Course Description
This course is intended to acquaint students from a variety of backgrounds with the natural resources environmental sustainability, with an emphasis on terrestrial resources. There are no required prerequisites for the course, and it fulfills three credit hours of Biology Gen Ed credit. The course will be taught entirely online, with an emphasis on interaction, discussion, and discovery. You will complete three phases for each major topic area: 1) gather and evaluate information about the topic (e.g. read from the text book, look for videos online, and/or interact with the professors); 2) discuss and practice using the information you've gathered (e.g. complete and discuss case studies or other assignments related to each topic); 3) reflect on - and try out - broader applications for the material (e.g. decide what you think is most useful from each unit, and consider ways to apply what you have learned). After this course it is our hope that you will have gained a better understanding of how humans use natural resources, and that you will achieve the learning outcomes listed below.

UF General Education (B) Objectives:
The biological sciences deal with the basic concepts, theories and terms of scientific methods. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment. You will formulate hypotheses derived from the study of physical process and living things and you will apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument.

UF General Education (B) Student Learning Outcomes:
Content:
• Know the basic concepts, theories and terminology of natural science and the scientific method within that discipline.
• Know the major scientific developments within that discipline and the impacts on society and the environment.
• Know relevant processes that govern biological and physical systems within that discipline.

Critical Thinking:
• Formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes and living things within that discipline.
• Apply logical reasoning skills effectively through scientific criticism and argument within that discipline.
• Apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking effectively to solve experiments and to evaluate outcomes.

Communication:
• Communicate scientific findings clearly and effectively using oral, written and/or graphic forms.
• Write effectively in several forms, such as research papers and laboratory reports.
Specific Course Student Learning Outcomes:

Be able to answer the following with terms, definitions, descriptions, explanations:
- What are resources? (Categories, types, etc.)
- How do humans use resources? Now and over time?
- What are the major threats to different resource types?
- What are the primary consequences of resource use?
- What are the possible futures/solutions to sustainable use

Be able to:
- Compare and contrast resource use across global societies
- Observe/recognize patterns of resource use around you
- Discuss merits of different solutions for resource sustainability
- Recognize choices/trade-offs and make your own informed decisions
- Imagine possible futures for different societies

Textbooks and Reading Material:

ISBN: 9781308390055

Additional readings will be posted for you, and you will find articles and videos of your own.

Class Attendance: The course is online, and you will have a window of time to complete each phase for each learning module. Reminder: the phases are 1) Discover/Evaluate (on your own and post your results), 2) Practice/Discuss (with others in class), Reflect/Apply (on your own or with others). Your grade is dependent on your participation in each of these phases, for every learning module.

Grading System:

- Topic maps (your assessment of what information is most valuable for each topic) 50%
- Assignments for each topic (phase 2 – discuss/practice, and phase 3 – reflect/apply) 25%
- Quizzes (to get a sense of what you think is most interesting or important) 10%
- Final reflection (what you learned from the semester) 15%

Grading Scale: A=100-90; B+=89-87; B=86-80; C+=79-77; C=76-70; D+=69-67; D=66-60; E=<60

Exams:
There will be no exams in this class. This class (and reflective of our philosophy for general education) is about you learning what is useful to you. We (the professors) will do our best to prepare assignments and topics that are interesting and important. What you get out of this class is largely up to you. You will have a chance to tailor your learning toward topics that interest you.

Assignments
Each phase in each module/topic will have assignments for you to complete. You will have a window of time during which to do the assignment, participate in discussions, and post your results. Once the window closes you won’t be able to complete that assignment.

You will find instructions for each assignment on the main page for every module.
Quizzes
Occasional quizzes will be given to check your progress and assess what you feel is important about what you are learning.

Academic Honesty
As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statements: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

UF Counseling Services
Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:
1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575. Personal and career counseling.
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171. Personal counseling.
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. Sexual assault counseling.

Software Use
All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

We, the members of the University of Florida, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.