

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: Political Science
International Relations
American Studies
Economics

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Sustainable Development

Course Code: PLT 6104

Total Hours 160

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 15

Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the process of development project evaluation, in the context of the theory and practice of sustainable development. The course enables students to focus on the political, social and economic complexity of managing a specific sustainable development in the developing world. Methods of evaluation are explored, decided upon and utilised in the production of a Project Evaluation Document (PED) for a sustainable development project of choice. Issues such as livelihoods, gender, environmental impact, measurement, participation and consultation processes are raised, though the context varies across urban/rural and blue-green-brown issues depending on the specific project chosen for evaluation.

Prerequisites:

One of the following:

HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters - A History of History

ECN 5105 Economic Problem of Developing Countries

SCL 5200 Social Research

ENV 5100 Environmental Ethics: Green Principles

PLT 5201 Research Methods Social Sciences

INR 5102 Global Development Politics

PLT 5103 Politics of Environmentalism

Aims and Objectives:

- To extend the understanding of students with regard to the practical implications of sustainable development in the developing world
- To engage in an in-depth study and evaluation of a specific sustainable development project, using internationally recognised evaluation criteria
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields pertaining to development studies and beyond which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of contemporary politics of development and the environment
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that will be of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of writing skills, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

Political Science: 6B(ii); 6B(iv); 6C(ii); 6C(iv); 6D(i); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

International Relations: 6Bii, 6Biv, 6Cii, 6Civ, 6Di-4

Economics: A5, B4, C5, C7

American Studies: 6Bii, 6Biii, 6Cii, 6Civ, 6Di, 6Dii, 6Diii, 6Div

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate systematic insight into the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the practice of sustainable development
- Demonstrate a sophisticated interdisciplinary analysis of problems and issues with sustainable development in practice
- Take responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course
- Demonstrate the ability to develop projects with minimal supervision, to use feedback effectively, and to plan and implement strategies for managing expectations regarding assigned work.
- Demonstrate flexible evaluative, writing and analytical skills in addressing sustainable development that translate directly into the workplace

Indicative Content:

- Sustainable development theory and practice in the developing world
- Evaluation methods for sustainable development projects
- Key 'green' topics in sustainability in the developing world (i.e., deforestation, desertification, conservation)
- Key 'blue' topics in sustainability in the developing world (i.e., water resources, dams)
- Key 'brown' topics in sustainability in the developing world (i.e., urban pollution, pollution trading, energy production, industrial pollution)
- Sustainable livelihoods in the developing world

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be **Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating**. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of

Indicative Texts:

Robertson, M. (2017) *Sustainability: Principles and Practices*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

Ockwell, D. and R. Byrne (2017) *Sustainable Energy for All: Innovation, Technology and Pro-Poor Green Transformations*. New York: Routledge.

Potter, R. et al (2016) *Geographies of Development: An Introduction to Development Studies*. 4th ed. Prentice Hall.

Sachs, J. (2015) *The Age of Sustainable Development*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Change Log for this CSD:

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