

University of Florida  
M.E. RINKER, Sr. SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
**BCN 1582 International Sustainable Development (S, I), 3 Credits**

Fall 2015 | T (periods 6,7); R (period 6) | Syllabus

**Instructor:** Ravi S. Srinivasan, PhD  
**TA:** Alireza S. PhD student  
**Office:** 316 Rinker Hall  
**Phone:** 352-273-1164  
**Email:** Mail tool in e-Learning in Canvas (preferred method)  
**Website:** UF e-Learning in Canvas <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>  
**Prerequisites:** None



**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Understanding key concepts related to sustainable development worldwide, gain familiarity with key environmental and resource issues and the effects on humankind if present population and consumption trends remain unchanged.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** Class lectures, guest lectures, videos, quizzes, discussion assignments, exams, and term paper.

**PURPOSE OF COURSE:** To teach the student on the importance of sustainable development and related concepts including key international plans and sustainable community movements worldwide, prepare a paper to report either water or climate change issues for the selected country or continent as assigned.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs):**

Upon completion of the course students will demonstrate their ability to:

- ❶ Describe how sustainable development is changing humankind's interaction with the planet (ACCE SLO 18)
- ❷ Explain the basic concepts of sustainable development (ACCE SLO 18)
- ❸ Discuss the ethical foundation for sustainability and sustainable development (ACCE SLO 6)
- ❹ Identify key environmental and resource issues that threaten quality of life and the environment for present and future generations (ACCE SLO 18)
- ❺ Identify and contrast key international sustainability initiatives (ACCE SLO 18)
- ❻ Explain how various industries and organizations are adopting strategies to function in a sustainable manner (ACCE SLO 18)
- ❼ Indicate how sustainable development concepts can be applied to the creation of a sustainable built environment (ACCE SLO 18)

*ACCE: American Council for Construction Education; SLO = Student Learning Outcome; ACCE SLO 6: Analyze professional decisions based on ethical principles; ACCE SLO 18: Understand the basic principles of sustainable construction;*

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Assessment	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4	CLO 5	CLO 6	CLO 7	Target
<b>Exam 1</b>	X		x		x			At least 80% receive a B- or better
<b>Exam 2</b>		x		x		x		At least 80% receive a B- or better
<b>Exam 3</b>	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	At least 80% receive a B- or better
<b>Term paper</b>				x				At least 80% receive a B- or better

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- **State of the World 2015: Confronting Hidden Threats to Sustainability.** The Worldwatch Institute, Washington, DC. ISBN: 978-1-61091-610-3.
- **Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation,** Collection Editors: Tom Theis and Jonathan Tomkin, CONNEXIONS, Rice University, Houston, Texas, 2012. For free download, click [here](#).

## SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

- Hoffert et al., Advanced Technology Paths to Global Climate Stability: Energy for a Greenhouse Planet. Science, Vol. 298, No. 5595, 2002. [Link](#).
- Hoffert et al., Energy Implications of Future Stabilization of Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> Content. Nature, Vol. 395, 1998. [Link](#).
- Garrett Hardin, Living Within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Brian Tokar, Earth for Sale: Reclaiming Ecology in the Age of Corporate Greenwash Boston: South End Press, 1997.
- E. F. Schumacher, Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered. NY: Harper & Row, 1973.
- Christopher L. Lant, J.B. Ruhl, and Steven E. Kraft, The Tragedy of Ecosystem Services. BioScience, November 2008.
- Michael Heller, Tragedy of the Anti-Commons. William Davidson Inst. Working Paper Series, 1997.
- Lawrence Lessig, The Comedy of the Commons. SDForum Distinguished Speaker Series; [website](#).

**STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:** Student grades will be based on exams, quizzes, a term paper and discussion assignments. Optional extra credits are available for this course. There are **no make-ups** for missed quizzes, exams, term paper, and optional extra credit activities.

## COURSE GRADING:

- **Attendance:** 28 classes (commences on Monday, 29/06) and excluding Exam 3 which will be held in classroom, **280 total points**. Every period is worth 10 points. Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken during every class. Unexcused absences will be penalized at 10 points per class period. A maximum of three period absences will be excused. Students must send an email prior to being absent to the instructor and the TA.
- **Exams:** Three exams, 50 points each, **150 total points**.
- **Quizzes:** Six quizzes, 20 points each; **120 total points**.
- **Term Paper: 100 total points:** Each student is required to submit a 3-page (no more, no less) individual research paper. A template will be provided on e-Learning in Canvas. The paper will be a “state of the country report” on either climate change or water resources. The research paper will (1) outline the country’s major climate change or water resource issues, and (2) clearly define and explain the environmental, social, and economic aspects.
  - **Senior-level students and above:** select a country in Europe.
  - **Juniors:** select a country in South and Central America.
  - **Sophomores:** select a country in Africa.
  - **All others:** select a country other than in a region above and other than China and the USA.

Grading criteria for term paper (total 100 points):

1. **Structure and formatting** (30 points): (a) Spelling and grammar, sentence structure, and general writing; (b) Whether the template and format were followed; and (c) Appropriate use of citations and formatting.
2. **Content** (70 points): (a) At least three data points from legitimate sources (10 points); and (b) The appropriateness and meaningfulness of the data points for the purposes of this paper (20 points); and (c) Discussion of the data and the thoughtful analysis that include, but not limited to, challenges faced by the country; initiatives the country has started; reporting the progress, if available (40 points).

- **Optional Extra Credits:** There are three available options to obtain extra credits; 25 total points.
  - (1) Participation in an approved sustainability event and/or join and participate in an approved sustainability group / committee. Extra credit in this category is limited to 1 event for a total of 5 points.
  - (2) Post sustainability relevant topics in E-Learning website's DISCUSSIONS (forum). If your topic gets three relevant replies, you get 5 points; earn up to 10 points. When replying to a post in DISCUSSIONS (forum), please refer to which post you are replying. Replies to discussions will be reviewed before assigning points.
  - (3) Take a tour of the Levada Brown Environmental Park and earn 10 points. Tour includes visit to transfer station, recovered material processing facility, material storage area, and household hazardous waste facility. < [Link to Tour Information](#) >
- **Total number of points available in the class is 545.**

**Grading based on points earned as a percentage of total points.**

A=93-100; A- =90-92.9; B+ =87-89.9; B=83-86.9; B- =80-82.9; C+ = 77-79.9; C=73-76.9; C- =70-72.9; D+ =67-69.9; D=63-66.9; D- =60-62.9; E<60.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments (discussion, term paper, extra credit) or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. The Honor Code will be applied in the class. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." It is Rinker School policy that any incident of cheating, copying, or other attempts to deceive will be penalized by course failure.

**NETIQUETTE, COMMUNICATION COURTESY POLICY:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Detailed guide is available at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

**GETTING HELP WITH E-LEARNING WEBSITE:** In the case you have technical difficulties with e-Learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu); (352) 392-HELP - select option 2; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>. If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date/time, you MUST report the problem to the UF Help Desk **before** the due date/time.

**CELLPHONES.** Cellphone use is not allowed in classrooms. Use of cellphones during class will discount attendance. Use of cellphones during an exam will result in failing the exam.

**LAPTOPS & TABLETS.** These devices should only be used to take notes related to lectures. Use of these devices for social media or any other unrelated purposes during class hours will result in a penalty of 10 points for every incident.

**COMMUNICATION**

- Use the e-Learning in Canvas environment to send an email to the instructor and teaching assistant. Do not e-mail the course instructor and teaching assistant outside of the e-Learning in Canvas system because emails received outside of e-Learning will not receive a response. Please allow 36 hours for a response to your email. The instructor and teaching assistant reserve the right not to respond to course inquiries on the weekend.
- You are responsible for addressing grades/omissions within one week of the grade being posted on e-Learning in Canvas. After one week, the grade/input stands for the class regardless of cause or circumstance.

**Note from the instructor:** *The syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicate clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.*