New Course Request

1. School/Division: Academic Affairs
2. Academic Subject Code: SUST
3. Course Number: S201 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor: KEEN
5. Course Title: SUST S201 Foundations of Sustainability

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional): ____________

First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 2010

Credit Hours: Fixed at _______ or Variable from _______ to _______

Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes _______ No _______

Is variable title approval being requested? Yes _______ No _______

Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: This course is designed to provide an interdisciplinary framework within which students can study the foundations of sustainability, and learn how to apply this knowledge to the development and implementation of sustainable values, practices, technologies and strategies. It emphasizes connections between environment, economy and society.

Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _______ or Variable from _______ to _______

Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _______ or Variable from _______ to _______

Estimated enrollment: _______ of which _______ percent are expected to be graduate students.

Frequency of scheduling: _______ Will this course be required for majors? _______ No _______

Justification for new course: Required for new minor in Sustainability Studies

Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes _______ No _______

Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: ____________________________ Date: 3/23/09

Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by: ____________________________ Date: _______

Dean

__________________________ Date: _______

Chancellor/Vice-President

__________________________ Date: _______

Dean of Graduate School (when required)

University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

University Enrollment Services Final—White; Chancellor/Vice-President—Blue; School/Division—Yellow; Department/Division—Pink; University Enrollment Services Advance—White
SUST S201 Foundations of Sustainability
Fall 2010

In this course, we will examine the foundations of sustainability. Sustainability is generally characterized as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” It requires the integration of natural scientific understanding of the threat of environmental degradation, with social and behavioral scientific understanding of the social, economic, cultural and political factors driving the human contributions to the problem, as well as to its solution. It also draws upon the historical perspective, ethical sensibility, and creative imagination of the arts and humanities to help understand what led us to this point and to map out alternative futures.

This course is designed to provide an interdisciplinary framework within which students can study the foundations of sustainability, and learn how to apply this knowledge to the development and implementation of sustainable values, practices, technologies, and strategies in our homes, on campus in the workplace, and in our communities. It emphasizes interconnections between environment, economy and society, and encourages and empowers students to tackle the complex socio-environmental problems confronting our communities and the world.

**READINGS LIST**
Readings will be drawn from these sources, as well as additional articles to be identified during the course of the semester.

Lester Brown et.al. - *State of the World 2010*
Robert Bullard – *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice and Communities of Color*
David Cook – *The Natural Step: Towards a Sustainable Society*
Daniel C. Esty and Andreew Winston – *Green to Gold: How Smart Companies Use Environmental Strategy to Innovate, Create Value, and Build Competitive Advantage*
Andres Edwards – *The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait of a Paradigm Shift*
Paul Hawken – *The Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability*
T.C. McLuhan, - *Touch the Earth: A Self-Portrait of Indian Existence*
Willima McDonough and Michael Braungart – *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*
Carolyn Merchant – *The Death of Nature*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
1. Class members should come to each session prepared to engage in discussion. A thorough reading of each assignment is expected.
2. Each class member is required to keep a logbook in which a 1-2 page response paper will be written for every reading assignment. These responses should be completed before the class in which the reading is to be discussed. Less formal than a term paper, a response paper is an opportunity for you to summarize the reading in your own words, identifying as best you can the major point(s) being made and issue(s) being raised by the author. This assignment is intended to encourage you to use writing as a means of thinking and become conversant with the literature in sustainability studies. The logbook will be evaluated three times during the course.

3. There will be a mid-term, and a comprehensive final exam. Both exams will be essay tests.

4. Finally, each class member will be responsible for an ongoing self-evaluation of her/his performance in the class. This will include maintaining a portfolio in which all work completed for the course (notes, logbook, tests, rough drafts, reviews, final paper and exams) will be collected. A self-evaluation will be due each time the logbook is turned in. The final self-evaluation must be accompanied by the full portfolio at the end of the semester. At this time, students will also assign 10% of their own grade based on the self-evaluation and the portfolio.

7. The exams and the journal will each contribute 30% to the final grade.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

1. The State of Nature - a survey of the current scientific consensus concerning the pace and threat of environmental degradation, with particular attention to global warming and climate change.

2. The Way Things Were - an analysis of selected pre-scientific and pre-modern societies and their cultural conceptions and social relationships to the environment, including Native Americans.

3. The Death of Nature - a chronicle of the rise of modern science and the transformation of contemporary society, and the changing cultural conceptions of nature that accompanied it.

4. The Natural Step - an examination of the scientific foundations of sustainability and how systems thinking can be used to help organizations and communities become more sustainable.

5. Sustainability and Innovation - a look at how businesses and other organizations are incorporating the triple bottom line of people, prosperity, and planet into their operations.

5. Sustainability Toolbox - a look at a variety of concepts, processes, technologies, and rating systems being used to incorporate sustainability into business, the not-for-profit sector, and government, i.e., LEED, Energy Star, alternative energy, etc.

6. Sustainability at Home and On Campus - what can we do to help our homes, our campus, and our community to become more sustainable?