



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 675.34 LEC 01

***Selected Topics in Advanced Comparative Politics: Sustainable Development
Winter 2019***

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Roberta Rice

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OFFICE HOURS: Tues. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tues. 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: SS 734

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“The idea of development stands like a ruin in the intellectual landscape.”

Wolfgang Sachs (1992) The Development Dictionary

“That is no grounds for pessimism. Much can grow on and out of a ruin. Past errors as well as achievements contribute to current learning.”

Robert Chambers (1997) Whose Reality Counts? Putting the Last First

The above quotes speak to the contrasting perceptions one can have about the project of development and whether or not it is worth resuscitating. Sustainable development is one such attempt to breathe new life into the project of development. The promotion of sustainable development opens up debates surrounding our relationship with the natural world, the potential trade-offs between the environment and the economy, and the character of development in the present and future. The central questions taken up in this course include: What does sustainable development entail? What might an alternative to development look like? How can sustainable development be implemented in policy and practice? The course begins with an examination of the theoretical and conceptual tools needed to analyse the project of sustainable development before addressing promising policies and practices in both the Global North and the Global South.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The objective of the course is to train students to think critically about what constitutes social progress and the impacts of human development on the natural environment. As a learning outcome, students will develop the capacity to assess competing views on sustainable development and apply them to a case of policy implementation relevant to the course. Students will be provided with the opportunity to conduct in-depth research on an aspect of sustainable development and write and present a professional seminar paper on the results.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

All textbooks are available electronically through the University of Calgary library homepage: <http://library.ucalgary.ca/>

Electronic journal articles are available on our D2 course page (<http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>).

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Reading Response Papers (5)	25	Each Session
Research Essay Proposal	25	Feb. 26
Research Paper Draft Presentation	10	Apr. 2
Final Research Essay	40	Apr. 12
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan.15-Jan.29	Part I: Theoretical and Conceptual Tools	See reading list below
Feb.12- Mar.12	Part II: Policy and Practice	See reading list below

COURSE FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

Class sessions will be conducted in a participatory seminar format. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and complete the assigned readings before they are discussed in class. Student participation in seminar discussions and activities is mandatory for the success of the course. There is no scheduled final exam in this course.

READING RESPONSE PAPERS

Students are required to submit five (5) reading response papers during the term. The objective is to help you to prepare to participate in seminar discussions. Your submission should be between 2-3 double-spaced pages maximum. You must address all of the readings for the week. Please do not summarize the readings but respond to the debates. For instance: What are the main points or contributions of the readings? How do they advance our understanding of sustainable development? How do the findings compare with other readings in the course? What questions did the readings leave you with? You must submit your reading response to the course instructor by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday evening before our class session.

RESEARCH ESSAY PROPOSAL

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with instructor feedback during the preparation of your research essay. The proposal is also intended to assist you in developing your essay topic, formulating your research question, locating sources, and organizing your ideas in a timely fashion. Essay proposals should be between 5-6 double-spaced pages plus the bibliography. Proposals should: a) identify your research topic and question; b) outline what other scholars have said or found on the topic; c) outline your basic argument and theoretical approach; and d) provide an overview of your research design and methods. You should attach a proposed bibliography to your proposal. Proposals that fail to cite sources throughout the text will not be accepted. You must draw on material from this course in your proposal and final essay.

FINAL RESEARCH ESSAY

The research essay assignment is an opportunity to develop a professional seminar paper. Students are expected to develop an in-depth case study of the implementation of sustainable development policy and practice in the Global North or the Global South using the conceptual and theoretical tools of the course. The essay should be approximately 15-17 double-spaced pages plus the bibliography. Ensure that you state your research question, outline the theoretical approach of the paper, provide an overview of the literature on your topic, support your assertions with evidence, and conclude by summarizing your findings and outlining any questions or avenues for future research. You must cite sources either in footnotes, endnotes or embedded in the text and provide a bibliography. Please note that you must incorporate at least two sources from the course syllabus in your essay. And remember, if you use another author's words, you must enclose them in quotes and cite the source. If you use another author's ideas, you must cite the source. Essays that do not adhere to standard citation practice will NOT be accepted. The papers will be graded on: (a) the depth and comprehensiveness of the research effort; (b) the strength of the analysis and theoretical framework; and (c) organization, clarity and writing style.

RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT PRESENTATION

The presentation of your research paper draft should be viewed as an opportunity to improve your professional presentation skills as well as receive instructor feedback on your work in progress. Students are expected to present the key findings and insights of their research paper in a presentation of approximately 30 minutes and then field questions and comments from the instructor.

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR WRITTEN WORK

- 1) *Level of Style and Organization:* Your work must be completely free of grammatical, spelling and typographical errors. References can be in any style but the same format must be used consistently and they must be accurate. The organization of the paper should assist the reader by providing a readily understandable presentation of background information, research findings, analysis and conclusions.
- 2) *Adequacy of the Research:* Your findings should be derived from thorough research. Your work should be free of major factual errors or unsupported and/or undocumented assertions. You should link your findings to those of other scholars and draw meaningful conclusions based on your evidence.
- 3) *Cogency of the Argument:* Your written work should have a clear focus and an argument that is logically constructed. Your analysis should display understanding of the topic and originality of thought.

WRITING STATEMENT:

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citations, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

LATE PENALTIES

Written assignments are due in hardcopy at the start of class, unless otherwise indicated. A penalty of 2% per working day will be applied to all late assignments up until a maximum of ten late days, after which late papers will not be accepted. Weekends count as one working day. Late assignments should be submitted to the Political Science office (SS 756) during business hours. After hours, papers may be submitted to the departmental drop-box outside of the main office on the 7th floor of Social Sciences.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or office hours. Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are

available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Part I: Theoretical and Conceptual Tools

Jan. 15: Conceptualizing Sustainable Development

E-Book Chapter: Katie Willis, Theories and Practices of Development (“Chapter 6: Environment and Development Theory”), Routledge, 2005, pp. 146-172.

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 1. Introduction: The Environment and Sustainable Development”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 1-13.

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 2: The Concept of Sustainable Development”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 17-48.

Jan. 29: Historicizing Sustainable Development

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 3: Global Governance and the United Nations Environment Summits”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 51-80.

E-Journal Article: Robert McDonald, “Sustainable Development as Freedom,” in International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology, Vol. 13, No. 6, 2006, pp. 445-447.

E-Book Chapter: Gilles Carbonnier, Humberto Campodónico and Sergio Tezanos Vázquez, eds., Alternative Pathways to Sustainable Development: Lessons from Latin America (“Chapter 2: The Future of Latin America in the Global Economy: An Interview with Fernando Henrique Cardoso,” by Humberto Compodónico), Brill, 2017, pp. 16-22.

Part II: Policy and Practice

Feb. 12: Indigenizing Sustainable Development

E-Journal Article: Víctor Bretón, David Cortez and Fernando García, “In Search of Sumak Kawsay,” in Íconos: Revista de Ciencias Sociales, Nro. 8, 2014, pp. 9-24.

E-Journal Article: Eduardo Gudynas, “Buen Vivir: Today’s Tomorrow,” in Development, Vol. 54, No. 4, 2011, pp. 441-447.

E-Journal Article: Terrence M. Loomis, “Indigenous Populations and Sustainable Development: Building on Indigenous Approaches to Holistic, Self-Determined Development,” in World Development, Vol. 28, No. 5, 2000, pp. 893-910.

Feb. 26: Mainstreaming Sustainable Development

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 4. Key Global Concerns: Climate Change and Biodiversity Management”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 81-103.

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 5. The Local Level: LA21 and Public Participation”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 104-132.

E-Book Chapter: Karen M. Siegel, Regional Environmental Cooperation in South America: Processes, Drivers and Constraints (“Chapter 1: Introduction”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 1-32.

Note: Essay Proposal due on February 26th

Mar. 12: Implementing Sustainable Development

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 6. High Consumption Societies: The Responsibilities of the European Union”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 135-157.

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 7: Challenges in the Third World”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 158-185.

E-Book Chapter: Susan Baker, Sustainable Development (“Chapter 9. Conclusion: The Promotion of Sustainable Development. What has been Achieved?”), Routledge, 2006, pp. 211-218.

Apr. 2: Research Draft Paper Presentation

Note: Final Research Essay due on April 12th