



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

2026 Winter Session

ENVS 100 Sustainable System

Course Outline

Course Code: ENVS 100

Instructor: Galit Julia Aloni-Saic

Home Institution: School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: julialoni@gmail.com

Credit: 4

Class Hours:

This course will have 60 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions, 8-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

Humans and the natural world are inextricably linked, each influencing and shaping the other. As we strive to meet human needs equitably within the limits of available natural resources, we lay the foundation for a more sustainable world. This course examines sustainability not merely as “green” living tips but as a critical lens of inquiry—an approach to analyzing and assessing the social, economic, and environmental challenges of our time.

From the very local to the global scale, we will investigate how our choices—such as purchasing a t-shirt—have far-reaching ripple effects on ecosystems, economies, and communities worldwide. We will uncover the global interdependencies that connect fields irrigated with dwindling groundwater resources in the United States to factories in Africa characterized by low wages and poor working conditions. Through this exploration, we will identify how global systems function and discuss pathways toward creating more sustainable futures.

Course Learning Outcomes



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

1. Integrate Sustainability into Everyday Life

- Embed sustainability principles and considerations into daily activities and decision-making processes at both individual and community levels.

2. Adapt and Refine Existing Tools

- Adjust and fine-tune sustainable development tools, methods, and frameworks to align with specific contexts and evolving community needs.

3. Develop Sustainability Performance Metrics

- Design robust performance indicators to assess the impact of sustainability initiatives on community well-being and development.

4. Create Effective Feedback Systems

- Establish mechanisms that continuously monitor outcomes, enabling the realignment of processes and procedures to ensure the successful implementation of sustainability projects.

5. Empower Communities in Target-Setting

- Guide communities in setting and achieving sustainability goals using relevant, data-driven metrics and participatory approaches.

Required Course Materials:

Nhamo, Godwell, and Vuyo Mjimba. Sustainable Development Goals and institutions of higher education. Springer, 2020.

Sachs, J. D. 2015. The Age of Sustainable Development. Columbia University Press, New York.

Our Common Journey: A Transition Toward Sustainability. National Academy Press, Washington D.C. Soubbotina, T. P. 2004.

Elliott, Jennifer. 2012. An Introduction to Sustainable Development. 4th Ed. Routledge, London.
Rogers, Peter P., Kazi F. Jalal, and John A. Boyd. "An introduction to sustainable development." (2012).

Course Format and Instructional Methods



- **Lectures & Readings:** Weekly lectures and assigned readings will introduce key concepts and case studies.
- **Discussions:** In-class and online discussions will allow students to critically engage with real-world scenarios and debate approaches to sustainability challenges.
- **Case Studies & Group Work:** Students will work collaboratively to research and present on specific sustainability issues, developing solutions-oriented perspectives.
- **Presentation**

Course Evaluation:

Assessment and Assignments

1. Reflection Journals (20%)

- Periodic short writing assignments connecting course material to personal experience and current events.

2. Case Study Presentation (20%)

- Group project investigating a sustainability issue (local or global). Presentation includes data analysis and proposed solutions.

3. Midterm Exam (20%)

- Covers foundational concepts, definitions, and case study evaluations.

4. Research Paper (20%)

- An in-depth exploration of a sustainability topic chosen by the student, incorporating scholarly research and critical analysis.

5. Final Project (20%)

- Comprehensive project with a proposal and action plan for enhancing sustainability in a specific context (e.g., campus, community, or industry).

Grading System (1 ~ 100)

A+ : 96 - 100	A : 91 - 95
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B+ : 86 - 90	B : 81 - 85
C+ : 76 - 80	C : 71 - 75
D+ : 66 - 70	D : 60 - 65
F : 0 - 59	
Pa : Pass	Fa : Fail

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEK	DAY	LECTURE TOPICS
Week 1	Monday	- Course Introduction - Community Building
	Tuesday	- Definitions of Sustainability - Ecological Systems (Part 1)
	Wednesday	- Ecological Systems (Part 2) - Humans & Ecosystem Services
	Thursday	- Ways of Knowing - Ecological Footprints
	Friday	- Campus Sustainability & TA Discussion Session
Week 2	Monday	- Consumption - Waste
	Tuesday	- Ecological Footprint & Sustainability Actions - Fashion Industry (Part 1)
	Wednesday	- Fashion Industry (Part 2) - Sustainable Economies
	Thursday	- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
	Friday	- Agriculture & Food - Sustainable Agriculture
Week 3	Monday	- Midterm
	Tuesday	- Hydrology (Part 2) - Big Water Problems – Groundwater (Part 1)
	Wednesday	- Big Water Problems – Groundwater (Part 2) - Environmental Justice – Water (Part 1)
	Thursday	- Environmental Justice – Water (Part 2) - Climate Science
	Friday	-Sustainability Project Group Work
Week 4	Monday	- WI Climate Change (Part 1) - WI Climate Change (Part 2)
	Tuesday	- Climate Crisis – EnRoads - Climate Crisis – Resilience (Part 1)
	Wednesday	- Climate Crisis – Resilience (Part 2)
	Thursday	- Sustainability Presentations (Part 1)
	Friday	- Sustainability Presentations (Part 2) - Sustainable Futures - Course Wrap Up

Late submission

Late submission of assignments will be subject to points deduction unless by prior arrangement and permission from the instructor.



Academic misconduct

Please follow the guidelines of the university policy. Academic dishonesty or misconduct will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action including a grade F for the course.

- o The work submitted must be the original work of the student. Original work may include the words and ideas of others, but the source of these words and ideas must be indicated in a manner consistent with an academically recognized form, style, and citation manual.
- o Resubmission of work previously presented in another course is prohibited.
- o AI generated submissions are prohibited in this course and will be regarded as plagiarism.

Accommodation

- o Accommodation for students with disabilities will be provided once approved by the university.
- o Missing class activities and late submissions due to religious holidays are acceptable based on the approval by the instructor.