

Syllabus SUST 101: Introduction to Sustainability

Miramar College, Spring 2026

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- You can also communicate with me via the [Pronto app](#) or [Canvas messages](#).
- You can also post your question anonymously in the "[Have a Question? Ask it here!](#)" discussion forum in Canvas.

Student Support Hours (aka Student Visiting Hours and Office Hours):

- Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30-9:30 and 1:30-2:30 (in person, H-110L—if you wish to meet via Zoom during this time, please notify me beforehand)
- Wednesday: 12:00-1:00 (Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93742123704>)
- By appointment (in person or via Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93742123704>—please email me or talk with me before or after class to schedule a time)

Other Important Contacts: School of Liberal Arts Administrative Assistant, [Jeanette Moore](#)
– 619-388-7873

[Canvas](#) (this is where you can access all of your courses' online content)

[MySDCCD](#) (this is where you can access everything else related to your student account at Miramar and SDCCD)

Note: if I need to make any changes to this syllabus, I will notify you both during class and via Canvas.

Required Reading:

This course uses OERs (Open Educational Resources) and are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License](#).

All assigned readings are available via linked assignments within Canvas (our course LMS) and Perusall (a third-party app)—make sure that you access each reading/assignment directly through our Canvas shell. The links below are for information only.

- [Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation](#) (2021 edition edited by Heriberto Cabezas).
- This class relies on a variety of other free tools and materials in addition to this Open Educational Resource (OER) textbook. These can be found through our [Canvas](#) shell.

Other Required Materials

1. Have a working email account that is current in both [MySDCCD](#) and [Canvas](#) (these systems *should* share information with each other). The SDCCD provides all students with a [free MS Outlook email account](#).
2. A way to access [Canvas](#), our course management system (any private or public computer, such as can be found at the Miramar or any public library with an Internet connection, will suffice).
3. A paper or digital copy of the syllabus.

Important Dates for the Spring Semester

Classes begin (16 week session): February 2

Last Day to Add or Drop with no "W" recorded: February 9

Lincoln Day Holiday: February 13

Washington Day Holiday: February 16

Spring Break: March 30 through April 3

Cesar Chavez Day Holiday: April 3

Last day to withdraw from a course (with a "W" rather than an evaluative grade): April 17

Last day to file a petition for [Pass/No Pass grade option](#): April 17

Last day to file an Application for Graduation (and ensure your name is in the commencement program): March 15

Last day to file an Application for Graduation and be a Spring graduate: April 30

Memorial Day Holiday: May 25

Last day of classes (16 week session): June 1

(You can [see an exhaustive list of dates here](#), or [click here for other helpful news and information](#))

A Description of the Course

This interactive and student-centered course introduces you to an interdisciplinary examination of the theory and practices of sustainability. Sustainability can be defined as meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Topics include restoring ecological and environmental health, creating economic welfare, and ensuring social justice. This course is intended for students interested in sustainability, environmental ethics, and peace studies.

Student Learning Outcomes (based on the state's approved Course Outline of Record):

1. Students understand and can critically analyze the history and development of sustainability concepts and theories.
2. Students are able to identify and evaluate existing structures in society such as human activities, social institutions, design innovations, and economic systems in terms of their long-term sustainability.
3. Students understand theories and practices geared toward future sustainable development and are able to produce and articulate ideas about the need for sustainable societies.

Course Specifics

- All of the assignments and materials you will need to complete this course are free and available on Canvas.
- This course is divided into four modules to help provide some structure to the very broad area of study that is "Sustainability." Everything that is required of you will be available via these modules.
- This course is designed to be student-driven, meaning you have a lot of say in what exactly you want to focus your energies on over the course of the semester.

- This course requires you to regularly interact with your colleagues and me, your professor, as you complete the various assignments each week. (As such, you can't work too far ahead.)
- All of the assignments and materials you will need to complete this course are free and available on [Canvas](#).
- If you are especially passionate about this topic or are otherwise interested in taking this course for honors credit, please let me know within the first few weeks of class. (See [SDCCD Honors Program](#) learn more.)

Assignment Overview:

- A. Reading and Viewing Assignments, roughly 3-5 per module: 20 points each
- B. Module Papers (four): 50 points each
- C. Field Activities and Discussion (two): 50 + 10 points each
- D. Article Posts and Discussion Lead (four): 10 + 10 points each
- E. Sustainable Solutions Infographic: 50 points

Schedule:

1. A calendar as well as links to all of the assignments, readings, and other course materials can be found in [Canvas](#). I recommend you allow notifications from Canvas and Perusall, and/or use a calendar to track all of your classes (such as the ones I have available on the "Important Course Information & Resources" page in Canvas).
2. All assignments and work for this class are due at the end of the day (11:59 PM) on the date provided—these are almost always Tuesdays and Thursdays. (If I need to make any changes to these due dates, I will notify you both during class and via Canvas and Pronto.)
3. Work that is submitted after the deadline will be penalized 7% per day, with a maximum penalty of 50%. **If anything is preventing you from completing an assignment on time, please contact me before it's due, or as soon as you can.** I know that life can provide us with unexpected challenges, and I want to be accommodating to your needs. So please be in communication with me via the [Pronto](#) app, [Canvas messages](#), or [email](#).