. Concise paragraph stating the topic (conceptual background, justification and objectives)
3. Brief outline (depth to two or three levels of detail; demonstrating the main components of the paper and flow of concepts)
4. Current list of key references (demonstrating that you have made solid start on searching the literature on your topic and building confidence that the proposed topic and paper are well conceived)
5. Total length – One or two pages should be adequate.

It is assumed that, by week-5 in the semester, you will have made a solid start on conceiving the topic and approach to take; and also that you will probably revise the approach and maybe objectives as you learn more and begin writing the paper and work through the project. I am keen to see you demonstrate that you have given it a fair amount of thought; and certainly want to encourage you to revise the specifics of your project as you learn more and become more experienced in the topic.

TERM PAPER (30% of semester grade; note an additional 10% allocated to proposal):

The Term Paper should be based on a critical, analytical review of published information that is related to the science and policies associated with sustainable natural resource management.

Term paper topics should reflect the interests of each individual student. The maximum length of the paper should be 15 pages (typed, double-spaced, inclusive of tables and figures). The matrix for evaluating papers is described in the attached that will also be made available on the course web site.

TERM PAPER SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (10% of semester grade):

The purpose of the student term paper presentations is to develop oral presentation skills using a variety of media (e.g. Powerpoint, video, sound). Each student's presentation will be 10 minutes (maximum) in length, followed by a 4-minute question and answer period. The criteria for evaluating seminars are attached.

Constructive Comments and Evaluation for Oral Presentations:

Course: _____ Date: _____

Presenter: _____

Title: _____

Objectives: Were there clearly stated goals to presentation?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Body of Presentation: Was information well explained and relevant?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Conclusions/Recommendations: Did these relate to presentation objectives/content?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Organization: Was there a logical flow to material and information?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creativity: Flair and originality of ideas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Use of visual aids: Good use of audiovisual equipment? Table/figures of high quality and explained to audience?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Handling of questions and discussion period: Were questions well answered? Did speaker develop ideas and stimulate debate?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Targeted at Audience: Was material at appropriate depth for audience?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rapport with Audience: Good eye contact, voice projection, confident speech etc.?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Time management: Was talk delivered within allotted time? If yes, circle 10; if No, deduct 1 mark for each minute over time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

General Comments:

What were the strengths of the presentation?

Are there any areas that need further improvement?

Evaluator: _____ Overall Grade: _____

Term paper evaluation rubric

	Inadequate & Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent
Mark range	0-49% & <59%	60-69%	70-79%	80-100%
Knowledge	Little or no evidence of a familiarity with the information. Little evidence of use of information beyond that provided in lectures and assigned readings. Literature or other sources are outdated or primarily from grey literature. Inordinate use of non-refereed journals, web sites, etc. Fails to relate relevant information to the question, problem or task.	Some evidence of a familiarity with the information. Some evidence of use of information beyond that provided in lectures and assigned readings. Demonstrates an understanding of the question, problem or task. Literature (or other sources of information) is up-to-date and appropriate.	Strong evidence of a familiarity with and understanding of the information. Clearly relates the appropriate information to the question, problem or task. Literature (or other sources of information) reviewed is substantial, appropriate and up-to-date.	Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the relevant information. Exceptional ability to identify the most critical information and relate it to the question, problem or task. Literature (or other sources of information) reviewed is extensive, appropriate and up-to-date.
Analysis & Synthesis	Simply "reports" on or summarizes information with only limited evidence of analysis. Little or no evidence of an understanding of the question, problem or task. Little or no attempt to incorporate information or ideas from other sources, jurisdictions, schools of thought, etc. Little or no evidence of original ideas relevant to the question, problem or task.	Some evidence of an ability to analyze the information and relate this to the question, problem or task. Some attempt to incorporate information from related issues or sources, jurisdictions, schools of thought, etc. Some evidence of original ideas relevant to the question, problem or task.	Clearly demonstrates an understanding of the question, problem or task. Strong evidence of an ability to analyze the information and relate this to the question, problem or task. Many (but appropriate) examples of the incorporation of information from related issues or other sources, jurisdictions, schools of thought. Strong evidence of original ideas relevant to the question, problem or task.	Exceptional analysis of the information with a very strong linkage to the question, problem or task. Carefully selected examples of the incorporation of information from related issues or other sources, jurisdictions, schools of thought, significantly strengthen the response. Extremely well-developed approach to solving the problem, answering the question or accomplishing the task. Original ideas relevant to the question, problem or task form a significant part of the response and are well supported.
Critical Thought	Little evidence of evaluation of competing arguments. Approach is unclear or unsupported. No conclusions and/or recommendations provided OR those that are provided are superficial and/or poorly defended or explained.	Some evidence of evaluation of competing arguments. Conclusion and/or recommendations are reasonable but lack substantial depth, explanation or support. Assumptions that conclusion (of the author or those of other sources) rest on are identified and addressed to some degree.	Many examples of an ability to assesses and weigh competing arguments. Develops a logical and well-reasoned approach to solving the problem (answering the question, or accomplishing the task). Clearly defined conclusions and/or recommendations. Assumptions that the conclusion (the authors or those of other sources reviewed) rest on are clearly identified and justified and limitations are recognized.	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to assesses and weigh competing arguments. Very in-depth and clearly defended conclusions/recommendation are presented and clearly relate to the questions, problem or task. Assumptions that the conclusion rest on are clearly identified and justified, and limitations are recognized. Measures to improve the approach used to address the question, problem or task are identified and explained to an appropriate degree.
Organization	Very poor organization. Detracts significantly from the answer to the question or solution to the problem. Lacks a logical flow.	Generally well organized with coherent sentence and paragraph structure. Some extraneous material. Some integration of conclusions, solutions and/or recommendations is evident.	Good organization and logical flow. Objective(s) and/or hypothesis (where appropriate) are/is presented. The approach is defined and results of the analysis or problem solving effort are clearly presented. Clearly addresses the question, problem or task. Provides appropriate and integrated conclusions, solutions and/or recommendations.	Exceptional organization. Focus on the problem or question is evident throughout. Very clearly articulated objectives (or hypothesis where appropriate), approach (or methods where appropriate), and results. Conclusions, solutions and/or recommendations are clearly related to the question or objectives (or hypothesis where appropriate).
Communication	Very poorly written. Frequent spelling mistakes or typographical errors that could clearly have been corrected by proof reading or the use of a "spelling checker". Inadequately referenced and/or inappropriately formatted referencing	Generally well written with some minor spelling or grammatical errors or awkward style. Some minor referencing issues. Minor editing would make this appropriate (based on the communications only) for submission to an outside review or audience.	Clearly and very efficiently written with no spelling or grammatical errors. All necessary references are provided and appropriately formatted.	Clearly and exceptionally well written with no spelling or grammatical errors. No extraneous information that does not add to the value of the document. All necessary references are provided and appropriately formatted. The level of writing is well-suited to the "audience". Ready for submission to an outside review or audience.

HOUSE RULES

Attendance

While no mark is allotted specifically for attendance, it is assumed that all students will attend class regularly. This is important for students to gain maximum benefit from the course. If a student does not attend regularly, this will be reflected in their participation mark.

Field trip

Depending on the selected case studies, we may want to schedule a field trip.

Academic integrity

The University of Toronto has a strict policy on plagiarism, which can be found in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (available at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

The following excerpts from this document outline the university's policy:

It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly:

(d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism (for a more detailed account of plagiarism, see Appendix "A") ;

(e) to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere;

(f) to submit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.

Therefore, under no circumstances will plagiarism be accepted in this course, and students who engage in plagiarism will face strict penalties.

The following resource from the University of Toronto provides tips on how to avoid plagiarism:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

It is also expected that students will complete individual assignments (e.g., take home exam) on their own.

Course Policy for Late Submissions and Missed Assignments for Medical Reasons

If you require accommodation for late submission of assignments or a missed midterm examination, you must inform your instructor by email within 24 hours of the due date of the assignment or missed test. In addition, you must also submit University accepted medical or other documentation, in person, to the Faculty of Forestry *within 5 calendar days* for missed assignments or midterm examination. Medical Certificates or Doctor's Notes *must* be an original U of T Student Medical Certificate (available from the Office of the Registrar's web site) and *must* include the statement "This Student was unable to write the test on date(s) for medical reasons". Documentation *must* show that the physician was consulted within *one* day of the test. A statement merely confirming a report of illness made by the student is *not* acceptable. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a grade of zero for the assignment or midterm in question. For students with a documented absence due to a medical condition or other serious event who are unable to submit an assignment within 6 days, the other assignments will be reweighted on a pro rata basis.

Late assignments

It is expected that assignments will be handed in by the dates specified on the course syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day of lateness, to a maximum of 6 days (30%). After six days, assignments will no longer be accepted and a grade of 0 will be given.

Late assignments can be slipped under the door of office 3038 ESC after regular business hours.

Participation and group dynamics

The material in this course will represent many opportunities for interesting, lively and sometimes controversial discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in these discussions, and are expected to respect the opinions and ideas of other class members at all times.

Communication with instructor

Students are encouraged to approach the instructor with any questions, concerns or ideas they may have throughout the course. If questions are detailed, it is recommended that students visit the instructor during office hours rather than via email (although I will

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make every effort to answer all emails promptly), as face-to-face may be a more efficient means of communication for some complex questions. If a student is unable to come to any of the specified office hours, please contact us to set up an appointment with the instructor, as available.