

## **International Sustainable Development (UNIV 304) – 5 credits Summer 2019**

A course developed in partnership between  
Central Washington University and Growth International Volunteer Excursions (GIVE)

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[ce@cwu.edu](mailto:ce@cwu.edu) or 509-963-1712 for assistance.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of international sustainable development by integrating academic instruction with experiential learning through volunteer excursions in Laos, Nepal, Tanzania, and Thailand. Through readings, class discussions both online and in the field, and volunteering on actual sustainable development projects, students will explore the concept and practice of international sustainable development; evaluate impacts and opportunities with international sustainable development projects; and utilize opportunities for personal growth and professional development through cultural immersion in the communities they serve.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Identify sustainable development imperatives in relation to cultural, environmental, and economic frameworks.
2. Analyze and evaluate challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable projects in the context of the destination community.
3. Synthesize how limited resources and multiple impacts are experienced and reconciled at the community level.
4. Describe the personal impacts of international experiential learning and how they affect future career path decisions and life goals.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students must actively participate in the class by reading the assigned materials and reviewing any multimedia materials or recorded PowerPoint lectures, completing writing assignments, and participating in the class discussions on the Canvas Discussions page.

#### **Required Materials:**

Jeremy L. Caradonna, *Sustainability: A History*, Oxford University Press (2014). This text is available as an Ebook through CWU's library. For information about how to access it, contact the instructor or the CWU library circulation desk directly, at (509) 963-3682.

Additional readings are posted on Canvas.

#### **Course Components:**

1. Reading Assignments: In addition to assigned readings for each module, additional research may be necessary to complete each module's assignments.

2. Group Discussions (50 pts total): For specific topics in each module, a discussion prompt will be posted at the Discussion page. Students are required to participate in the discussion by responding to the prompt and then to at least two classmates. The response to the prompt is worth up to six (6) points and the replies to at least two (2) classmates will be given two (2) points each. The maximum number of points available for each week's discussion is 10 points. Please see Guidelines for Group Discussions.
3. Participation (25 pts): Students will receive points for participating in guide-led activities and discussions while in the field.
4. Pre-Trip Paper (30 pts): Students will write a 5-7 page paper exploring the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development and one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to their chosen field or academic discipline as preparation for the Capstone Project.
5. Post-Trip Reflective Paper (30 pts): Students will write a 5-7 page paper reflecting on what they learned through the class and the GIVE excursion.
6. Capstone Project (30 pts): Each student will complete a capstone project that allows them to incorporate what they learned about sustainable development into their academic field of study and/or future career. Possible projects include but are not limited to a research paper on sustainable development they will complete under the supervision of a faculty member or adviser at their home university; or a presentation that educates people about the need for sustainable development and how they can incorporate sustainable development practices into their everyday lives.

To fulfill the requirements for UNIV 304, students only need to submit a 3-5 page synopsis of their capstone project. The projects themselves will be completed under the guidance of a faculty member or adviser at their home university in order to ensure that their project meets their own major/minor requirements.

### **EVALUATION AND GRADES**

Total possible points equal 165 points. Final grades will be determined by taking a percentage of the total points. The breakdown is as follows:

A = 93-100%	B+ = 88-89%	B- = 80-82%	C = 73-77%	D < 69%
A- = 90- 92%	B = 83 -87%	C+ = 78-79%	C- = 70-72%	F < 59%

### **DISABILITY SUPPORT**

Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with the instructor. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers, including accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email [ds@cwu.edu](mailto:ds@cwu.edu) for more information.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:** Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity both for themselves and for their classmates. Academic dishonesty

such as cheating, plagiarism, falsifying or inventing information, or interfering with another student's efforts to complete the assignments or exams will not be tolerated. Students will be penalized for academic dishonesty according to university guidelines and can typically result in the following penalties: no credit or failure for the assignment, reduced grade or failure for the course, academic warning, academic probation, suspension from the university, and permanent dismissal from the university. Instances of academic dishonesty in this class will automatically result in a failing grade for the course and further action, as warranted, by the university.

**Class Etiquette and Civility:** Students are expected to engage with each other and the instructor in a civil and respectful manner. Please review the section "Rules of Etiquette" under Discussion Guidelines for further details.

**Due Dates and Late Assignments:** Departure dates vary for each student. In addition, students can complete the assignments at their own pace. To the extent possible, the instructor will monitor departure dates, however students are responsible for ensuring that their work is submitted in a timely manner. If students need additional time to complete assignments, they must contact the instructor for written permission to turn the assignments late. Any missed assignments will receive a zero (0) for its grade and will be included in the final grade.

**Changes to Syllabus:** The instructor retains the right to change the syllabus in any way, for example, due dates for assignments, and will provide sufficient notice to allow students to plan for such changes.

## SCHEDULE

**\*Modules 1-4 must be completed prior to departure for the GIVE trip.\***

### MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Readings:

- Jeremy L. Caradonna, *Sustainability: A History*, Chapters 1-4.
- Sections of UNDP, "Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All," Human Development Report 2011.

Assignment: participate in online discussion

### MODULE 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION AND POLICY

Readings:

- Jeremy L. Caradonna, *Sustainability: A History*. Chapters 5-6
- Jeffrey D. Sachs, "From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals"
- United Nations, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Assignment: participate in online discussion

### MODULE 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Readings:

- Jeremy L. Caradonna, "The Future: 10 Challenges of Sustainability," *Sustainability: A History*.
- Stakeholder Forum, "Universal Sustainable Development Goals: Understanding the Transformational Challenge for Development Countries," May 2015.

Assignment: participate in online discussion.

#### **MODULE 4: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MY DESTINATION COUNTRY**

Readings: Posted on Canvas.

Assignments:

- Participate in online discussion
- Write 5-7 page Pre-Trip Paper on concepts of sustainability and sustainable development and one or more Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to subjects in your academic discipline or field of interest.

**\*Modules 1-4 must be completed prior to departure for the GIVE trip.\***

#### **GIVE TRIP**

#### **MODULE 5: WHAT CAN I DO NOW? INCORPORATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO MY CAREER AND PERSONAL LIFE**

Assignments:

- Participate in online discussion
- Write 5-7 page Post-Trip Reflection Paper on what you learned and your experiences while volunteering
- Complete capstone project

**\*Module 5 must be completed within three (3) weeks after your return.\***