

## Environment 277 – Leaders in Sustainability

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Thursdays 5:00–7:50 P.M., Franz Hall 2258A

### Course Description

Common course for all students participating in Leaders in Sustainability Program, including those from engineering, law, management, public affairs, public health, natural and social sciences, and others. Creation of environment for academically based discussions on various sustainability-related themes, capitalizing on wide mix of disciplines represented among participating students. Sessions feature UCLA faculty members, external speakers, and leadership skills to help students learn more about how to best put their interests in sustainability to use.

### Learning Objectives

This course aims above all to provide a meeting place for students from across campus who are participating in the Leaders in Sustainability (LiS) graduate certificate program. The aim of the course is to provide an environment that facilitates the following

1. Provide an opportunity to interact with students from a different disciplines and programs.
2. Introduce a knowledge base of core competencies in: principles of sustainability and its three main components of environment, economy, and equity; dynamics and governance of social-environmental systems, linking knowledge with action, and other approaches to solving sustainability challenges.
3. Gain breadth in several key sustainability topics by learning from each other and through guest lectures by speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds and institutional settings include academia, private industry, government, advocacy, and civil society.
4. Develop a more holistic understanding of the issues related to sustainability and how you can demonstrate leadership that goes beyond just scientific leadership in the form of more cutting-edge research.
5. Strengthen skills important for leaders, including systems thinking, leveraging your personal leadership style and strengths, collaborating within diverse groups, communicating your message, and project management, which includes setting realistic goals and priorities.

### Recommended Preparation

Graduate student status.

### Format

The course is intended to be based heavily on discussion and student-directed learning. Most lectures will have a lecture by a guest speaker followed by a Q&A which will take up the first half of the class (between 60 and 90 minutes) and the rest of the time devoted to an interactive group

activity. Some sessions/classes will be more experiential with a skill building focus, while others will focus more on content and knowledge building.

### *Materials*

The course is organized around specific topics listed below and the main content will be the material presented by the speaker for each lecture, any background reading they share and the interactive class activity or discussion following the lecture. The book *Sustainability Principles and Practice* by Margaret Robertson (3rd ed., 2021), Earthscan/Routledge Publisher is a good introductory text that provides a basic overview of different important topics and will be useful for the group project presentation, which you can organize around the text.

*This course is part of the UCLA Inclusive Access program.* Your course materials are being automatically provided to you, digitally, through the course website before the first day of class or upon enrollment. The materials are being provided at a reduced and competitive price. You will receive e-mail from the UCLA Store (UCLA Store <no-reply>@verbasoftware.com) with program details and cost sent directly to your email address on file with the Registrar. It is your responsibility to read all communication coming from the bookstore. Check your spam folder if not received.

Everyone enrolled in this course is automatically a participant to start and will have access to the materials through 2nd week of class. Those remaining in the program after 2nd week will be billed for the materials directly to their BruinBill account and will continue to have access to the course materials. **If you do not wish to participate in Inclusive Access, you must opt-out by the Friday of 2nd week deadline, or you will be billed.** Those who opt-out will lose access to the digital materials starting week 3 and will be responsible for obtaining the materials on their own.

Do not pay for your materials through the publisher website unless you are opting out of Inclusive Access. All Inclusive Access course materials will be billed to your BruinBill account. Any questions regarding the Inclusive Access program can be directed to [inclusiveaccess@asucla.ucla.edu](mailto:inclusiveaccess@asucla.ucla.edu).

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic (Chapter)	Guest Speakers and Assignments
1	Jan 9	Introduction (1, 2)	Read Chapters 1 and 2 and the Syllabus
2	Jan 16	Biosphere (3), Human Sphere (4)	Assignment Due: Reflection – “Conservation in the Anthropocene” and “Do we consume too much?”
3	Jan 23	Waste & Recycling (15)	Speaker: <b>Nurit Katz</b> , UCLA Chief Sustainability Officer; Commissioner, Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles Assignment Due: Reflection – Death of Environmentalism, Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist
4	Jan 30	Water Resources (6), Pollution (8)	Speaker: <b>Mike Antos</b> , Senior Associate, Stantec Assignment Due: Reflection – Hogan & Kaiser on Leadership
5	Feb 6	Climate (5), Energy (9)	Activity and Assignment Due: Offshore Wind Farm Simulation

Week	Date	Topic (Chapter)	Guest Speakers and Assignments
6	Feb 13	Green Buildings (10), Sustainable Sites (11), Livable Cities (12)	Speaker: <b>Heidi Creighton</b> , City of Santa Monica Assignment Due: Comparison of two ESG reports
7	Feb 20	Biodiversity (7)	<b>David McNeill</b> , Executive Director, Baldwin Hills Conservancy, State of California Assignment Due: Leadership Project Proposal and Coursework Plan
8	Feb 27	Products (14), Corporate Sustainability Reporting (16)	<b>Audrey Vinant-Tang</b> , Director, Sustainability Strategy, NBCUniversal Assignment: Work on Final Presentations
9	Mar 6	Food (13)	<b>Arohi Sharma</b> – NRDC Assignment: Work on Final Presentations
10	Mar 13	Class Project Presentations	Water, Biodiversity, Pollution, Energy, Food, Green Buildings, Sustainable Sites, Livable Cities, Products, Waste and Recycling
11	Mar 20		Assignment Due: Final reflective essay

## Description of Assignments

All assignments are due electronically by the time posted on Bruin Learn. Late assignments are not accepted.

Follow formatting and length instructions. Single spaced, 1" margins, 12-point font. Named <LastName>\_Assignment<number>.pdf and include your full name within the document. Ensure your memos and essays are structured well; that is, they have thesis and topic sentences and conclusions. Graduate level analytic thinking should be evident. Use proper citations, well-formatted and without errors, when relevant.

Following are three of the assignments that represent multi-week or cumulative effort to complete. Additional assignments will be posted on Bruin Learn

### *Leadership Project Proposal and Coursework Plan*

Template will be posted with the assignment. It has the following elements.

**About yourself.** Your degree program, your career plan, your interest in the Leaders in Sustainability certificate and a couple of sentences about yourself that you would like to share.

**Coursework.** List the courses that you have already taken or plan to take for the LiS certificate. Do not list other courses taken. Even if you are not yet sure which courses you plan to take or which courses are available to meet the LiS course requirements, you should have a plan for meeting the course requirements for the LiS certificate. For anyone who still has a year or more of graduate school remaining, what classes can you ultimately take can differ from your course portfolio proposal/plan but this assignment is intended to help you plan, prepare, and get on the

right track to complete your LiS requirements. This part of the proposal should be approximately one page long and should include an explanation of why you want to take the particular set of courses, and how the courses will help advance your career goals.

**Leadership Project Idea.** Present a project that will meet the leadership requirement of the LiS program. Your project proposal should be about two pages long. Follow the list of components in the proposal template. Project guidelines for the leadership requirement can be found attached to the template.

### *Group Presentation*

You will be part of a group assigned to one of the topics below. Teams will be constituted to have members from different disciplines. The group will be responsible for a 15-minute presentation on the assigned topic. The presentation should be informative and interactive. Topics, with associated textbook chapters:

Water (6)  
Biodiversity (7)  
Pollution (8)  
Energy (9)  
Green Buildings (10)  
Sustainable Sites (11)  
Livable Cities (12)  
Food (13)  
Products (14)  
Waste and Recycling (15)

### *Reflective Final Essay*

Submit a 2–3-page reflective essay describing what you learned from the course. Your paper should respond to some of the following questions:

- How did your perspective or personal definition of sustainability evolve?
- Did the interactions with students from different backgrounds affect your outlook on sustainability? If so, how?
- What do you see as the key debates in the field of sustainability?
- How do you plan to become a leader in sustainability at UCLA and beyond?

### **Policies**

**Email.** I will respond to emails as promptly as possible. Please use the following prefix in the subject line of your email – “ENV277: ”. **Phone.** Here is my mobile number: (310) 247-9719; you can call in case of emergency (e.g., going to miss your presentation in half an hour and no other way to let me know). **Texts.** Sure. But I don’t use a smartphone, so my responses will be brief.

**Attendance.** Attending class and arriving on time (either in person or virtually) counts toward your participation grade. At most one absence with a solid reason and preferably with prior permission is acceptable without loss of points.

**Engagement.** Here are some forms of engagement that are acceptable other than talking in class because it is a large class and not everyone wants to do that. *Notetaker:* document class discussion and share a summary of major points and ideas with the whole class. *Questioner:* submit thoughtful questions for a speaker or readings before the day of class. *Connector:* submit short written comments after class that connect themes between discussions on different topics. *Illustrator:* develop and share graphic illustrations of concepts or themes from discussion and share them with the class. That is, **engagement does not all need to be in class.**

## Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### *Code of Conduct*

All students are expected to abide by the UCLA student code of conduct. Individual assignments should be performed individually (unless stated otherwise); you may only discuss your work on individual assignments with others after submitting it. **Always cite your sources carefully.** See <http://guides.library.ucla.edu/bruin-success> for guidelines on how to cite correctly, and see <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity> for more information on expectations regarding academic conduct.

### *Support Systems*

#### ***UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) – (310) 825-0768***

Available 24/7. Confidential service. CAPS supports undergraduate, graduate, and professional school student development, empowerment, and success through connection with dedicated diverse staff who provide mental health services that encourage Health, Healing, and Hope. <https://counseling.ucla.edu/>

#### ***National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255***

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

#### ***Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center – (310) 815-4073***

Confidential service. The Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center (The Ashe Center) is devoted to providing quality, accessible, state-of-the-art healthcare and education to support the unique development of UCLA students. <https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/>

#### ***Campus Assault Resources & Education (CARE) – (310) 206-2465***

Confidential service. CARE has three distinct, but complementary services: Education, Advocacy, and Healing. <https://careprogram.ucla.edu/>

#### ***Center for Accessible Education – (310) 825-1501***

The mission of the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) is to create an accessible, inclusive, and supportive learning environment. Through a collaborative effort with faculty, staff, and

students, the CAE facilitates academic accommodations, disability advocacy, and serves as an educational resource for the campus community. <https://cae.ucla.edu/>

***Discrimination Prevention Office – (310) 794-1232***

DPO investigates reports of discrimination or harassment based on race, ancestry, national origin, religion, age, and other categories protected by law and University policy. <https://equity.ucla.edu/about-us/our-teams/civil-rights-office/discrimination-prevention/>

***Economic Crisis Response Team – (310) 206-1189***

Provides support and guidance to enrolled UCLA students who have self-identified, or are identified by UCLA faculty or staff, as experiencing a financial crisis that impacts their academic success at UCLA. <https://studentincrisis.ucla.edu/economic-crisis-response>

***Graduate Student Resource Center – (310) 267-4805***

GSRC is a resource, referral and information center for graduate and professional school students. They offer advice and assistance in dealing with the challenges of graduate school, as well as a number of workshops and programs done in collaboration with campus partners. <https://gsrc.ucla.edu/>

***Resilience Center (RISE) – (310) 815-9039***

The RISE Center is a holistic wellness hub that provides an array of programs, classes, trainings, and self-directed resources to foster and support resilience, connection, and well-being for our UCLA community. Services are free of cost to students and are led by a team of healing practitioners, mental health experts, prevention educators, wellness advisors, and student ambassadors. <https://risecenter.ucla.edu/>

***Student Legal Services – (310) 825-9894***

Confidential service. Provides confidential legal counseling and assistance regarding a wide range of legal issues to all currently registered and enrolled UCLA students. <https://www.studentlegal.ucla.edu/>

***Title IX Office – (310) 206-3417***

Non-confidential reporting for sexual harassment and sexual violence. See <https://sexualharassment.ucla.edu/>

***Guidance, Resilience, Integrity, and Transformation (GRIT) Peer Coaches***

GRIT Peer Coaches are trained to provide weekly 1:1 coaching support to their fellow peers to achieve personal, academic, and professional success. Some topic areas of focus include strategies for stress-reduction, problem-solving, goal-setting, and connecting to yourself and the broader campus community.

***Community Service Officers***

The Community Service Officer escorts are available free of charge to walk with students, faculty, staff or visitors 365 days a year from dusk until 1AM between campus buildings, local living areas, or Westwood Village. How it works: 15 minutes before you need to leave, call (310)

794-WALK (9255). For more information visit their website.

<https://www.police.ucla.edu/cso/evening-escorts>

### ***UCLA Safe Ride Service***

This service provides a safe means of transportation around the campus during evening hours. It is free and available to all UCLA students, staff, faculty and visitors. All ride requests should be made using the TapRide app (available in GooglePlay or Apple App store). Users should install the app, select University of California Los Angeles and login using their UCLA Logon ID. Available Monday through Thursday from 7 P.M. to midnight during Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters.

### ***Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)***

UCLA is committed to providing a safe work environment for faculty, staff, students and visitors — one that is free of violent behavior and threats of harm. The Behavioral Intervention Team is a multidisciplinary team consisting of representatives from Campus Legal Counsel, Staff & Faculty Counseling, Insurance & Risk Management, UCLA Police Department, and Employee & Labor Relations. [Report a concern about a UCLA employee or an affiliate.](#)

### ***LGBTQ Campus Resource Center – (310) 206-3628***

Provides a comprehensive range of education and advocacy services supporting intersectional identity development as well as fostering unity, wellness, and an open, safe, and inclusive environment for UCLA's LGBTQ community. <https://lgbtq.ucla.edu/>

### ***Dashew Center for International Scholars & Students – (310) 825-1681***

UCLA's central hub for contact, resources, support and advocacy for international students and scholars. <https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/>