Sustainable Development
(Tentative)

Lecture: MWF 10:30am-11:20am
Classroom: GAR 102
Office hours: MWF 9:00am-10:00am

Course Description and objectives: This course introduces students to the economics of sustainable development. What does sustainability mean? How do we achieve it? Throughout the course we will think critically about these questions, and work to develop a clear and rigorous understanding of sustainability, and the economic policies to support it. Although we will use an economic framework, the course is designed to engage students from a variety of disciplines. We will cover a wide range of sustainability topics including biodiversity conservation, resource use, urban development, pollution mitigation, climate change, and globalization. Students will learn to identify trade-offs in development, use analytical tools and economic models to inform decisions, and support their positions among students from a variety of backgrounds on controversial topics.


Class structure: Lectures will be given Mondays and Wednesdays. Fridays we will have conference classes. These will consist of workshops providing hands on experience working with data, and discussions relating to topics we cover in lecture. Participation will be very important.

Grading: Discussion/comments (10%), Homework (15%), Midterm I (25%), Midterm II (25%), Final paper (25%); Quizzes (Extra credit).

Final paper: 6-10 pages. I’ll provide a guide for writing research papers, and a set of possible topics. Please feel free to choose your own, but come see me early to discuss topics.

Make-up exam policy: There will be no make-up exams except in very special circumstances requiring a doctor’s or police note, etc.
**Tentative Schedule:**
Week 1: Introductions and micro economics review (Ch. 1, +)

Week 2: Why economics? (Ch. 2, 3)

Week 3 Defining sustainable (Ch. 5, +)

Week 4: Population (Ch. 6, +)

Week 5: Oil and mining (+)

Week 6: Energy (Ch. 8, +)

Week 7: Water management (Ch. 9, +)

Week 8: Land use (Ch. 10, +)

Week 9: Agriculture and food security (Ch. 11, +)

Week 10: Biodiversity (Ch. 12, +)

Week 11: Fisheries and aquaculture (Ch. 13, +)

Week 12: Pollution (Ch. 15)

Week 13: Climate change (Ch. 16)

Week 14: Urban development (Ch. 17, +)

Week 15: Waste management (Ch. 19)

Week 16: Globalization and trade (Ch. 20)

**Final paper due (December 9th, 2016)**