SYLLABUS
ENR/AEDE 2500
Introduction to Sustainability
Spring 2021 – Online

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Email address</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
<th>Office hours</th>
<th>Zoom link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Slagle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slagle.44@osu.edu">slagle.44@osu.edu</a></td>
<td>614-230-2494</td>
<td>By appointment on zoom</td>
<td>Kristina <a href="https://osu.zoom.us/j/6146234161?pwd=Q1AvVV1eVViWS9FN3AxV3g3a1pNdz09">https://osu.zoom.us/j/6146234161?pwd=Q1AvVV1eVViWS9FN3AxV3g3a1pNdz09</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc Hnytka</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Hnytka.1@osu.edu">Hnytka.1@osu.edu</a></td>
<td>440-665-5846</td>
<td>By appointment on zoom</td>
<td>Marc <a href="https://bridgepointeducation.zoom.us/j/4119796922">https://bridgepointeducation.zoom.us/j/4119796922</a></td>
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Teaching Assistant: Anna Liu
Email address: liu.8203@buckeyemail.osu.edu
Office hours: Fridays 10am – 12pm
Zoom link: https://osu.zoom.us/j/98776421919?pwd=ckVrNXRnaDBJWEV0VE45UG5hS2IlZz09

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Course description

This course introduces students to principles from various disciplines related to social, economic and environmental sustainability. Students will evaluate key concepts and examine trade offs that are a part of sustainability action using case studies that are used to represent sustainability challenges that can be viewed from numerous angles.

Credit hours: 3

Goals: Sustainability requires knowledge of human and natural systems and the skills to manage change and think holistically across scales in time and space. The course introduces
skills and concepts necessary for a fruitful career in sustainability and critically evaluating key concepts and popular discourse. The primary goals of this course are to (1) develop the foundational knowledge and skills that students will require to grasp the multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary nature of sustainability (2) introduce students to sustainability concepts from different disciplines and (3) introduce the tradeoffs that are often a part of sustainability thinking, planning, and action. The course also provides students with a common framework for additional sustainability-oriented courses offered across campus. Students will be introduced to the fundamental principles, concepts, and knowledge from ecology and environmental science, economics and business, community and international development and sustainability science. Because sustainability can be laden with ideological thinking that can sometimes cloud important issues and avenues for advancement, we will employ a scientific perspective to examine the obstacles and opportunities for social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

1. Recall and critically assess various definitions of sustainability and sustainable development
2. Compare and contrast key concepts and ideas in sustainability, economics, business, ecology and conservation biology, and community and international development.
3. Describe how a scientific approach is important for examining the connections, tradeoffs, and synergies across environmental, economic, and social components that are involved in achieving sustainability goals
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of how ecosystem function changes in response to human and nonhuman influences, how humans use and impact ecosystem services, and the implications of these human-environment interactions for sustainability
5. Discuss their own ethics and values related to sustainability, the obstacles to changing their own behavior, and how those obstacles might apply to others
6. Demonstrate a basic understanding of how organizations, markets, and institutions can help and hinder achievement of a sustainable society
7. Apply sustainability concepts to evaluate case studies that explore sustainability goals and outcomes of programs or policies at individual, organizational, community, regional, and global scales
8. Exhibit independent thinking to understand the environmental, economic, and social components and trade-offs of sustainability
COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Textbooks: There is no required textbook. Instead, we use a variety of materials that you will be required to read, view, or listen to. These materials will all be available through Carmen.

Optional Readings: Some optional readings will be provided in the course sections and will be clearly noted as optional.

Course technology: For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- Carmen Help: https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmencanvas
- Self-Service and Chat support: http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice
- Phone: 614-688-HELP (4357)
- Email: 8help@osu.edu
- TDD: 614-688-8743

BASELINE TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR ONLINE COURSES
- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS NECESSARY FOR THIS SPECIFIC COURSE
- CarmenConnect text, audio, and video chat
- Zoom text, audio, and video chat
- Recording a slide presentation with audio narration
- Recording, editing, and uploading video

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT
- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone

REQUIRED SOFTWARE
- Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft’s Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found https://ocio.osu.edu/kb04733.
**Carmen Access**

You will need to use BuckeyePass multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click “Enter a Passcode” and then click the “Text me new codes” button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357 (HELP) and the IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

**GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE**

**How your grade is calculated**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homework 1: “Six words” for sustainability</td>
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<td>Homework 2: Driving patterns and consumption</td>
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<td>Homework 3: Klamath basin dams</td>
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<td>Homework 4: Corporate sustainability</td>
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<td>Homework 5: GMOs, land use, and biodiversity</td>
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<td>Homework 6: New ideas for sustainability</td>
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<td>5 Discussion Forums (10 points each)</td>
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See course schedule, below, for due dates.
Grading scale

93–100: A
90–92.9: A-
87–89.9: B+
83–86.9: B
80–82.9: B-
77–79.9: C+
73–76.9: C
70 –72.9: C-
67 –69.9: D+
60 –66.9: D
Below 60: E

Assignments

SELF-CHECKS
You are required to complete the modules, which include listening to lectures, viewing videos, reading, and any other activities listed on the course website. Ungraded self-checks or activities may be provided to help you assess your mastery of the material.

HOMEWORK
Homework assignments will be provided during the term. These homework assignments focus on developing your critical thinking skills by providing you with an opportunity to apply the material learned in the modules to real world situations. Homework assignments are open book but must be completed individually and without the help of other individuals.

GRADED QUIZZES TAKEN ON CARMEN
There are 12 graded quizzes during the term, occurring in most modules. They are required and are due by the date given. Quiz questions may consist of true/false, multiple choice and short answer questions. All quizzes will be taken online using Carmen. Quizzes will be open for the week and you will be given 30 minutes to complete the quiz once you have started it. If you do not take the quiz before it closes, you will earn a grade of 0%. Quiz questions will come from material presented in lecture videos, readings, or other materials provided for the week. Each student must complete the quiz on her or his own. You are NOT permitted to receive assistance from anyone else during the quiz. You are NOT permitted to take a quiz as part of a group. You are on your honor to complete the quizzes on your own without help from another person. You ARE permitted to use notes, slides, calculator, textbook, journal
articles, books, and Internet during the exam. Additional details will be provided during the semester.

EXAMS TAKEN ON CARMEN

Examinations may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. All exams will be taken online using Carmen. Exams will be open on Carmen for approximately 24 hours and you can take the exam anytime during these 24 hours. You will be given 80 minutes to complete the exam. This is the typical time that would be allowed if the exam were given in a regular classroom setting. If you fail to complete the exam on Carmen before it closes you will earn a grade of 0%. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos. Each student must complete the exam on her or his own. You are NOT permitted to receive assistance from anyone else during the exam. You are NOT permitted to take the exams as part of a group. You ARE permitted to use notes, slides, calculator, textbook, journal articles, books, and Internet during the exam. Additional details will be provided during the semester.

There are NO make-up exams except for valid reasons (e.g., medical excuse). If you are sick, you must have a note signed by your medical doctor (i.e. a licensed physician) and dated the same day as the exam and excusing you from the 24-hour period that the exam is open. Otherwise, you will receive a 0 on the exam. The instructor will determine if your excuse is valid. If you do not have a reasonable excuse for missing an exam then you will receive a zero for the exam. Approved make-up exams will consist of multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions.

*FOR YOUR MIDTERMS, we will take the best grade of the two and apply it to both midterms. For example, if you receive an 86% on Midterm 1, and a 78% on Midterm 2, we will apply 86% to both midterms to determine your overall points for the course. This also means if you perform as well as you would like on Midterm 1 and wish for that grade to apply to Midterm 2 as well, you could opt not to take Midterm 2. We don’t necessarily need to be notified of your decision to do this, though you are welcome to let us know. We are hoping this provides some flexibility to you during challenging times.

Participation

Participation is required in the five online discussion forums that will occur during the term. The online discussion forums occur in conjunction with the homework assignments. The forums will vary, but will require you to construct a valid argument, to participate in a discussion, and to critique and discuss the arguments made by others. In several of the forums you may be asked to work with a smaller group of students to synthesize and present the results of your discussion. A grade will be assigned based on the quantity and quality of your participation.
Late assignments

Please refer to Carmen for due dates. To receive full credit, work must be turned-in on time and in condition to be evaluated. Late assignments will incur a deduction of 10% of the total point value for each 24-hour period that they are late (including weekends). Late assignments can be turned in for up to 7 days (including weekends) after they are due with the penalty described above. After that students will receive a 0 for the assignment. Excuses for missed or late assignments – even valid ones – will not be accepted more than 7 days after the assignment due date. Excuses for missing an exam must be presented to the instructors prior to the exam when at all possible.

Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call 614-688-HELP at any time if you have a technical problem.)

- **Grading and feedback**: For large weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within 10 days.
- **E-mail**: We will generally reply to e-mails within 48 hours on school days.
- **Discussion board**: One of the instructors or the TA will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every 24 hours on school days.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Student participation requirements

Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone’s expected participation:

- **Logging in**: **AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK**
  Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me as soon as possible.

- **Office hours and live sessions**: **OPTIONAL**
  All live, scheduled events for the course, including office hours, are optional. For live
presentations from guest speakers, we will provide a recording that you can watch later. If you are required to discuss an assignment with us, please contact us at the beginning of the week if you need a time to discuss.

- **Participating in discussion forums:**
  Each of the five discussion forums are intended to replace one in-class discussion section. You can expect to spend about 80 minutes in each forum reading the question, thinking about your responses, conducting any additional research you intend to do, writing your own response, dialoging with other students about their responses, and synthesizing material. The 80 minutes most likely will not occur all at once, as in a class discussion, but will be spread out over several days.

**Discussion and communication guidelines**

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.

- **Tone and civility:** Let’s maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn’t always come across online.

- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)

- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

**OTHER COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic integrity policy**

**POLICIES FOR THIS ONLINE COURSE**

- **Quizzes and exams:** You must complete the midterm and final exams yourself, without any external help or communication. Graded weekly quizzes should also be completed without help from others. You may look back over your notes while you take quizzes, but remember that you only have a 45 minute window to turn them in. There are
ungraded practice quizzes included throughout the course—these are marked appropriately.

• **Written assignments**: Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow APA style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in—but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.

• **Reusing past work**: In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.

• **Falsifying research or results**: All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.

• **Collaboration and informal peer-review**: The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.

• **Group projects**: This course includes group projects, which can be stressful for students when it comes to dividing work, taking credit, and receiving grades and feedback. I have attempted to make the guidelines for group work as clear as possible for each activity and assignment, but please let me know if you have any questions.

**OHIO STATE’S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”

The Ohio State University’s *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an “excuse” for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.
If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages (COAM Home)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (Ten Suggestions)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm)

Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Safe and Healthy Buckeyes

Health and safety requirements: All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times. Non-compliance will result in a warning first, and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.”

Disability Accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a
Counseling and Consultation Services/Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling (614) 292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at (614) 292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-(800)-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

David Wirt, wirt.9@osu.edu, is the CFAES embedded mental health counselor. He is available for new consultations and to establish routine care. To schedule with David, please call 614-292-5766. Students should mention their affiliation with CFAES when setting up a phone screening.

Creating an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:
1. Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or Email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, andremedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

This course adheres to The Principles of Community adopted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. These principles are located on the Carmen site for this course; and can also be found at https://go.osu.edu/principlesofcommunity. For additional information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CFAES, contact the CFAES Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (https://equityandinclusion.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/). If you have been a victim of or a witness to a bias incident, you can report it online and anonymously (if you choose) at https://studentlife.osu.edu/bias/report-a-bias-incident.aspx.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

- Information on assigned readings can be found on the Carmen site in the module for each week.
- Due dates for all assignments, discussions and quizzes will be clearly indicated on the Carmen site for the class.
  - In general, quizzes will be due on Saturday at midnight at the end of the week (e.g. Quiz 1 will be due January 16th at 11:59pm)
  - Homework assignments will be due on the Wednesday of the assigned week at 5pm.
Due dates for discussion forum contributions will be clearly indicated on Carmen.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; Quizzes</th>
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| 1    | Jan. 11 - 15 | Introduction to Sustainability I: General overview, definitions and key concepts | Discussion forum: Sustainability Graffiti (Due by January 13th)  
Quiz 1 (Due January 16th) |
| 2    | Jan. 18 - 22 | Introduction to Sustainability II – Economic and business concepts and overview of development | Quiz 2 (Due January 23rd) |
| 3    | Jan. 25 - 29 | Introduction to consumption and why we consume | Homework: Six words for sustainability (Due January 27th)  
Quiz 3 (Due January 30th) |
| 4    | Feb. 1 - 5  | Business perspectives on consumption  
How can we consume more sustainably? | Homework: Driving patterns and consumption (Due Feb. 3rd)  
Discussion forum: Driving patterns (Due Feb. 5th)  
Quiz 4 (Due Feb. 6th) |
| 5    | Feb. 8 - 12 | How can we consume more sustainably II? | Quiz 5 (Due Feb. 13th) |
| 6    | Feb. 15 - 19 | Introduction to Water  
The economics of water quality and quantity | Midterm Exam 1 (Due Feb. 17th 2pm) |
| 7    | Feb. 22, 25 - 26 | Water, communities and international development | Quiz 6 (Due Feb. 27th) |
| 8    | March 1 - 5 | Business and Water | Homework: Klamath Dams (Due March 3rd)  
Discussion forum: Klamath dams (Due March 5th)  
Quiz 7 (Due March 6th) |
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<th>Week</th>
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<td>9</td>
<td>March 8-12</td>
<td>Introduction to Climate/Energy</td>
<td>Quiz 8 (Due March 13th)</td>
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<td>Climate/Energy economics and business II</td>
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<td>Quiz 9 (Due March 20th)</td>
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<td>March 22-26</td>
<td>Climate/Energy and international development</td>
<td>Homework: New ideas for sustainability (Due March 24 (can be submitted at any time before)) Quiz 10 (Due March 27th)</td>
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<td>Introduction to biodiversity and sustainable community development</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 2 (Due March 30th 2pm)</td>
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<td>April 5-9</td>
<td>Biodiversity and international development</td>
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