

**RESECON 499C and 499D
SUSTAINABILITY IN TODAY'S ECONOMY
Department of Resource Economics**

**Fall 2018/Spring 2019
HONORS THESIS SEMINAR
Commonwealth Honors College**

Dr. Christine L. Crago

Office Hours: M, W 1:00-2:00 PM

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Objectives:

- (1) Familiarize students with issues related to sustainability and their impact on individuals, communities, and organizations**
- (2) Equip students with economic decision-making tools to evaluate sustainability projects**
- (3) Provide an environment for conducting independent research while engaging with peers from other disciplines**
- (4) Develop skills in self, peer, and group assessments**
- (5) Develop skills in information searching and retrieval using library and public domain sources**

Overall Guidance for Your Honors Thesis

Students will work with the course instructor to define a research question related to sustainability and develop a research proposal in the fall semester. At the end of the spring semester students are expected to complete their Honors Thesis and submit their manuscripts to the Commonwealth Honors College. A thesis manuscript is typically 35-50 pages in length. Formatting requirements can be found at: <https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone/formatting>. For additional guidance on the Honors Thesis see: <https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience>.

Course Text and Readings

Required textbook:

*Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J. & Williams, T.F. (2016). The Craft of Research (4th Edition). University of Chicago Press.

Optional references:

*Boardman, A.E., Greenberg, D.H., Vining, A.R., & Weimer, D.L. (2011). Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice (4th Edition). Pearson Education, Inc.

*Stiglitz, Joseph E. (1999). Economics of the Public Sector (3rd Edition). W.W. Norton & Co.

*Robertson, Margaret. (2017). Sustainability Principles and Practice (2nd Edition). Routledge.

Additional readings will be posted on the course website.

Absences and Late Work

Please provide documentation when asking for accommodation for missed classwork due to absence. Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 5% for every day past the deadline, up to one week. Homework submitted one week after the due date will not be accepted. This policy does not apply to the final Thesis Proposal and Thesis Manuscript, which must be submitted by the due date.

Academic Honesty Policy

Honesty and integrity are fundamental to good academic work. It is expected that the work you present will be your own and that of your group (if applicable). Violations will be pursued to the fullest extent possible under the procedures outlined in your *Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*:
http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/.

Accommodation Policy

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify the Honors Professor within the first two weeks of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

RESECON 499D Fall 2019

Lecture: M, W 2:30-3:45 PM (305 Holdsworth Hall)

Course Website: Available on Moodle

Requirements

1. Submission of Thesis Manuscript to instructor and Commonwealth Honors College
2. Presentation of research at the Undergraduate Research Conference and Resource Economics Honors Research Conference
3. Engagement in the campus discussion of sustainability through attending academic seminars and public lectures on related topics. The requirement is to attend one seminar and give a presentation in class for the seminar attended. ¹
4. Participation in class/group discussions and peer assessment activities

Grading

The final grade for RES-ECON 499D will be calculated as follows:

Thesis Manuscript – 70%

URC Poster, Proposal Presentation and Final Presentation – 15 %

Seminar Presentation – 5%

Homework and Class Participation – 10%

Final grades will be on a numeric scale. Students scoring 93% to 100% will receive an A, scores between 90% and 92.9% will receive an A-, 87-89.9% = B+, 83-86.9% =B, 80-82.9%=B- and so on.

Important Dates for Spring 2019

Feb 4 - Last day to add or drop class with no record

Feb 18 - President's Day, no class

Feb 19 – Tuesday, Monday class schedule will be followed

Mar 11-15 - Spring break

Mar 19 - Last day to drop with 'W'

April 15 – Patriot's Day, no class

Apr 17 – Wednesday, Monday class schedule will be followed

April 26 – Undergraduate Research Conference

May 1 – Last class meeting

Lecture Topics and Tentative Schedule²

WEEK 1-2: Presentations, Organizing work plan and timetable (Jan 23-Feb 1)

January 23 presentations: Phoebe, Aoife, Erin, Yulia

January 28 presentations: Kat, Justin, Jamie, James, Andrew

Prepare a 10 minute presentation based on your thesis proposal. Submission item will be up on the Spring 2019 Moodle site. The presentation file is due the DAY BEFORE you presentation.

¹ A list of seminars will be available on the course website. In order to count toward the course requirement, you must attend a UMass or Five College-sponsored event. In addition, you should schedule a presentation date with the course instructor within a week of the event date.

² This is a tentative schedule. Class schedule may change depending on student needs (example, pre-testing of surveys, etc). Refer to the syllabus posted on Moodle for up to date class information.

WEEK 3-4: Research Implementation/Making and supporting arguments (Feb 4-15)

Reading: COR Chapter 7, 8 and 9, 10, 11 and page 197 (Abstract)

Draft abstract for Undergraduate Research Conference due (Feb 11)

Deadline URC Abstract (Feb 15), submit using URC website

WEEK 5-6: Research Implementation/Planning your manuscript (Feb 18 – Mar 1)

Reading: COR Chapter 12, 13

WEEK 7: Research Implementation/Graphs and figures (Mar 4-8)

Reading: COR Chapter 15

WEEK 8: Spring Break (March 11-15)

Week 9-10: Writing Conclusion, Re-writing Introduction (March 18-29)

Reading: COR 16

Week 11-12: Giving a public research presentation, Creating a poster presentation, and Formatting thesis manuscript, Reviewing manuscript (April 1-12)

Draft of manuscript due for peer review (April 12, Friday)

Reading: COR 17

Week 13-14: Submission of Project Manuscript, URC Conference

* RESERVE YOUR POSTER PRINTING TIME AT THE DUBOIS LIBRARY WELL AHEAD OF TIME.

No meeting on April 15

Peer review due (April 17)

Thesis Manuscript due (April 19, Friday)

URC Poster draft due (April 22)

URC Poster due (April 24)

Undergraduate Research Conference (April 26, Friday)

Week 15: Course wrap-up discussion and reflection (Apr 30)

Presentation of research at the Resource Economics Honors Research Conference (Date TBD)