Sustainability Studies Minor

The minor encompasses the interactions of social policy, social equity, scientific principles, and environmental stewardship. By approaching these complex issues from a comprehensive perspective important societal challenges such as the interplay between climate change and poverty or resource use and prosperity, can be addressed and solutions proposed. Our goal is to engage our students in a dynamic, interdisciplinary learning experience where they will learn to think creatively, critically, and systemically, and to enhance the employment opportunities of its graduates in the fast growing environmental and sustainability industries.

Description of Proposed Changes

Overview: We propose to revise the Sustainability Studies minor on order to more accurately reflect regular course offerings and to ensure appropriate breadth and depth of courses. The minor was originally set up to have a core course in the social and physical sciences, as well as in the humanities. We did not have regular course offerings in the humanities, so instead offered a selection of three additional courses that could count as the third core. Since the minor’s creation, two of those three courses are no longer offered on a regular basis. As a result, we have to write program deviations for many of our minors. In addition, there are several new courses offered on a regular basis that should count for the minor. Since the electives are “under advisement” we have dealt with this by writing a memo listing the courses under advisement to accompany the Senior Check Form, but many of these courses can and should be programmed into Degree Works so that students can keep on track of their progression in the minor.

In summary,

- The total minor remains at 21 credits
- We are replacing the third core course with any World Awareness sustainability course
- We are restructuring the electives as follows:
  - One upper division science and sustainability course
  - One upper division society and sustainability course
  - Two approved electives, under advisement
- Additional courses are added as electives:
  - CHE 209 Chemistry and the Public Concern
  - GEO 305 Earth Resources
  - GEO 304, Fire & Ice
  - GEO 450, Geomorphology
  - GEO 326 Geographic Information Systems
  - HIS 358 American Urban History
  - MAT 379 Environmental Statistics
  - MET 215 Global Weather and Climate Catastrophe
  - SOC 367 Globalization and Poverty
  - SUS 300 Topics in Sustainability
Minor revision: Fall 2017
Approved by Sustainability Studies Minor Board 12/8/17

Side-by-side Program Requirements

2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog

Sustainability Studies Minor (21 cr)

A. Core Requirements (9 cr)
ECO 115 - Economic and Political Foundations of Sustainability
   - OR -
POL 115 - Economic and Political Foundations of Sustainability
GEO 115 - Environmental Sustainability

Select one course from the following three choices:
BIO 200 - Environmental and Population Biology
ANT 331 - Digging Up the Past: Humans and the Environment Through the Ages
PHY 305 - Energy and the Environment

B. Elective Requirements (9 cr)
Select three courses from below under advisement:
BIO 363 - Great Lakes Environmental Issues
BIO 400 - Current Issues in Environmental and Population Biology
CHE 209 - Chemistry and Public Concern
CHE 300 - Environmental Science
CHE 473 - Environmental Chemistry
GEO 304 - Fire & Ice
GEO 305 - Earth Resources
GEO 315 - Earth's Fury
GEO 326, Geographic Information Systems
GEO 450, Geomorphology
MAT 379 - Environmental Statistics
MET 215 Global Weather and Climate Catastrophe
MET 315 Weather Disasters
MET 320 Humans and Atmospheric Change
PHY 205 Energy and the Environment: a global view
TEL 355 Energy and Power Technology
TEL 401 Architectural Drawing
TEL 415 Residential Energy Technology

Independent Project or Internship (3 cr)

PROPOSED REVISION

Sustainability Studies Minor (21 cr)

A. Core Requirements (9 credits)
SUS 115 Economic & Political Foundations of Sustainability
GEO 115 Environmental Sustainability

Select one WORLD AWARENESS SUSTAINABILITY course

B. Electives (12 credits)* Select four additional courses under advisement. These courses must include one upper-division course from the Scientific Principles courses and one upper-division course from the Social Equity and Policy courses. Note some courses may have prerequisites.

Scientific principles course: under advisement
BIO 200 Human Impacts on Environment
BIO 363 Great Lakes Environmental Issues
BIO 400 Ecosystems in Society
CHE 209 Chemistry and Public Concern
CHE 300 Environmental Science
CHE 473 Environmental Chemistry
GEO 304 Fire & Ice
GEO 305 Earth Resources
GEO 315 Earth's Fury
GEO 326, Geographic Information Systems
GEO 450, Geomorphology
MAT 379 Environmental Statistics
MET 215 Global Weather and Climate Catastrophe
MET 315 Weather Disasters
MET 320 Humans and Atmospheric Change
PHY 205 Energy and the Environment: a global view
TEL 355 Energy and Power Technology
TEL 401 Architectural Drawing
TEL 415 Residential Energy Technology

Social equity and policy course: under advisement
ANT 331 Digging up the Past
ECO 330 Economic Development
ECO 390 Environmental Economics
HDV 376 Sustainability and Human Behavior
HIS 358 American Urban History
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POL 347 Politics of Development
POL 387 Global Environmental Politics
POL 409 Comparative Energy Policy
SOC 367 Globalization and Poverty
SOC 369 Environmental Sociology
SUS 300 Topics in Sustainability
TED 310 Technology and Civilization

* An internship or independent project can be substituted for three credits with approval of the Coordinator for the Sustainability Studies Minor.

WORLD AWARENESS SUSTAINABILITY COURSES
ANT 331 Digging up the Past
CHE 300 Environmental Science
GEO 305 Earth Resources
GEO 315 Earth's Fury
MET 215 Global Weather and Climate Catastrophe
MET 320 Humans and Atmospheric Change
ECO 330 Economic Development
POL 347 Politics of Development
POL 409 Comparative Energy Policy
TED 310 Technology and Civilization