

## **Issues, Concepts and Cases in Development and Sustainability**

Development and Sustainability 401

Section: E100

Term: 2012 Spring

Instructor: J. Busumtwi-Sam

Discussion Topics: This course examines the institutions, processes, laws and regulations created to achieve sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. Socioeconomic development, population pressure, technological innovations, and pollution are among the most important drivers of environmental change and their impacts are global. Governance for sustainable development encompasses a wide range of national, regional and global institutions, laws, regulations, and practices, governmental and non-governmental, which have been created in the effort to govern the impact of these divers on the earths complex ecosystems. The course focuses on identifying key challenges to effective governance and assessing the prospects for sustainable solutions. In the contemporary period, many of these challenges assume a North-South dimension and arise from disagreements over key organizing principles, over substantive values and goals, and over property rights and the distribution of costs and benefits; issues further complicated by ethical questions pertaining to environmental justice. The course is divided into three parts. Part one discusses different perspectives on sustainable development, assesses their implications for governance, and outlines the evolution of major governance mechanisms. We also discuss issues of (in)justice, (in)equity and (in)equality as they pertain to sustainable development, focusing on notions of distributive, procedural and intergenerational justice, and deontological and consequentialist ethics. Part two examines four major areas where tensions between the Global North and South are particularly evident in the quest for sustainable development: Climate Change, Biodiversity, Population/Migration and Water. We examine the major drivers of change in each of these areas, assess critically the governance mechanisms, and explore specific cases which embody them. We conclude the course with a discussion of governance reforms and assessment of best practices.

Grading: Analytical Paper & Presentation 20% Seminar Participation 10%

Final Exam (Take home) 35% Research Proposal & Essay 35%

Required Texts: All the required readings are available through the SFU WebCT system.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 credit hours or permission of instructor

Notes: A four-hour seminar each week

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