Sustainable Development

Program Director: Mark Orrs, Professor of Practice (Columbia University)

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Williams Hall, 31 Williams Drive

Core Faculty

David Casagrande, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology); Stephen Cutiliffe, Ph.D. (Department of History); John Gatewood, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology); Kristen Jellison, Ph.D. (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering); Donald Morris, Ph.D. (Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences); Mark Orrs, Ph.D. (Department of Political Science); Todd Watkins, Ph.D. (Department of Economics and Executive Director, Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise and Microfinance Program); and Rick Weisman, Ph.D. (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering)

MINOR IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The minor in SDEV consists of a minimum of at least 15 hours of study that includes a combination of core courses and approved electives. To declare a minor in Sustainable Development, students must complete a minor declaration form.

Core Courses

SDEV 010 Challenges of Sustainable Development 4 Credits
SDEV 201 and Sustainable Development Solutions, I 2-4 Credits
SDEV 202 and Sustainable Development Solutions, II 2-4 Credits

or

SDEV 010 Challenges of Sustainable Development 4 Credits
SDEV 203 and Research in Sustainable Development 2-4 Credits

Additional Core Electives 1

SDEV 122 Sustainable Dev:CRI Experience 3 Credits
ECO 203 Microfinance: Financial Inclusion for the Poor 3 Credits
ANTH 305 Anthropology Of Fishing 3 Credits
SDEV/ENTP/IR 307 International Social Entrepreneurship 2-4 Credits
SDEV/ES 310 Foundations of Sustainable Development Practice 2-4 Credits
ANTH/GS/AAS 324 Globalization and Development in Africa 2-4 Credits
SOC/GS 328 Global Food Systems 3 Credits
SDEV 372 Independent Study in Sustainable Development 3 Credits

Total Credits 15

Courses

SDEV 010 Challenges of Sustainable Development 4 Credits
History and principles of sustainable development, including their application to projects in both rich and poor countries. Survey of current environmental, social and economic challenges to sustainable development. Philosophy and ethics of external intervention for poverty alleviation and green development, especially in poor societies. Integrated approaches to sustainable development practice, including the inter-relationship of the health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences and management.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 122 Sustainable Dev:CRI Experience 3 Credits
Investigation of the concept of sustainable development as currently being practiced in Costa Rica. Case studies in diverse areas (e.g. agriculture, bio-prospecting, ecotourism, energy, and land use) demonstrate how current approaches to sustainable development are influenced by the history and ecology of Costa Rica, as well as the structure of its political, social, and economic systems. Attention to theories of sustainable development and of consumption help to frame the Costa Rican experience. Students maintain individual “sustainability” journals based on their experiences from which they draw for team-based research and writing projects. The course is offered through Lehigh Abroad and consists of 5 evening classes during the fall semester and required course travel to Costa Rica between the fall and winter semesters (approximately 18 days). Final course projects are due early in the spring semester. Course participation will require additional fees as described by Lehigh Abroad (airfare and program fee).

Prerequisites: SDEV 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 201 Sustainable Development Solutions, I 3 Credits
Projects practicum in which cross-disciplinary teams of 5-6 students focus on understanding the context of a particular NGO amidst the broader social, economic, and scientific challenges to sustainable development. Analytic techniques for designing, implementing and evaluating projects. Nuts and bolts of development practice. Teams work on needs assessment related to their NGO’s proposed goals and devise innovative solutions for implementing development projects. On-the-ground field experience, whether international or domestic, is required. Fee may apply. Oral presentations and written reports.

Prerequisites: SDEV 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 202 Sustainable Development Solutions, II 2-4 Credits
Continuation and extension of projects begun in SDEV 201. Refine implementation strategies and develop project evaluation protocol. Oral presentations and written reports.

Prerequisites: SDEV 201

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 203 Research in Sustainable Development 2-4 Credits
Students will work on sustainable development research projects not involving field work. Consent of instructor required.

Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

Prerequisites: SDEV 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 300 1-4 Credits
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

Prerequisites: SDEV 010

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 307 (ENTP 307, IR 307) International Social Entrepreneurship 4 Credits
International social entrepreneurship aims to change the world through innovation in solving social problems. Focus on the nexus between social entrepreneurship and development practice, especially in relation to NGOs. Emphasis on acquiring tools and conceptual frameworks to launch new social ventures through real hands-on international fieldwork and team-oriented learning by doing. Exposure to best practices of how to affect meaningful social change in poor countries, to generate and evaluate innovative ideas to develop them into concrete on-the-ground startups.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

1 Additional course electives may be substituted in consultation with the Program Director.
SDEV 310 (ES 310) Foundations of Sustainable Development Practice 4 Credits
The broad goal of this course is to introduce students to the foundations of key sectoral and thematic knowledge for important challenges to sustainable development: food and nutritional security, social service delivery, energy policy, water resource management, urbanization, infrastructure, human rights, biodiversity, adaption to climate change, mitigating GHGs, sustainable business, good governance, and more. Through the Global Classroom we will do this together virtually with academic partners from around the world.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

SDEV 372 Independent Study in Sustainable Development 1-4 Credits
Opportunity for students to pursue individual sustainable development projects or continue work begun in SDEV 201/202. May not count towards minor's credit requirements. Consent of department required.

Prerequisites: SDEV 010
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS