CCS/NRM 656
Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Wellbeing
Center for Cross-Cultural Studies
Indigenous Studies Graduate Programs
Fall 2021

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Office Fax: (907) 474-1957
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E-mail: mskoskey@alaska.edu

Audio conference: Toll Free: 1-866-245-9952 (no PIN)
Wednesdays 5:15-8:15, 8/28 – 12/4
In-class: Eielson 201
(all students will join by audio-conference due to the coronavirus)

Pre-requisite: Graduate standing or approval of the instructor. Upper division undergraduates from any of the social and natural sciences are also encouraged to enroll.

Course Description
In this course we will review the basic principles captured within the notion of sustainability, and we’ll look at the cultural practices and individual behaviors that enhance or degrade sustainable livelihoods and community wellbeing. Emphasis is on understanding the historical context of ideas about sustainability, on understanding the nature and magnitude of the social, economic and ecological dimensions of contemporary change, and the “best practices” currently in place for communities to respond effectively to change. Case studies will be used from around the world and the framework is comparative, cross-cultural, and geographic; the primary focus of the course, however, is on understanding problems, impacts and design solutions specific to high latitudes.

Requirements & Expectations
This is a graduate seminar, with emphasis on literature review, discussion and critical evaluation of the literature, problem formulation and analysis. You are expected to have read all of the assigned material each week, and to be prepared for each seminar. Final grades are based on completion of all assignments, including three problem sets, personal contributions to weekly discussions, oral presentations, and the final research paper.

Problem sets are very specific, are defined by the instructor, and are typically no more than 3-5 pages in length for your written response; a problem is defined—one related to some aspect of community sustainability—and you are expected to find and prepare a design solution.

The research paper is a formal paper, one that approximates a paper prepared for publication, and the topic is yours to choose. Length varies depending upon problem chosen, but on balance the final research paper should be between 10 and 20 pages, including references cited, maps, figures and tables. The specifications and expectations for the problem sets and final research paper will be discussed at the beginning of the semester.
**Course Goals & Learning Objectives**
1. To understand the frameworks and design solutions as applied to contemporary social and ecological problems that urban and rural communities must confront if they are to be sustainable.

2. To explore the multiple ways that communities are responding effectively or ineffectively to global, regional and local change; the framework is cross-cultural and comparative.

3. To develop, evaluate and apply new conceptual approaches, models and methods for evaluating sustainability and resilience, approaches that build constructively from the integrated assessments that have been used in the past.

4. To learn and apply a corpus of qualitative and quantitative skills to "real world" social, economic and ecological problems, skills that are interdisciplinary in their historical development, that are applicable to multiple temporal and spatial scales and varying levels of sociopolitical organization and integration, and that are appropriate for the analysis of Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Wellbeing.

**Class Expectations**
While an effort is made to adhere to the class schedule, it may shift in response to student interests and the availability of guest speakers. You will be made aware of any changes as they occur. Assigned readings should be read before class date, so that everyone will gain the most from class discussions. As graduate students, you are expected to become an active partner in the learning process. You should ask questions, read critically, consider new ideas, and challenge assumptions.

To make in-class contributions, you will need to attend class on time, read the assignments, and be fully prepared to participate in class discussions. Written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and proofread. Clarity, brevity and expression of your own ideas in your own words are expected. Written assignments are graded both on content and on grammar, punctuation, and format. They must reflect assigned readings, class discussions and most importantly, original thinking.

As a required part of your class participation, you will need to take an active role in discussion about the readings and to pose critical and thoughtful questions about the issues being presented. You may also occasionally be asked to give updates on your research as it progresses. You will be given an opportunity to present your research to the class near the end of the semester.

**Course Readings**
Please see the schedule at the end of this syllabus for the readings for this class. In addition to these readings will be others connected with the assignments. *Please note that all required readings for this course (except for student-led new article discussion) will be provided by the instructor.*

**Summary of Coursework**

1. Reading Reactions 3-4 (presented according to schedule devised in class)
2. Problem Sets 3 (scheduled throughout the semester)
3. Paper & Presentation 1 (due at end of semester); 1 presentation
**Reading Discussions:** Each student will lead three group discussions based on the readings. The reading presentations will include a 2-4 page summary sheet e-mailed to all the students and instructor, and a summary presentation in class (5-10 minutes) followed by a class discussion (5-10 minutes). *Note that one of the three reading discussions will include an article located and distributed by the student.*

**Problem Sets:** Problem sets are very specific, are defined by the instructor, and are typically no more than 3-5 pages in length for your written response; a problem is defined—one related to some aspect of community sustainability—and you are expected to find and prepare a design solution.

**Paper & Presentation:** Each student will write a project paper that incorporates understanding of the role of academic research and local knowledge in developing respectful, culturally informed, cooperative research. This paper should ideally cover a topic that is related/helpful to your MA/MS/PhD thesis/project, and that addresses some aspect of community wellbeing and sustainability. Each student will present in class a summary of their research near the end of the semester. The 20-25 minute presentation will be followed by a 10-20 minute discussion. The paper itself should be 10-20 pages in length, depending on the nature of the project (double-spaced, at 10-12 point font).

**Writing Expectations**

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 10-12 point font, and proofread for spelling and grammar errors. It is important to write according to established conventions so that you can most effectively and accurately communicate your ideas to others. Clarity, brevity, and expression of your own ideas in your own words are expected. Written assignments are graded primarily on content, but also on grammar and spelling, all of which is necessary when writing a potential paper for publication. It can be possible to develop publishable papers through your work in this class. Finally, written assignments must reflect knowledge gained from the assigned readings, class discussions, and most importantly, original thinking.

**Summary of Grading Criteria for this Course**

“A” work: UNIQUE
(1) Responds fully to the assignment, (2) expresses its purpose clearly and persuasively, (3) is directed toward and meets the needs of a defined audience, (4) begins and ends effectively, (5) provides adequate supporting arguments, evidence, examples, and details, (6) is well organized and unified, (7) uses appropriate, direct language, (8) correctly acknowledges and documents sources, (9) is free of errors in grammar, punctuations, word choice, spelling, and format, and (10) maintains a level of excellence throughout, and shows originality and creativity in realizing (1) through (7).

“B” work: UNCOMMON
Realizes (1) through (9) fully and completely and demonstrates overall excellence, but shows little originality or creativity.

“C” work: COMMON
Realizes (1) through (9) adequately and demonstrates overall competence, but contains a few, relatively minor errors or flaws. A “C” paper may show creativity and originality, but those qualities don’t make up for poor or careless writing. A “C” paper usually looks and reads like a next-to-final draft.

“D” work: Fails to realize some elements of (1) through (9) adequately and contains several, relatively serious errors or flaws, or many minor ones. A “D” paper often looks and reads like a first or second draft.

“F” work: Fails to realize several elements of (1) through (9) adequately and contains many serious errors or flaws, and usually many minor ones, as well. An “F” paper usually looks and reads like an incomplete draft.
Overall Grading will be as follows:

Class Participation and Attendance 20%
Reading Discussions (3-4 total) 20%
Problem Set Papers (3 total) 20%
Student Presentation and accompanying in-class discussion 20%
Semester Paper 20%

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Respect
The rules for respect are simple: anyone may talk about anything that they wish to; the speaker is not to be interrupted, questioned or judged; one may pass on the privilege of speaking if uncomfortable to another; any personal or otherwise sensitive information given and heard never goes beyond the class.
Class & Reading Schedule

The following is the listing of readings for the class for the listed date, along with general class topics. These texts need to be read before the scheduled class, since they will constitute an important focus of in-class discussion. Most classes will include the presentation of information by the instructor, preceded or followed by discussions of the readings. Guest speakers will be inserted into the schedule according to their preferences and the current placement of guests in the schedule below will almost certainly change. This will require both the instructor and students to be flexible concerning scheduling. Please remember, class attendance is required, and repeated absences will result in a lower final grade.

**August 25th**

Week 1
1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. BASICS OF CULTURAL, SUSTAINABILITY, & WELLBEING STUDIES

**September 1st**

Week 2
1. INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL & CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH
2. BACKGROUND, LIVELIHOOD, AND PLACE-BASED DESIGN
   - DFID. (1999). Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets.—available

**September 8th**

Week 3
1. CARRYING CAPACITY, IMPACT, THE COMMONS, AND OTHER CULTURAL CONCEPTS
   - Student-led Article Discussion—available

**September 15th**

Week 4
1. THE HUMAN
2. POPULATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

Paper summaries due
**September 22nd**
**Week 5** (Mike doing fieldwork this week; no class or reading discussion, but readings below should be read.)
1. OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

**September 29th**
**Week 6**
1. OUR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHANGE
2. INFRASTRUCTURE, EMPLOYMENT, DEMOGRAPHICS, EDUCATION
   - *Student-led Article Discussion*—available

Problem Set 1 due

**October 6th**
**Week 7**
1. SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT
2. HEALTH, RISK, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
October 13th
Week 8
FOOD SYSTEMS, FOOD PRODUCTION, SUBSISTENCE, FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND HEALTH


Problem Set 2 due

October 20th
Week 9
1. COMMUNITIES AND THE ECOSYSTEM
2. HYDROLOGICAL CHANGE, WATER AVAILABILITY, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- Postel, S. (2005). From the headwaters to the sea: The critical need to protect freshwater ecosystems. *Environment* 47 (10): 8-21.—*available*

October 27th
Week 10
FISHERIES AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- ADF&G. (2009). *Sustaining Alaska's Fisheries: 50 Years of Statehood*. Juneau, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.—*available*

Problem Set 3 due
November 3rd
Week 11
1. ENERGY CONSERVATION AND USE
2. CONVENTIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS IN DESIGN AND PRACTICE

Semester Paper updates due

November 10th
Week 12
1. MODELS OF SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
2. UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION IN ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

November 17th
Week 13
1. INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH (CBPR)
2. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, MODELS AND METHODS USED IN CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS, INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DESIGN
   • Community Health Status Assessment Report. (2009; 2014). Homer, AK: Southern Kenai Peninsula Communities Project.—available

Semester Papers due

November 24th
Week 14
Thanksgiving Break; no classes.
December 1st
Week 15
First Student Presentations
1. available 2. available 3. available 4. available
5. available 6. available 7. available 8. available

December 8th
Week 16
Second Student Presentations
1. available 2. available 3. available 4. Available
5. available 6. available 7. available 8. available

Student Protections & Support

COVID-19 statement: Students should keep up-to-date on the university’s policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:
https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf?authuser=0

Further, students are expected to adhere to the university’s policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

Student protections statement: UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/.

Disability services statement: I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Student Academic Support:
- Speaking Center (907-474-5470, uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu, Gruening 507)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu, Gruening 8th floor)
- UAF Math Services, uafmathstatlab@gmail.com, Chapman Building (for math fee paying students only)
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120, https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/)
- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List (https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf)

Student Resources:
- Disability Services (907-474-5655, uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu, Whitaker 208)
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (907-474-7317, uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu, Eielson 110)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, asuaf.office@alaska.edu, Wood Center 119)
**Nondiscrimination statement:** The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination). For more information, contact:

UAF Department of Equity and Compliance  
1760 Tanana Loop, 355 Duckering Building, Fairbanks, AK  99775  
907-474-7300  
uaf-deo@alaska.edu

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University Sponsored Off-Campus Programs and Research Activities  
We want you to know that:

1. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).
2. Incidents can be reported to your university’s Equity and Compliance office (listed below) or online reporting portal. University of Alaska takes immediate, effective, and appropriate action to respond to reported acts of discrimination and harassment.
3. There are supportive measures available to individuals that may have experienced discrimination.
4. University of Alaska’s Board of Regents’ Policy & University Regulations (UA BoR P&R) 01.02.020 Nondiscrimination and 01.04 Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination Under Title IX, go to: [http://alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/](http://alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/).
5. UA BoR P&R apply at all university owned or operated sites, university sanctioned events, clinical sites and during all academic or research related travel that are university sponsored.

For further information on your rights and resources [click here](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).