

John Felice Rome Center
Course: Environmental Sustainability (Envs 283)
Spring 2025
Monday 9am: 12am
Dr. Mario Carere
Email: mcarere@luc.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Whatsapp: +393396287266

Course Description:

This course will give you the basis to understand which is the impact of human activities on our planet and which are the main actions that policy makers, stakeholders and citizens should carry out to avoid the decline and deterioration of our ecosystems with dramatic consequences also for human being.

We will undertake a science-policy journey through the knowledge of the international strategies for sustainable development, the current European green deal policies and the global and local actions needed to fight the climate changes and chemical pollution.

The course will cover basic topics such as the protection of water resources (the most precious and limited resource) and our oceans, the importance of the protection of our ecosystems, the impact of chemical pollution on the environment and in which way this affects human health, the importance of sustainable food. A study visit on the river Tiber and a practical activity about sustainability will be also scheduled.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- a. Develop the basic concepts of the environmental sustainability.
- b. Determine the main drivers of environmental degradation and assess the social and economic risks.
- c. Provide examples of policy initiatives and projects to achieve high levels of individual and ecological wellbeing.
- d. Articulate and apply environmental sustainability indicators (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making).
- e. Improve awareness and communication skills related to the environmental sustainability.

Required Text / Materials

Assigned readings will be posted on Sakai

Assigned readings will be found on various scientific and policy publications, printed papers/slides

Each week's readings must be completed before coming to class

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one absence.

This course meets 1 a week, thus a total of 1 absence(s) will be permitted. **Absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade.**

Assessment Components

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|---|------|
| • Participation (including assignments) | 25% |
| • Midterm Exam | 25% |
| • Group Works | 10 % |
| • Multimedia project | 15% |
| • Final Exam | 25% |

Participation

Participation and attendance are key aspects of this course. Students must be active in participation and be prepared about the readings assigned along the course. They also should demonstrate to have passion and awareness towards this topic and should also contribute to stimulate the discussions respecting the different opinions of the other students. In this component will be included also 2 assignments.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam is a fundamental moment along the course and will be based on arguments related to the covered topics. Students will have 2 hours to complete the exam.

Group Works

We will create groups of x students that will discuss important environmental topics and the way to solve them: we will organize a team debates in which the students will play different roles (Citizen, Researcher, Policy Maker, Farmer/Industrial, NGOs member) and will try to solve relevant questions (e.g. the effect on environment and health of a new industrial installation near a city).

Multimedia Project

Along the course students will be invited to elaborate a project on a specific argument of the course, this project should include original pictures taken by the students and an optional video can be integrated.

Final Exam

The final exam will be based on the topics presented and discussed throughout the course. Students will have 2 hours to complete the exam.



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Grading

94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. ***As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.***

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Course Schedule

Friday Class Days:

Friday, March 21

Monday Class Days:

Monday,

Date	Topic	Text/ Assignment
Week One (20 th January)	Welcome/UN Sustainable Development goals	on sakai
Week Two (27 th January)	Protection of Water Resources	on sakai
Week Three (3 rd February)	Clean Oceans and Seas	on sakai

Week Four (10 th February)	Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability	on sakai
Week Five (17 th February)	Study Visit-Tiber Island	
Week Six (24 th February)	Biodiversity Protection	on sakai
Week Seven (3 rd March)	Mid Term Exam	on sakai
<u>Spring Break</u>		
Week Eight (17 th March)	Climate Changes in the Mediterranean Area	on sakai
Week Eight (21 th March)	Sustainability Field Exercise	
Week Nine (24 th March)	Sustainable Food Production	on sakai
Week Ten (31 th March)	Circular Economy/Waste management	on sakai
Week Eleven (7 th April)	Work Group	on sakai
Week Twelve (14 th April)	Sustainable Lifestyle	on sakai
Week Thirteen (28 th April)	Final Exam	on sakai