John Felice Rome Center
Course: Environmental Sustainability (Envs 283)
Fall 2022
Monday 9am: 12am
Dr. Mario Carere
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course will give you the basis to understand which is the impact of human activities on our planet and which are the main actions that policy makers, stakeholders and citizens should carry out to avoid the decline and deterioration of our ecosystems with dramatic consequences also for human being.

We will undertake a science-policy journey through the knowledge of the international strategies for sustainable development, the current European green deal policies and the global and local actions needed to fight the climate changes and chemical pollution.

The course will cover basic topics such as the protection of water resources (the most precious and limited resource) and our oceans, the importance of the protection of our ecosystems, the impact of chemical pollution on the environment and in which way this affects human health, the importance of a sustainable agriculture. A study visit will be also scheduled.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- Develop the basic concepts of the environmental sustainability
- Determine which are the main anthropogenic impacts on the planet
- Assess the risks for ecosystems and human health
- Identify the actions that policy makers, stakeholders and citizens should put in place
- Improve awareness and communication skills related to the environmental sustainability

Required Text / Materials

Assigned readings will be posted on Sakai
Assigned readings will be found on various scientific and policy publications, printed papers/slides
Each week’s readings must be completed before coming to class

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
This course meets ___ a week, thus a total of ___ unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. **Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit”**. The collective health of the JFRC is everyone’s responsibility. **DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE ILL.**

**Assessment Components**

- Participation (including assignments) 20%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Group Works 15%
- Multimedia project 20%
- Final Exam 25%

**Participation**

Participation and attendance are key aspects of this course. Students must be active in participation and be prepared about the readings assigned along the course. They also should demonstrate to have passion and awareness towards this topic and should also contribute to stimulate the discussions respecting the different opinions of the other students.

**Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam is a fundamental moment along the course and will be based on quizzes related to the covered topics.

**Group Works**

We will create groups of 4-5 students that will discuss important environmental topics and the way to solve them: we will organize a team debate in which the students will play different roles (Citizen, Researcher, Policy Maker, Farmer/Industrial, Syndicate of workers) and will try to solve relevant questions (e.g. the effect on environment of a new industrial installation near a city).

**Multimedia Project**

Along the course students will be invited to write a project on a specific argument of the course, this project should include original pictures taken by the students and an optional video can be integrated.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will be based on the topics presented and discussed throughout the course. Students will have 2 hours to complete the exam.
Grading
94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Academic Honesty
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Course Schedule

Monday Class Days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text/ Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One (5th September)</td>
<td>Welcome/UN Sustainable Development goals</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two (12th September)</td>
<td>Protection of Water Resources</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Three (19th September)</td>
<td>Clean Oceans</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Four (26th September)</td>
<td>Ecosystems Health</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Five (3rd October)</td>
<td>Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Six (10th October)</td>
<td>MidTerm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall break (14th-18th October)</td>
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<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Seven (21th October)*</td>
<td>Sustainable Lifestyles</td>
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<td>Week Eight (24th October)</td>
<td>Study Visit</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Nine (31th October)</td>
<td>Climate Changes generalities</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Ten (7th November)</td>
<td>Climate Changes in the Mediterranean Area</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Eleven (14th November)</td>
<td>Study Visit</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Twelve (21th November)</td>
<td>Sustainable Food Production</td>
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<td>Week Thirteen (28th November)</td>
<td>Green Deal Europe and Circular Economy</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Fourteen (5th December)</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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*Friday Class