

NAME			HOURS	CREDITS
SUSTAINABILITY AND ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO AND LATIN AMERICA		THEORETICAL	4	8
COURSE NUMBER	COURSE CODE	PRACTICAL	0	0
100236		TOTAL	4	8

DEPARTMENT
COOPERACIÓN ACADÉMICA

PROFESSOR: M.A. JIMENA PAZ

GENERAL OBJECTIVES (At the end of the course, the student will...)

1. Acquire an interdisciplinary framework of concepts and *avant-garde* theoretical currents to approach the field of sustainability and interculturality, from latin american perspectives.
2. Develop a complex understanding of the historical, political, economical, social and environmental causes that have led to the current civilizatorian crisis.
3. Visualize alternatives and proposals built in Latin America, against hegemonic development.
4. Develop personal reflections across the course, about your own actions and possibilities towards sustainable living, interculturality and social justice.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (The student will be able to:)

1. Understand the concept of ecological sustainability and the contradiction of “sustainable development” in the context of capitalism.
2. Become aware of the social, cultural and environmental consequences of neoliberalism affecting the life of people in developing countries in Latin America.
3. Learn about other cultural forms of thinking, living and relating with nature, existing in Mexico and Latin America.
4. Analyze social environmental grassroots movements in Mexico, who fight against neoliberalism and hegemonic development, and understand its importance.

TOPICS

1. Ecology, economy, and the crisis of civilization
 - 1.1. Environmental crisis and the planetary limits to growth
 - 1.2. The crisis of western civilization
 - 1.3. Sustainable development: concepts, origins and contradictions
 - 1.4. Decoloniality and social justice
2. Political ecology, neo-extractivism and the fight for the territory in Mexico and Latin America
 - 2.1 The concept of territory in Latin America
 - 2.3 Neoliberalism, extractivist projects and ecological dispossession
 - 2.2. Political ecology: a framework for the analysis of social-environmental conflicts
 - a) Conflicts in the Amazons
 - b) Water wars in Bolivia
 - c) Energy projects in Oaxaca
 - d) Mining in Central America
 - e) GMOs in Mexico
3. Alternative development: proposals from Latin America
 - 3.1. Spirituality, holism, and sacred ecology in the indigenous cosmovisions
 - 3.2 Environmental ethics
 - 3.3 *Buen vivir*, *Comunalidad* and other latin american indigenous conceptions of sustainable living
 - 3.4 Agroecology and food sovereignty
 - 3.5 Autonomy and self-determination: The case of the Zapatistas
 - 3.6 The framework of interculturality in Latin America

METHOD AND PEDAGOGIC INSTRUMENTS

Seminary type class:

- Some lectures will be given by the professor or special guests.
- Most classes will be group discussions and debates; for each class one or two students will be designated to start and moderate the discussion, by setting up the conceptual framework, main arguments, questions, and/or the study case around we will discuss the topic.
- Readings and documentaries will be given for homework, on which the analysis and discussion of the class will be based.

Optional fieldtrip(s) related to the class might happen.

EVALUATION

REQUIREMENTS

Minimum attendance of 80%.

GRADING

TOOL	MANDATORY	PERCENTAGE	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
Participation in class	YES	20%	Come to class, read articles, watch documentaries and films, participate in group discussions, be critical, share your own experiences and points of view, back up your arguments properly.
Homework	YES	30%	Write a personal reflection or discuss a punctual argument about each reading or film seen (150-300 words) + Bring 3-5 questions to discuss in class. Due the night before each class.
Class presentations (2)	YES	20%	Present and moderate two classes from modules 2 and 3*, one from each module. You need to deliver a report and script with the information and main questions that will be exposed. *the topic of module 3 needs to be the same topic you chose for the final essay.
Final essay: Choose from topics of module 3.	YES	30%	Essay: 7-8 pages (arial 12, no interparagraph space)+ bibliography. Due at the end of module 2.
Fieldtrip(s), visits to museums or conferences	NO	1%	Extra points for attending.