Sustainability Learning Outcomes (SLO) Course & Curriculum Proposal Form

(please return to Deane.Wang@uvm.edu or Ihill@uvm.edu)

Background and introduction to the SLO requirement

Four sustainability learning outcomes were approved by the UVM Faculty Senate in April of 2014. At that time a preamble providing the rationale for this requirement was part of the approved resolution. It is repeated here.

As stated in Our Common Ground, "The University of Vermont is an educationally purposeful community seeking to prepare students to live in a diverse and changing world." In the context of the emerging challenges of the 21st Century, this preparation includes envisioning and planning for a sustainable society. In addition, Our Common Ground speaks to "the transforming power of education." Thus UVM's vision for sustainability embraces the goal of educating all of its students to understand and contribute to the sustainability of human society. That is, we recognize that the pursuit of ecological, social, and economic vitality must come with the understanding that the needs of the present be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Through its General Education Initiative, The University of Vermont will integrate its sustainability vision across curricular and co-curricular activities. Whatever their chosen discipline, each student will demonstrate their understanding of the defined learning outcomes in the knowledge, skills and values categories, as well as the personal domain.

Students who are prepared to address the challenges of creating a sustainable world have knowledge of current issues in sustainability and the social, ecological, and economic dimensions of these complex problems. With the knowledge gained through coursework from varied disciplines, students develop the skills to engage in rigorous and complex discussions around creating sustainable solutions. Coursework and experiences in sustainability are meant to widen social, historical, and cultural perspectives and strengthen students' ability to negotiate multiple values that routinely come into play when planning for sustainability at the local, regional or global scales. Students connect conceptual learning to challenges and opportunities in the world outside of the university classroom by critically analyzing their own experiences in order to make sustainability meaningful and guide their personal actions.

Please provide three components as part of your proposal submission:

- 1. Background/explanation: a brief history of the course/curriculum, general reasons why the course satisfies the Sustainability Learning Outcomes (SLO), and any other contextual information that can assist the committee in its review process.
- 2. Completed SLO table (see below).
- 3. Most current version of your course syllabus (syllabi in the case of a curriculum)

The SLO table will allow you to describe how your course/curriculum meets each of these outcomes. For each SLO, please indicate the <u>level of exposure</u> that you plan to incorporate in your teaching. The level of exposure to the learning outcome can be variable. The Committee seeks some level of exposure to all four (4) sustainability learning outcomes (SLOs). It is also expected that for three (3) of the outcomes, the level of exposure will at least be to "reinforces." A brief description of these expectations follows:

• **Introduces** indicates that the course objective is <u>to familiarize students</u> with the learning outcome so they can define terms. For example, the student has been exposed to some applications of the topic/concept through a lecture and/or reading. Other educational

frameworks used to organize learning levels may use language like "fundamental" and "factual," imparting the ability to remember and understand.

- Reinforces indicates that the course objective will follow up the introduction of topic(s) with student work to apply the topic/concept themselves, either in a personal domain or that of organizations, institutions, municipalities, etc. This might include critical reflections, case studies, or laboratory exercises. The readings and related assignments should be substantive. Other educational frameworks may use language like "intermediate" and "conceptual," imparting the ability to apply and analyze.
- Mastery level is NOT an expectation for sustainability learning outcomes associated with a single first course addressing sustainability. However, if you feel that the course work provided in your course attains this level, we would like to value that learning outcome. This level might entail educational concepts like "advanced" and "procedural." Students would be able to evaluate and create in the context of these learning outcomes.

Activity title/type, lecture or activity, content, topics taught, etc.

Here we would like to know what type of activity is relevant to achieving the sustainability learning outcome. Is it lecture, an assignment, a service-learning projects, journal assignment, class exercise like a debate, etc.? If you title this activity, please include that here as well (e.g. "sustainability blog"). If there are associated topics, please also include these (e.g. "renewable energy, environmental justice, homeostasis"). If multiple teaching approaches are employed, please them.

Description of the activity and how it addresses the UVM SLO

Please explain your approach to achieving the sustainability learning outcome. This might start with a more detailed description of the activity followed by a discussion of how the learning outcome results from this learning activity. In some cases it will be self-evident, so the description of the activity will suffice. This section provides the most useful material for the committee to evaluate your sustainability learning outcome, so adequate detail will be helpful. The committee's goal is to encourage the development and expansion of sustainability-related curricula, but we need enough detail to carry out our responsibility. We encourage and invite faculty to communicate with the co-chairs of the committee if you need assistance with this process or have questions.

If any assessment methods will be used to demonstrate student learning, please include a brief description. We may request your specific assessment as it could help other faculty to develop similar methods for their course. The committee would also like to encourage faculty professional development around implementation of these sustainability outcomes, and sharing of faculty tools and approaches is an important part of the process.

Title of Course: GRS 001 Introduction to Global Studies

Submitted by: Andrew Buchanan and Martha Thomas

Contact info: anbuchan@uvm.edu

Background/explanation:

GRS 001 is the introductory course in the Global Studies program, and is compulsory for all Global Studies majors. In common with the program as a whole, it offers an interdisciplinary enquiry into the developments that have in the past and will continue in the future to shape the interconnectedness of people, markets, ideas, and cultures. It is designed to introduce students to the dynamic interactions that transcend the nation-state to shape the world around us. This requires an appreciation of the interconnectedness of global and local events and to develop an understanding of the processes and structures that link them. The course necessarily approaches critical questions of sustainability from a number of different vantage points, including discussing the challenges posed by unrestrained economic growth, environmental degradation and global warming, globalized questions of health and disease, population growth, and profoundly uneven global patterns of economic, military, and political power. Typically, these questions are examined from a number of viewpoints, comparing and contrasting voices coming from the global south with others originating in the advanced capitalist countries. In this sense, the entire course challenges students to think critically about questions of capitalism, growth, and sustainability at the broadest possible level.

This course is offered every term; it is currently being taught by Martha Thomas, and Andrew Buchanan will be teaching it for the first time in the fall. While the following answers are based on Buchanan's syllabus, that offered by Thomas fulfills the same criteria.

SLO #1: Students can have an informed conversation about the multiple dimensions and complexity of sustainability. (knowledge category) Level of exposure: _____Introduced_____

Description of the activity and how it addresses the UVM SLO and any
assessment methods used to demonstrate learning (if applicable).
This introductory lecture and class discussion is designed to introduce students to the
major thematic elements of the course, examining the processes of globalization,
economic growth, and sustainability and pointing to the tensions between them. In
particular, it will show how binary conflicts (growth v sustainability, for example) might
be modified according to viewpoint (new electricity generating capacity, for example,
may be perceived by some as an unnecessary source of pollution, and by others as a
means to acquire clean water and light, critical elements of a sustainable life).

SLO #2: Students can evaluate sustainability using an evidence-based disciplinary approach and integrate economic, ecological, and social perspectives. (skills category)

Level of exposure:	Reinforce
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Activity title/type, lecture or activity content, topics taught etc.

Developing the ability to think critically about sustainability from a number of different vantage points

This activity, in the form of lectures, class discussions, and written work is repeated at several points throughout the course in relation to a range of issues. Different disciplinary approaches are used at different points, highlighting, for example, methodologies drawn from history, anthropology, geography and political science. This particular example is based on history.

Description of the activity and how it addresses the UVM SLO and any assessment methods used to demonstrate learning (if applicable).

This is a module of three classes that discusses the rise of a capitalist world system, examining the relationship between the rise of mercantile capitalism, the subsequent industrial revolution, and the emergence of an increasingly global world economy. In the course of these lectures students will be introduced to some of the basic structural elements of the global economy, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The first two sessions involve short historical lectures, and the module concludes with a class discussion that probes the compatibility—or otherwise—of economic growth and the sustainability of human society. The lectures and discussion will look in particular at the ecological consequences of globalized capitalist development, examining both the depletion of irreplaceable natural resources and the proliferation of environmental damage.

In preparation for the first two sessions, students read assigned sections of the textbook. For the class discussion, students will watch (outside of class) a documentary on the debt crisis in the developing world, and write a two-page paper developing some initial thoughts on the relationship between economic growth and sustainability. Thinking in terms of the environmental consequences of economic growth, students will be asked to consider why international treaties promoting "free" trade have been largely successful, while those aiming to moderate environmental destruction have been much less effective.

In the final session, students are challenged to reflect on, process, and draw some initial conclusions from the overall patterns of world economic development.

SLO #3: Students think critically about sustainability across a diversity of cultural values and across multiple scales of relevance from local to global. (values category)

Level of exposure: Reinforce

Activity title/type, lecture or activity content, topics taught etc.

Module of two classes (one lecture and one class debate) on the development of peasant/small farmer resistance to the pressure exerted on them by a globalized market for food and by the place of agribusiness within that market.

Description of the activity and how it addresses the UVM SLO and any assessment methods used to demonstrate learning (if applicable).

The initial lecture in this module ranges from the global to the local, discussing first agribusiness and the world market in food, and then turning to discuss examples of peasant resistance in Kenya, Malaysia, and Mexico. The lecture moves across multiple scales—from multinational boardrooms to peasant villages—and across cultures. In preparation for the lecture, students read a section from the textbook, together with an extract from Samir Amin's *The Liberal Virus*. Amin's writing poses sharply the idea that peasant/small farmer agriculture is increasingly unsustainability in a global market dominated by American agribusiness. Students will also watch (before class) a short extract from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, putting questions of class and land-use in a comic context.

In the second class of the module, students will write a short (two page) essay discussing the thesis statement that "given the structure of the modern global economy, peasant/small scale agriculture is not economically viable and can not survive."

By deepening critical engagement, both the essay writing and the class discussion are designed to reinforce students' appreciation both of a specific question of sustainability and of the importance of examining issues at several levels and from multiple and diverse viewpoints.

SLO #4: Students, as members of society, can recognize and assess how sustainability impacts their lives and how their actions impact sustainability. (personal domain)

Level of exposure:	Reinforce
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Activity title/type,	lecture or activity	content,	topics taught	Des
etc.				ass

Description of the activity and how it addresses the UVM SLO and any assessment methods used to demonstrate learning (if applicable).

Module of two classes drawing together some of the main themes of the course

Both classes in this module consist of discussion sessions. The first focuses on reviewing the course modules concerned with the "problem"—i.e. the critical tension between capitalist economic growth and global sustainability. It will include reprising earlier observations on the place of the nation-state and of structures of military dominance, along with questions of environmental degradation, recurrent health crises, and population growth.

The second discussion reviews the course modules concerned with the "solution," discussing the various aspects of anti-systemic resistance discussed over the preceding weeks, and developing the concept of acting as engaged citizen-activists.

This module is designed to reinforce an appreciation both of the scope of the problems faced by humanity on a world scale, and of the prospects for individuals to act in ways that help--on numerous fronts--to forge solutions to these problems.

Prior to the class discussion, students will read the relevant sections of the textbook, and prepare some short talking points that they can contribute to the discussion. Students will be challenged to think of themselves as citizen-activists, and to think about the ways in which seemingly modest actions can make a significant contribution. Student knowledge and understanding on these critical questions will be assessed on the basis of their written talking points and on their ability to articulate these points during class discussion.

GRS 001 Introduction to Global Studies Fall 2015 Professor Andrew Buchanan

Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, xx- xx

Location:

Office: Wheeler House 210

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, xx- xx

Email: anbuchan@uvm.edu

Course Description and Objectives.

Global Studies is an interdisciplinary enquiry into the factors that shape the interconnectedness of people, markets, ideas, and cultures. The purpose of this course is to analyze the dynamic interactions that transcend the nation-state and which shape the world around us. This requires an appreciation of the interconnectedness of global and local events and an understanding of the processes and structures through which these connections are organized. Toward this end, we will examine a range and diversity of global topics and will address questions such as: Is the world becoming increasingly homogenized and less diverse? Does globalization create prosperity for some and inequality for others? How does globalization influence conflict? And are we facing imminent global environmental collapse? Above all, the course will equip you both to think about the issues affecting the fundamental sustainability of human life, society, and the global environment, and to discuss the ways in which engaged citizen-activists can frame a response to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The course is structured around the textbook *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism* by leading anthropologist Richard Robbins. As we work our way though the book, short lectures will be intertwined with classroom discussions and debates, and reading material from the textbook will be supplemented by other readings and by video clips, most of which will be posted on Blackboard. The syllabus outlines what reading/watching/writing you will be expected to do before class meets. In order that everyone can participate in class discussion, it is critical that you do the assigned work.

Over the course of the term you will write four short (two-page) essays discussing a specific (and sometimes provocative) question relating to issues discussed in class. The essays should outline your own views and conclusions, but they must be solidly grounded in factual material presented in the textbook, in other assigned readings, or gathered from other academically respectable sources. You should not, in other words, offer unattributable statements picked from the internet as fact!

In addition to these four short essays, your final grade will also include a midterm and a final exam, together with the production of talking point for class discussion.

Assigned Textbook

The following text book is required reading; you will need to have your own copy, and you should bring it with you to class so that you can refer to it during discussions.

Richard Robbins, *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*, (Boston: Pearson, 2014), 6th Edition, 978-0-205-91765-5

Please make sure to get the sixth edition as the content varies from edition to edition.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

•	4 short essays:	(4x10%)	40%
•	Midterm exam		20%
•	Final exam		30%
•	Talking points		10%

Attendance

You are expected to attend and participate in all classes, to the assigned reading before class, and to turn in all written work on time. You are allowed two "personal days" to use as you see fit; if you need to miss additional classes you may seek an excused absence. All **unexcused** absences over and above the two personal days will result in one point being deducted from your final grade.

If you are present for every class—no personal days or excused/unexcused absences—vou will receive a two point bonus for **perfect attendance.**

If you are a member of a sports team or a UVM organization that requires travel out of town, you must provide me with your schedule as soon as it becomes available.

Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Students with religious observation needs must submit them to me by the end of the second full week of classes.

If you are in the ACCESS program, please provide me with the relevant paperwork by the end of the second full week of classes so we can discuss any relevant accommodations. Discussing these issues early in the semester is necessary to develop a workable plan.

Electronic Devices

All cell phones, iPods, BlackBerries, and other electronic devices must be turned off and stowed away for the duration of each class session. Any use of these devices in class is distracting and will not be tolerated. Computers are allowed for note-taking. Any student

who uses their computer for other things during class time will forfeit the privilege of computer use.

Academic Integrity

Students are, of course, expected to do their own work on all assignments in this class. University standards regarding academic honesty apply throughout the semester. Please see the official university policy at:

http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf.

Syllabus

Monday August 31	Globalization, Growth, and Sustainability—An introduction to the course. Before Class Watch: video of the short docu-drama 2057. (link posted on Blackboard)
Wednesday September 3	Introduction to some basic ideas Short lecture and class discussion based on the Introduction to Global Problems Before Class Read: Global Problems, Introduction to Part One, pages 1-11.
Friday September 5	Constructing the Consumer (1) Short lecture and class discussion Before Class Read: Global Problems, Chapter 1, pages 12-34 Watch: Video Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Childhood (link posted on Blackboard)
Monday September 7	Labor Day—No Class

Wednesday September 9	Constructing the Consumer (2) Class debate on the proposition:
	"The core premise of the culture of consumer capitalism is that commodity consumption is the source of well-being"
	Before Class Prepare: Debate notes and talking points
Friday September 11	Constructing the Consumer (3): Consumerism and Sustainability Short lecture and discussion on the Conclusion to Chapter 1 of Global Problems
	Before Class Write: A two-page reflection on the short quotation by Francesco Sisci at the end of the Introduction to <i>Global Problems</i> , page 34.
Monday September 14	Constructing the Worker (1) Lecture and discussion: What work is.
	Before Class Read: Chapter 2 of Global Problems, pages 35-45
Wednesday September 16	Constructing the Worker (2) Lecture and discussion: Work and the changing global face of the working class
	Before Class Read: Chapter 2 of Global Problems, pages 45-56
Friday September 18	Constructing the Worker (3) Class Discussion
	Before Class Watch: The video Call Center Prepare: Talking points for class discussion
Monday September 21	The Rise of a World System (1) Lecture and discussion: Mercantile Origins
	Before Class Read: Chapter 3 of Global Problems, pages 57-74

Wednesday September 23	The Rise of a World System (2) Lecture and discussion: Industry, Globalization, and Imperialism
	Before Class Read: Chapter 3 of Global Problems, pages 74-98
Friday September 25	The Rise of a World System (3) Class Discussion: Capitalism, Globalization, and Sustainability
	Before Class Watch: The short movie <i>Life and Debt</i> . Link posted on Blackboard. Write: A two page paper reflecting on the sustainability of the global economy in the light of the conclusions at the end of chapter 3 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 97-98.
Monday September 28	The Nation-State in the World (1) Lecture on the rise of the nation-state
	Before Class Read: Chapter 4 of Global Problems, pages 99-125.
Wednesday September 30	The Nation-State in the World (2) Class debate on the proposition:
	"The nation-state will soon be replaced by new institutions, the most important being the transnational corporation."
	Before Class Prepare: Arguments and talking points for the debate.
Friday October 2	War and the World: The Construction of Hegemony Lecture and discussion.
	Before Class Read: Extract by Immanuel Wallerstein, posted on Blackboard.
Monday October 5	War and Bases: The Maintenance of Hegemony Lecture and Discussion
	Before Class Read: Nick Turse, "America's Empire of Bases 2.0;" posted on Blackboard

Wednesday October 7	Introduction to Part Two: The Global Impact of the Culture of Capitalism Class discussion on "Polanyi's Paradox": "How is it possible to get the market to perform efficiently without, at the same time, destroying the human and natural substance of society." Before Class Read: Introduction to Part Two of Global Problems, pages 127-132.
Friday October 9	No Class—Professor Buchanan attending a conference. Revision groups meet to discuss preparation for mid-term exam
Monday October 12	Mid-Term Exam
Wednesday October 14	Population Growth, Migration, and Urbanization (1) Lecture and discussion Before Class Read: Chapter 5 of Global Problems, pages 133-167.
Friday October 16	Population Growth, Migration, and Urbanization (2) Class debate on the sustainability of population growth, based on former U.S. Secretary of Defense and World Bank chairman Robert McNamara's statement: "Short of nuclear war, population growth is the major issue the world faces. If we do not act, the problem will be solved by famine, riots, insurrection, and war." Before Class Prepare: Arguments and taking points for class debate.
Monday October 19	Economic Development, Hunger, and Poverty (1) Lecture and discussion: Patterns of global food production and patterns of poverty. Before Class Read: Chapter 6 of Global Problems, pages 168-184. Watch: The short video The Meatrix

Wednesday October 21	Economic Development, Hunger, and Poverty (2) Discussing sustainable solutions
	Before Class Read: Chapter 6 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 184-196. Write: A two-page paper responding to the suggestion that "programs of 'food-aid' are simply ways that the state funnels tax dollars to agribusiness, increases the influence of food aid organizations, and promotes the ruin of small, local food growers."
Friday October 23	Globalization, Consumption, and the Environment (1) Lecture and discussion Before Class
	Read: Chapter 7 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 197-217.
Monday October 26	Globalization, Consumption, and the Environment (2) Class debate on the proposition: "capitalism will never sacrifice economic growth and capital accumulation for environmental reform" (John Bellamy Foster) Before Class Read: Chapter 7 of Global Problems, pages 217-219. Watch: 12-minute video Cheat Neutral, link posted on blackboard. Prepare: Talking points for debate.
Wednesday October 28	Globalization, Disease, and Health (1) Lecture and discussion. Before Class Read: Chapter 8 of Global Problems, pages 220-238. Watch: 5-minute video Global Disparities
Friday October 30	Globalization, Disease, and Health (2) Discussion on the AIDS crisis Before Class Read: Chapter 8 of Global Problems, pages 238-247. Prepare: Talking points for class discussion

Monday November 2	Globalization, Disease, and Health (3) Lecture and discussion: Cuban doctors and the Ebola crisisa different approach to global healthcare and disease. Before Class Read: Articles from the <i>New York Times</i> on Cuban health workers in Africa.
Wednesday	Indigenous Groups and Ethnic Conflict (1)
November 4	Lecture and discussion: Manifest Destiny in Africa and the Americas Before Class Read: Extract from George Novak's Genocide Against the American Indians.
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Friday November 6	Indigenous Groups and Ethnic Conflict (2) Class discussion on the proposition:
	"If we examine cases of purported ethnic conflict, we generally find that it involves much more than 'ancient hatreds'; often, in fact, the hatreds are not ancient at all."
	Before Class Read: Chapter 9 of <i>Global Problems</i> , 248-273. Prepare: Talking points for class discussion
Monday November 9	Introduction to Part Three: Resistance and Rebellion Discussion
	Before Class Read: Introduction to Part Three, <i>Global Problems</i> , 275-281. Prepare: Talking points for the discussion.
Wednesday November 11	Peasant Resistance (1) Lecture and discussion: Peasant rebellion in Malaysia, Kenya, and Mexico
	Before Class Read: Chapter 10 of Global Problems, pages 282-304 Read: Short extract from Samir Amin's The Liberal Virus, posted on Blackboard. Watch: Video clip of Monty Python and the Annoying Peasant

Friday	Peasant Resistance (2)
November 13	Class discussion on the proposition:
November 13	Class discussion on the proposition.
	"Civan the atmestic of the modern clobal economy person or small
	"Given the structure of the modern global economy, peasant or small-
	scale agriculture can not survive."
	Before Class
	Read: Chapter 10 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 304-305.
	Write: A two-page essay responding to the idea that peasant
	agriculture is doomed.
Monday	Anti-Systemic Protest (1)
November 16	Lecture and discussion: World Revolutions
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	Before Class
	Read: Chapter 11 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 306-311.
	Read. Chapter 11 of Global I Toblems, pages 300-311.
Wednesday	Anti-Systemic Protest (2)
November 18	
November 18	Lecture and discussion: Labor, feminism, and strategies of protest.
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	Before Class
	Read: Chapter 11 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 311-328.
T 1	A .: (2)
Friday	Anti-Systemic Protest (3)
November 20	Black lives matter! Global connections in the struggle against racism.
	Before Class
	Read: Short extract from Malcolm X situating the civil rights struggle
	in the United states in a global context.
	Prepare: Talking points for the discussion.
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
Monday	Religion and Anti-Systemic Protest (1)
November 30	Lecture and discussion
	Before Class
	Read: Chapter 11 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 329-352.
	Read. Chapter 11 of Giobai I Tobiems, pages 323-332.

Wednesday December 2	Religion and Anti-Systemic Protest (2) Class discussion Before Class Watch: Video clip of <i>Justified</i> Violence, by Mark Juergensmeyer
Friday December 4	Summary and Conclusions—The Citizen-Activist (1) Discussion on the central dilemma: Capitalist growth or global human sustainability? Before Class Read: Chapter 13 of Global Problems, pages 353-371 Prepare: Talking points for the discussion
Monday December 7	Summary and Conclusions—The Citizen-Activist (2) Discussion on the challenge of developing citizen-activism Before Class Read: Chapter 13 of <i>Global Problems</i> , pages 372-378 Prepare: Talking points for the discussion
Wednesday December 9	Class wrap-up and exam preparation Final Exam