



# GEOG 2000: Environment & Sustainability

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## **GEOG 2000: Sustainability and Environment**

Utah Valley University, Fall 2020

Online

Instructor: **Dr. Hilary Hungerford**

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Office hours: 1-3pm, Tuesday and Thursday, or by appointment

### **Course description:**

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Explores relationships of human and natural systems, how cultural groups experience nature, and global sustainability. Examines different ways of perceiving nature, resources, the environment, and society. Critically analyzes links between social, economic, political, historical, cultural, and environmental processes. Discusses environmental problems and ways to build more sustainable futures. Includes participation in local sustainability issues.

### **Purpose of the course in terms of fulfilling Social and Behavioral Science GE credit**

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This course meets the Social and Behavioral Sciences criteria for general education. This course emphasizes the nature, history, theories, and methods of social science through readings and engaged learning activities. Two-thirds of the class focuses on relational, cultural, historical contexts that shape environmental sustainability, while one-third of the class examines how natural systems shape and are shaped by human actions. Students will develop a comparative perspective in the course through activities on demographics, socioeconomics, environments, and cultures across Utah.

### **Required Texts**

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- Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Environment+and+Society%3A+A+Critical+Introduction%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9781118451564>

## Course learning outcomes:

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1. Analyze the intersections of human and natural systems.
2. Discuss social science theories in relation to environmental behaviors.
3. Explain the multifaceted aspects of sustainability.
4. Describe the links between individual environmental practices and greater environmental sustainability.
5. Compare ways that the environment is viewed across cultures and societies.
6. Evaluate environmental problems and their possible solutions.

## Alignment of course learning outcomes and Utah Valley University's Essential Learning Outcomes:

1. Analyze the intersections of human and natural systems.
  - *Intellectual & Practical Skills Foundation: Qualitative Reasoning: Critical, Analytical and Creative Thinking*
2. Discuss social science theories in relation to environmental behaviors.
  - *Intellectual & Practical Skills Foundation: Qualitative Reasoning: Critical, Analytical and Creative Thinking*
3. Explain the multifaceted aspects of sustainability.
  - *Integrative & Applied learning: Integrative learning*
4. Describe the links between individual environmental practices and greater environmental sustainability.
  - *People of Integrity: Personal and Social Responsibility*
5. Compare ways that the environment is viewed across cultures and societies.
  - *Intellectual & Practical Skills Foundation: Qualitative Reasoning: Critical, Analytical and Creative Thinking*
6. Evaluate environmental problems and their possible solutions.
  - *Integrative & Applied learning: Applied learning*
  - *Professional Competency: Problem Formation and Solution*
  - *Stewards of Place: Local Community*

## Course assessments

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Discussion: 30% of grade

Attendance and participation are vital components of this course. This portion of your grade will be determined by your attendance in class periods as well as your completion of pre-class reflection assignments.

Assignments and reading analyses: 30% of grade

Each week we will read some of our textbook and supplement with current events or short stories.

Each class period students from the class will briefly present/review a small section of the reading and discuss how the text relates to themes in class. Multiple people will present each class. The instructor will compliment your review with other discussion. We will choose who presents when and what pages on the first day of class.

Local sustainability investigation: 20% of grade

We will be completing a semester-long investigation into local sustainability issues.

Essay exams: 10% of grade

There are two essay exams in class. These will be take home and ask you to deeply think about sustainability problems and solutions.

**Course schedule**

\*subject to change

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<b>Week 1</b>	What is sustainability?
<b>Week 2</b>	Approaches and Perspectives 1: People and Markets
<b>Week 3</b>	Approaches and Perspectives 2: Institutions and Ethics
<b>Week 4</b>	Approaches and Perspectives 3: Risks and Political Economy
<b>Week 5</b>	Approaches and Perspectives 4: Social Constructions
<b>Week 6</b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>Week 7</b>	Trees
<b>Week 8</b>	Wolves
<b>Week 9</b>	Uranium
<b>Week 10</b>	Tuna

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<b>Week 11</b>	Lawns
<b>Week 12</b>	Bottled Water
<b>Week 13</b>	French Fries
<b>Week 14</b>	THANKSGIVING BREAK
<b>Week 15</b>	E-Waste
<b>Week 16</b>	Research projects
<b>Week 17</b>	FINALS WEEK

**Classroom policies:**

Teaching and learning is a reciprocal relationship. You are expected to come to class prepared, having read the required material and completed any assignments necessary. Please turn cell phones off and refrain from engaging with them during class. Food and drink are permitted as following university guidelines.

**Grading**

94-100% =	A	Demonstrates a mastery of the learning objectives
90-93.9% =	A-	
87-89.9% =	B+	
84-86.9% =	B	Demonstrates a functional level of the learning objectives
80-83.9% =	B-	
77-79.9% =	C+	
74-76.9% =	C	Demonstrates basic achievement of learning objectives
70-73.9% =	C-	
67-69.9% =	D+	
64-66.9% =	D	met some learning objectives, has significant deficits
60-63.9% =	D-	
0-60% =	E	failure to demonstrate an understanding of learning objectives

## **Course Policies**

All university policies, student rights, and responsibilities codes are enforced, including no tolerance for plagiarism (e.g., no copy and pasting answers from the internet and no copying your buddy's answers) and other forms of cheating. Minor Violations will result in a failing grade for that assignment or Major Violations will be reported to the University and may result in an E for the entire class. Refer to the following policies and procedures document:  
<http://www.uvu.edu/policies/officialpolicy/policies/show/policyid/172>

## **Students with accommodation needs:**

Students who need accommodations because of a disability may contact the UVU Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the OAS office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email [nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu](mailto:nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu) or text 385-208-2677.

## **Diversity and Inclusion at UVU**

“Come as you are. UVU has a place for you.”--President Tuminez.

UVU is committed to preparing all students for success in an increasingly complex, diverse, and globalized society. We value and promote collegial relationships and mutual respect among students, faculty, staff, and the community. We acknowledge and seek to address the needs of populations who are underserved as well as students with varying levels of academic preparation. Since your experience in this class is important to me, it is my intent to promote civility and respect the voice, dignity, and potential of each individual. I aim for an inclusive learning environment that provides equitable opportunities and fosters the understanding, appreciation, and recognition that diversity and individual differences are a source of strength. I aim for a course that is respectful of diversity including age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic status.

Please contact me if you need to talk about any issues you are facing. I value any suggestions on how to improve the effectiveness of this course. If that feels uncomfortable to you, you can contact the [Inclusion and Diversity Committee](#) to ask for help and support.