

Fall 2021 Sustainability Courses

Department	Course ID	Cross-Listing(s)	Title	Description
Anthropology	ANTH 227		Introduction to Political Ecology	This course covers social science approaches to issues concerning ecology, the environment, and nature. It looks at how social identities and cultural meaning are symbolically tied to the physical environment. Ecology and the environment are affected by larger political, social, and economic forces, so we will also broaden the analysis to include wider spatial and temporal scales. The course will also examine how sociology and geography relate to political ecology. Regional foci will include South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
Biology	BIOL 333	ENVS 333	Ecology	A study of the adaptations of organisms to their environment and of the interrelationships among organisms that determine the structure and attributes of natural populations and biological communities. Field trips and laboratory exercises use sampling methods and statistical techniques to analyze the response of organisms to their physical environment, selected population phenomena, and different natural communities. Several field trips are required during the term. It is recommended that students take Biology 215L and 222L before enrolling, but they are not prerequisites.
College Course	COLL 204		Leadership & Wilderness	This course, for students acting as leaders for the Quest program, aims to expand and deepen two aspects of their experiences in Quest through readings, discussion, and writing. In the course students will read two books focused on leadership skills and a geologic history of wilderness in the northeast. Seminar meetings will be held before and after students participate in the outdoor component of the Quest program on the Appalachian Trail in northwest Connecticut, providing opportunities to think beforehand about and revisit afterwards issues connected with Quest. Students are expected to do the readings, participate actively in seminar discussions, and write a paper on a topic related to their experiences and reading. Participants are also required to complete successfully the field portion of the course, consisting of a 7-day wilderness/leadership training and 10-day leadership program.
Economics	ECON 225		Economics of Climate Change	This course introduces students to economic perspectives on important environmental challenges with a focus on climate change. We will examine the efforts employed to address these challenges at the individual, institutional and government level. Topics include estimating the social cost of carbon emission, the various tools for pricing carbon, carbon justice, and induced technical change as a response to environmental regulations.

Fall 2021 Sustainability Courses

Department	Course ID	Cross-Listing(s)	Title	Description
English	ENGL 319		World Climate Fiction	What does climate fiction as an emerging genre of World Literature reveal about the Anthropocene? The growing debates around environmental crises have an aesthetic counterpart-whether these be realist representations of climate refugees in the Global South, eco-fiction works on dystopic survival, or visual renderings of a dissolving and privatizing landscape. Course materials cover multi-genre depictions from North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania of a human-impacted ecology; and course work encourages students to collaborate across linguistic and disciplinary interests. The question of "world" as universal and "planet" as material are thus considered, with an emphasis on lines of difference (gender, race, class, indigeneity, etc.) generating worlds in World and material predicaments (desertification, flooding, allocation of waste, etc.) re-mapping the planet.
Environmental Science	ENVS 141	BIOL 141	Global Perspectives: Biodiversity & Conservation	This lecture and discussion course focuses on the current biodiversity crisis. We will discuss biological diversity and where it is found and how it is monitored, direct and indirect values of biodiversity, and consequences of biodiversity loss. Topics of discussion will also include the problems of small populations, the politics of endangered species, species invasions and extinctions, and the role of humans in these processes, design and establishment of reserves, captive breeding, and the role that the public and governments play in conserving biological diversity. Not creditable to the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. This course is not open to students who have already received a C- or better in Biology 233 (Conservation Biology).
Environmental Science	ENVS 305		Soil Science	After a brief introduction to the soil profile, its nomenclature and classification, the course will concentrate on the processes and factors that influence weathering and soil development. Topics to be covered include: physical and chemical weathering of rocks; the influences of parent material, topography, climate, and time on soil formation; and the relationships between soils and the biosphere. The remainder of the course will be taken up with the application of soils to geological and environmental problems. Two half-day field trips will familiarize students with the various soil types found in Connecticut.
First Year Seminar	FYSM 131		Landscape Photography and Conservation	Nature photography has played a major role in conservation efforts. For example, early photographs of the American West excited the American public about these landscapes and were instrumental in the establishment of National Parks. Today photography is still used to promote environmental causes, but it also attracts large numbers of visitors to distant, often fragile places, thus aiding in the destruction of environments that it intended to protect. This seminar will explore the role of art in conservation. Students will have opportunities to take digital photographs during afternoon and Saturday sessions. A digital camera is required for the course. Photo outings will be subject to COVID regulations.

Fall 2021 Sustainability Courses

Department	Course ID	Cross-Listing(s)	Title	Description
First Year Seminar	FYSM 137		Pandas, Pigs, and Pangolins	From Shang dynasty bronze elephants to Chinese pandas in zoos today, animals both real and imagined appear throughout Chinese history. Most recently, Chinese consumption of exotic animals, like the pangolin, were spotlighted by the outbreak of Covid-19. What did it mean to be an elephant, a horse, a pig, a panda, or a pangolin in Chinese history? This first-year seminar explores the interrelationships between human and non-human animals in Chinese history. We will examine, in an interdisciplinary manner, how humans in one corner of the world have shaped the ecological and evolutionary paths of animals in and around it but also how animals have influenced the course of Chinese history as agents of culture, biotechnology, and empire.
First Year Seminar	FYSM 186		Mindfulness: Theory & Practice	Mindfulness is everywhere these days: on our phones, in our schools and hospitals, and throughout the corporate sector. Purveyors of mindfulness promise a better life, more happiness, and less stress. But what is mindfulness? Where did it come from? How does it work? This class explores the theory and practice of mindfulness meditation from its Buddhist roots in ancient India to its modern-day manifestations in popular culture. Students learn a critical, interdisciplinary approach to academic study that combines readings from the humanities and sciences. In addition, the course will help students develop habits and best practices to thrive in their academic lives at Trinity.
First Year Seminar	FYSM 190		Reading the City	"The City," as both a social phenomenon and an ideal of human collaboration, evokes questions that have long engaged scholars, artists, and critics. Trinity College's own urban setting has powerfully shaped its heritage and increasingly informs its mission. Recent events, from the COVID-19 pandemic to an accelerating cycle of urban protest movements, have only heightened our awareness of the paradoxes and inequities that persist in our cities. In this seminar, we will examine the idea and the reality of "the City" through readings from a variety of disciplines and viewpoints, exploring the promise and the perils of our urban centers.
History	HIST 219		Planet Earth	This course explores the effect of the natural world on human history and of humans on the natural world. Our focus is on the earth as a global system. We begin with a consideration of human and natural histories in deep time, well before the written record, and offer an argument for why those histories matter. We then examine how the historical past can be understood in the context of these planetary themes, reframing familiar events in ancient and modern history by highlighting major natural changes that accompanied them, such as the redistribution of plants and animals, the fluctuation of climate, and the development of planet-altering technologies. The course culminates in a consideration of the future planetary conditions that past and present actions may cause.

Fall 2021 Sustainability Courses

Department	Course ID	Cross-Listing(s)	Title	Description
History	HIST 395		History of the Alps	In the 1990s the European Union recognized the Alpine region as a distinct regional unit. This course is a history of that storied region extending from the Mediterranean to the Adriatic by way of Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and the Balkans. Topics include the 'discovery' of the Alps by European elites in the Age of Enlightenment; the Alps as archive of geological time and center of romantic science; the invention and commercialization of alpine sports; the appeal of the Alps as a place of retreat and healing, and their politicization by fascist Italy and Nazi Germany in the 1920s and 1930s respectively. We end with a consideration of the future of the region in the face of global warming and the promises of trans-nationalism.
International Studies	INTS 263	POL 263	Global Environmental Politics	This course tackles the most important challenge of our time: how societies may continue to develop without destroying the planet. We will focus on the causes and consequences of differences in environmental policy design and implementation at the subnational, national and international level. Looking primarily at developing countries, we will analyze how different economic, societal and state actors strive to influence policy outcomes and how these political struggles result in more or less successful initiatives to mitigate environmental depletion and climate change. Topics include, but are not limited to: water pollution, deforestation, energy policy, air pollution, overfishing, and ozone layer depletion.
Political Science	POLS 314		Comparative Urban Development	This course analyzes how politics affects the lives of citizens in cities and metropolitan areas of the developing world. We will focus on two conceptions of urban politics. The first is the specific benefits and problems of the city (as opposed to rural areas), from land use (and its environmental sustainability challenges) and public utilities to political incorporation and intermediation. The second sense is the local as opposed to national or state-level politics: i.e. decentralization, coordination between different government tiers and the specific dynamics of local governance. We will draw primarily on examples in Africa, Asia (especially India and China) and Latin America, focusing on past, present and future challenges for urban development.

Fall 2021 Sustainability Courses

Department	Course ID	Cross-Listing(s)	Title	Description
Psychology	PSYC 248	NESC 248	Nature and Brain Health: From Urban Places to Wild Spaces	An awareness of the health benefits of nature is experiencing a major global revival. While health is just one "ecosystem service" of the natural world, brain health is arguably the most valuable. As we approach the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, founder of landscape architecture, this course will consider new science and diverse perspectives on the role that urban places and wild spaces play in our physical and mental wellbeing. An approximately biweekly series of expert presentations will link history, emerging science and public policy in the context of current Olmsted's appreciation for the immersive and restorative properties of nature. A range of assigned readings, discussions, and written analyses and reflection papers will complement semester-long translational projects.
Sociology	SOCL 101		Principles of Sociology	The course will deal with questions such as these: What are the underlying causes of our major social problems? Are inequality and the exercise of power by some over others inevitable in all social life? How important in human life are cultural and social factors compared to the influence of biological inheritance, personality and economic constraints? What are the origins of, prospects for, and results of attempts at deliberate social change? To what extent can we realistically expect to achieve our democratic ideals of freedom and equality in contemporary societies? The course addresses the basic concerns, ideas and methods of sociology both as a scientific and a humanistic discipline.
Urban Studies	URST 219		Comparative Planning Perspectives	The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive exploration of comparative urban planning from a local and global perspective. By utilizing a thematic approach to comparative case-studies, students will explore planning and urban policy through a critical lens and learn about the challenges and opportunities that arise from urbanization. This comparative approach will consider the uniqueness of city size, site, and situation through a global hierarchy perspective of cities. Doing so will allow students to think carefully and critically about 'why' and 'how' planning practices and policies, while considering the implications and outcomes of urban planning. The planning themes will include design, infrastructure, mobility, economics, equality, environment, and sustainability.

Fall 2021 Sustainability Courses

Department	Course ID	Cross-Listing(s)	Title	Description
Urban Studies	URST 301		Community Development Strategies	In this course we will explore the causes of neighborhood decline, examine the history, current practice and guiding policies of community development, and see firsthand selected community development strategies at work in the local communities surrounding Trinity College. We will pay close attention to the influence of ideas in good currency in the field of urban development such as smart growth, transit oriented development, land-banking and place-making. The course is organized around four questions: What are the underlying forces behind neighborhood decline? How and why did community development emerge? How has community development practice reconciled itself with current concepts that guide urban development such as new urbanism, smart growth, place-making and land-banking. What does the future hold for disinvested communities and for community development practice?