International Development:  
Critical Perspectives on Theory and Practice  
Sustainability and the Environment Track

**COURSE DESIGNATOR** MSID 4001/5001  
**Language of Instruction** English

**NUMBER OF CREDITS** 4 credits  
**Contact Hours** 60

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
There has been growing awareness of the importance of environmental and natural resource management in the context of sustainable development. In the last few decades, environmental and natural resource concerns have come to the forefront of International concerns because of the general global problems associated with resource utilization, distribution & waste disposal. The linkages between economy, environment and development were highlighted at the UNCED Summit in 1992. Agenda 21 called for full integration on the environmental dimension into economic and sectorial policies and decision-making in every sphere of activity.

This track, which forms a part of the larger MSID 4001 course, investigates the relationship between the environment and the lives of people in Kenya, including topics such as deforestation, wildlife management, sustainable food sources and climate change. Internships will focus on the relationship between local people and these themes. The concepts will be formulated in such a way that they reflect everyday lives of the people.

Students will be introduced to concepts, definitions and recent developments and consciousness for natural resource and environmental management. Highlights of underlying philosophical approaches to issues natural resource will be examined. In addition, the course will examine environmental issues locally and globally.

**INSTRUCTOR**
Mohamud Jama

**COURSE GOAL**
The course attempts to:

- Expose students to a wide range of thinking on environmental and natural resource issues
- Impact of natural resource on developing world.
- Enhance the ability of the student to think critically and evaluate crucial questions related to policy choices, institutions and modes of implementation among development options
- Enable students to understand natural resource potentials and limits of local perceived needs.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**
At the end of the course, students are expected to be:

- Enlightened sufficiently to consider & even question their deepest beliefs about natural resources & environmental management
- Understand the connection between our lifestyle, actions and nature
- Gain familiarity with critical cross-cutting issues which should be considered when addressing natural resource problems
- Develop basic awareness creation to give students an appreciation of key environmental issues
- Recognize economic, social, institutional and cultural factors which has compelled people to adopt unsustainable practices
- Recognize the disproportionate relationships between supply of natural and environmental resources and the demand on them
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between natural resource management and long term economic development
METHODOLOGY

The course coverage entails an array of methods: lectures, presentations by students, discussion sessions, individual consultations, readings (required books & handouts), students will also be required to attend public lectures by local & visiting dignitaries, conferences, seminars, workshops, book launches relevant to thematic areas (students will be notified accordingly). At least one field visit/excursion will be made to areas that present the dichotomous nature of development. Term papers, examination, assignments, class attendance and participation will constitute mode of evaluating students’ comprehension of the course content.

REQUIRED READING/ MATERIALS

Required:
The Heinrich Boil Foundation: *The Road to Earth Summit 2002.*


Suggested

Danida: *Environment and Development: A plan of Action.*


Africa Ecological Footprint Report

Manuel Ruiz & Ronnie Vernooy: *The Custodians of Biodiversity.*

What is resilience? An introduction to social-ecological research

Sustainable Development, Governance & Globalization; African Perspective


Daniel Musili Nyeki: *Wildlife Conservation & Tourism In Kenya.*


Patrick Alila, Kabiru Kinyanjui & Gatheru Wanjohi: *Rural Landlessness in Kenya.*

GRADING

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.</td>
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Summary of how grades are weighted:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Grade</td>
<td>50%</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS
- Presentation of a case study
- Major Term Paper December 13, 2013
- Final Exam December 2013

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

1.0 Introduction
- Scope and nature of Natural Resource Management
- Evolution of Environmental and Natural Resource Conservation
- Global Awareness; Catalytic Factor.

WEEK 2

2.0 Natural resources and Sustainable Development
- Definition
- Conceptual Basis of Sustainable Development
- Interaction Among the Key Factors of Sustainable Development

WEEK 3
3.0 Natural Resources use of Environmental Degradation
- Environment and Poverty
- Environment – Agriculture – Pollution Nexus
- ASAL/ Wasteland and Desertification

WEEK 4

4.0 Wildlife Conservation
- Historical perspective
- National Park concept
- Debates on wildlife and Human conflicts

WEEK 5

5.0 Climate Change and Africa

WEEK 6

6.0 Economic policies and Natural Resource
- Structural Adjustment and Environment

WEEK 7

7.0 Towards Sustainable Development in Africa

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student’s responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forgeries, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.
Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT
The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.