

Wellesley College Sustainability Courses



Sustainability in the curriculum focuses on the interactions of natural systems and social systems as they relate to the environment. These courses can be applied or conceptual. They are likely to address one or more of the following:

- limits and dynamics of earth systems,
- inter- and intra-generational environmental and social vulnerabilities,
- social, cultural and historical context that shape how we think about environmental problems and solutions.

The following courses have been identified as sustainability-focused or -related as specified by the definition above.

SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED

AFR 226 Environmental Justice, "Race," and Sustainable Development

Steady

The course will examine how and why vulnerable communities are subjected to environmental hazards. Topics include the link between negative environmental trends and social inequality; the social ecology of slums, ghettos and shanty towns; the disproportionate exposure of some groups to pollutants, toxic chemicals, and carcinogens; dumping of hazardous waste in Africa and other Third World countries; and industrial threats to the ecology of small island states in the Caribbean.

BISC 106 Environmental Biology with Laboratory (First-year Seminar)

Rodenhouse

This course will examine humanity's role on our blue-green planet from the Earth's energy budget to the evolutionary effects of choices made by individual water striders on a New England stream. Labs will be conducted primarily out-of-doors: in the snow, at the seashore, on rivers, in lakes, under the forest canopy and over a mountaintop.

BISC 108 Environmental Horticulture with Laboratory

Jones, McDonough, Thomas

This course will study how plants function, both as individual organisms and as critical members of ecological communities, with special emphasis on human uses of plants. Topics will include plant adaptations, reproduction, environmentally sound landscape practices, urban horticulture, and the use of medicinal plants. The laboratory involves extensive use of the greenhouses, experimental design, data collection and analysis, and field trips.

BISC 201 Ecology with Laboratory

Rodenhouse

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of interactions between organisms and their environments. Topics include evolutionary adaptation in dynamic environments,

behavioral ecology, population growth and regulation, species interactions and their consequences, and the structure and function of biological communities and ecosystems. Emphasis is placed on experimental ecology and its uses in addressing environmental issues such as biological control of pests, conservation of endangered species and global climate change.

BISC 217/ES 217 Field Botany with Laboratory

Griffith

The course merges aspects of plant systematics and identification (with an emphasis on learning the local flora and important plant families) and plant ecology (with an emphasis on ecological interactions and phenomena unique to plants). The goal of Field Botany is not only to train students in the fields of botany and plant ecology, but to engage them in botany every time they step outside.

BISC 202 Evolution with Laboratory

Buchholtz

This course is an examination of evolution, the central paradigm of biology, at the level of populations, species, and lineages. Topics include the genetics of populations, the definition of species, the roles of natural selection and chance in evolution, the reconstruction of phylogeny using molecular and morphological evidence, and patterns in the origination, diversity, and extinction of species over time.

BISC 210 Marine Biology with Laboratory

Moore, Hughes

This course examines adaptations and interactions of plants, animals and their environments in marine habitats. Focal habitats include the photic zone of the open ocean, the deep-sea, subtidal and intertidal zones, estuaries, and coral reefs. Emphasis is placed on the dominant organisms, food webs, and experimental studies conducted within each habitat.

BISC 307/ES 307 Advanced Topics in Ecology with Laboratory

Rodenhouse

Topic for 2010-11: Global Change Biology. Environmental conditions for nearly all life forms on Earth are changing at unprecedented rates largely due to human activities: agriculture, deforestation, urbanization, pollution, climate change, translocation of species, hunting and harvesting. The consequences are not confined by national boundaries or even historical ecological boundaries. This course will examine critically the causes of change, how complex biological systems are studied, and the observed and projected biological consequences of environmental change.

BISC 308 Tropical Ecology with Wintersession Laboratory

Koniger, Helluy

Tropical rain forests and coral reefs are among the most fascinating, diverse, productive, but also most endangered ecosystems on earth. The topics addressed during the fall lectures are in preparation for the laboratory part of the course which takes place during January. We first travel to a small island part of an atoll bordering a barrier reef off the coast of Belize. In the second half of the field course we explore an intact lowland rain forest in Costa Rica.

BISC 314 Environmental Microbiology with Laboratory

To be announced

This course is a field-based exploration of the microbial world centered on distinct microbial habitats visited locally. Short lectures and readings from primary literature will be combined with trips to visit a diverse set of microbial environments where students will collect samples for microbial isolation as well as culture-independent community assessment. In the laboratory, students will learn how to identify and design media for selective isolation of microbes involved in a variety of processes.

BISC 319 Population Genetics and Systematics with Laboratory

Sequeira

This course will focus on patterns of population differentiation and speciation in oceanic islands. Little is known about the ecological and historical forces responsible for speciation although these are key for the generation of biological diversity. By looking at relationships between organisms, populations and species, we can interpret how historical processes can leave evolutionary footprints on the geographic distribution of traits.

BISC 327/ES 327 Biodiversity Topics

Rodenhouse

Topic for 2011-12: Global Change Biology. Human activities: agriculture, deforestation, urbanization, pollution, climate change, transplantation of species, hunting and harvesting, now create the conditions in which all other organisms live; yet, these new systems are poorly known. This course will examine the causes of ongoing environmental change, how complex biological systems are studied, and the observed and projected biological consequences of environmental change.

CHEM 306/ES 306 Green Chemistry (Seminar)

Coleman

This course studies the impact of chemicals and the chemical industry on the global environment, and on emerging approaches to reducing that impact. The major focus will be on the fundamentals of designing chemical processes that produce smaller amounts of harmful by-products, reduce the use of toxic solvents, exploit catalysis, and maximize the conversion of reactants to the desired product. We will also examine the economic and political issues that surround green chemistry.

ECON 228 Environmental and Resource Economics

Keskin

This course considers the economic aspects of resource and environmental issues. We will discuss how to measure the cost and benefits of environmental policy to estimate the socially optimal level of the environmental good. Applications of these tools will be made to air and water pollution, renewable and nonrenewable resources, and global climate.

ES 101 Fundamentals of Environmental Science with Laboratory

Griffith, Thomas

Explore the campus and beyond in an interdisciplinary manner. Topics include the movement of materials through the environment, sustainability, principles of resource management, and pollution control. Investigate timely environmental problems and work toward solutions

using skills such as computer modeling, X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, and spatial data analysis using GIS.

ES 102 Environment and Society: Addressing Climate Change

Barkin

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to environmental studies, with a focus on a climate change. Major concepts that will be examined include: the state of scientific research, the role of science, politics, and economics in environmental decisionmaking, and the importance of history, ethics and justice in approaching environmental issues.

ES 111/GEOS 111 The Yucca Mountain Problem: Where Should We Put Nuclear Waste?

Besancon

This course will focus on the proposed storage facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and will examine the important scientific questions that must be answered for long-term safety of a nuclear repository. Students will learn the scientific principles governing risk assessment and geological processes, and how each affects the safety of the proposed containment facility. We will also examine the evidence and methods used to predict how the waste and the containers designed to hold it will behave for long periods.

ES 201/GEO 201 Methods & Problems in Environmental Science with Laboratory

Brabander

Problems in environmental science are inherently multidisciplinary and often require a diverse skill set to analyze and solve. This course will focus on developing a toolbox of skills including field methods, geochemical analysis (natural waters, soils and other environmental materials), and modeling with a goal of being able to frame and solve environmental problems.

ES 203 Cultures of Environmentalism

Turner

This course explores how different communities of people define environmentalism. It focuses on the mainstream environmental movement and other formulations of environmentalism, such as environmental justice, deep ecology, animal rights, and indigenous peoples' concerns for the environment. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining the role of culture in shaping how people have valued the environment and organized to protect it.

ES 207 The Modern Environmental Imagination: Introduction to Environmental Literature (Seminar)

Nadir

This seminar surveys works of environmental literature written in the last 150 years. Readings come from a wide range of literary genres, including travel writing, slave narrative, memoir, essays, poetry, and fiction, and are arranged somewhat chronologically to help us trace continuities and ruptures in environmental writing. As we cover a wide range of ecological themes, attention will be paid to the literary strategies used to imagine, construct, and narrate ecological issues.

ES 210/GEOS 210 Hydrogeology- Water and Pollutants with Laboratory

Besancon

This course investigates water supply and use. Principles of surface and groundwater movement and water chemistry are applied to the hydrologic cycle to understand sources of water for human use. Mathematical groundwater models are used to understand groundwater movement and pollutant plumes. Quantity and quality of water and the limitations they impose are considered.

ES 212/RAST 212 Lake Baikal: The Soul of Siberia

Moore, Hodge

The ecological and cultural values of Lake Baikal – the oldest, deepest, and most biotically rich lake on the planet – are examined in this course. Lectures and discussion in spring prepare students for the three-week field laboratory taught at Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia in August. Lectures address the fundamentals of aquatic ecology and the role of Lake Baikal in Russian literature, history, art, music, and the country's environmental movement.

ES 214/POL2 214 Social Causes and Consequences of Environmental Problems

DeSombre

This course focuses on the social science explanations for why environmental problems are created, the impacts they have, the difficulties of addressing them, and the regulatory and other actions that succeed in mitigating them. Also addressed are different strategies for changing environmental behavior, including command and control measures, taxes, fees, and other market instruments, and voluntary approaches.

ES 215 Critical Theories of the Environment: Sustainability, Modernity, Democracy

Nadir

Through the study of literature, art, and critical/cultural theory, this course examines the modernization processes that have revolutionized humanity's relationships to the earth, not only increasing the speed of natural-resource consumption but also reorganizing cultural ideologies, belief-systems, and patterns of thought. The syllabus puts classic and contemporary figures from the humanities into dialogue to explore the central ecological issues of our time.

ES 220 Environmental Limits and Conservation with Laboratory

Griffith, Thomas

This course investigates limits to the sustainability of human and natural systems by examining topics such as fundamentals and implications of thermodynamics, energy and material flow through human and natural systems, conservation of resources and biodiversity, and natural resource management. We will also explore the role of science and technology in surmounting previous limits, as well as the implications of inherent limits that may never be broken.

ES 222 Dynamic Modeling of Environmental Issues

Coleman

This course is a hands-on introduction to developing computer-based models for complex problems, with an emphasis on the environment. Starting with simple closed systems, students will develop models of increasing sophistication and complexity for issues such as

population dynamics, air and water pollution, energy production and usage, waste management and sustainable development. Emphasis will be placed on developing models that reflect real-world situations and the interrelatedness of various environmental concerns.

ES 299/HIST 299 United States Environmental History

Turner

The course will consider topics such as the decimation of the bison, the rise of Chicago, the history of natural disasters, and the environmental consequences of war. It will examine how humans have interacted with nature and how it has shaped the American landscape and human and natural communities. It will also examine how attitudes toward nature have differed among peoples, places, and times and we will consider how the meanings people give to nature inform their cultural and political activities.

ES 300 Environmental Decisionmaking (Seminar)

DeSombre

This is an interdisciplinary seminar in which students work together in small groups to understand and develop solutions for current environmental problems. Each year, we focus on a given environmental issue of concern to our community, e.g. environmental implications of building design, energy use, or water quality. In particular, we work to understand its scientific background, the political processes that lead to potential solutions, and the ethical and environmental justice implications.

ES 308/GEOS 308 Wetlands Science with Laboratory

To be announced

Wetlands are among the most important environments on Earth, yet are widely undervalued and misunderstood. Wetland science is an exciting, growing field, critical to addressing issues ranging from modern shoreline stabilization to fossil fuel extraction. This course will focus on sediment-water interactions that create and maintain saltwater and freshwater wetland environments, and on the roles played by organisms within the geologic framework.

ES 309 Our Food, the Food System, and the Environment

Barkin

The central aim of the course is to address the question of how we should think about what we eat, and how we grow it. It looks at issues of industry and capitalism in how our food is grown, processed, and sold, and at particular questions such as the role of meat and of genetically modified organisms in our diet. Finally, it looks at the aims of organic, local, and slow food movements.

ES 312 Environmental Policy (Seminar)

Barkin

This course focuses both on how to make and how to study environmental policy. It examines issues essential in understanding how environmental policy works and explores these topics in depth through case studies of current environmental policy issues. Students will also undertake an original research project and work in groups on influencing or creating local environmental policy.

ES 315/GEOS 315 Environmental Geochemistry with Laboratory

Brabander

This course introduces geochemical approaches including mass balance, residence time, isotope fractionation, and thermodynamic and kinetic modeling necessary to fingerprint sources of pollutants and track them in water, soil, and plants. These fundamentals will be explored in several classic case studies and in semester-long geochemical research projects conducted by small groups.

ES 325/POL3 325 International Environmental Law

DeSombre

This course examines basic legal instruments and their historical development in addressing international environmental issues. Under what conditions have states been able to cooperate to improve the global environment? Negotiation of, compliance with, and effectiveness of international environmental law, and specific environmental issue areas in which international environmental law operates will be addressed.

ES 381/POL1 381 United States Environmental Politics

Turner

This course examines the politics of environmental issues in the United States. It introduces students to the institutions, stakeholders, and political processes important to debates over environmental policy at the federal level. Drawing on the literature of environmental politics and policy, this course will consider how environmental issues are framed in political discourse, various approaches to environmental advocacy and reform, and the contested role of science in environmental politics.

ES 250GH Environmental Studies Reading Group

The Environmental Studies program runs a weekly reading group on changing topics. Readings will be chosen based on the interests of the participating students and faculty members. Students who enroll commit to coming to each week's discussion, preparing a set of responses to the week's reading, and, in collaboration with other group members, selecting some of the weekly topics and readings.

GEOS 101 Earth Processes and the Environment with Laboratory

Brabander

Geologic processes both rapid (earthquakes and landslides) and slow (mountain building and sea level rise) are intimately linked with sustaining this diversity of life. This course will examine these and other processes in which the atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere are linked via the flow of energy and mass. Problem solving exercises will focus on current issues in geosciences such as building and removing dams, and the science surrounding global climate change.

GEOS 102 The Dynamic Earth with Laboratory

Katrin

As introduction to the physical Earth, the processes that operate within and on the surface of Earth, and the interactions between the solid earth, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere and the biosphere that produce our global climate. Topics covered include the origin and age of the

earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanism, geologic time, earth history, weathering and erosion, hydrology, landscape evolution, and global climate.

GEOS 110 The Coastal Zone: Intersection of Land, Sea, and Humanity with Lab

To be announced

This first year course focuses on physical processes that frame ecological and human interactions within the dynamic coastal environment. At local field sites, students will observe, sample, and measure coastal processes in action to answer such questions as: Why do some beaches lose sand, where does it go, and what should we do about it? What are coastal wetlands, and how do they form and function?

GEOS 208 Oceanography

To be announced

Why does Earth have water? Why are the oceans salty? And what should every Congressman know about the largest habitat on Earth? Oceans impact humanity in countless ways, by controlling climate, navigation, and food and mineral resources. Topics include tides, waves, ocean currents, submarine volcanism, tsunamis, ocean basin sediments, marine geology, El Niño events, coral reefs, shoreline processes, coastal engineering, and more.

GEOS 304 Sedimentology with Laboratory

To be announced

Sedimentology encompasses the study of the origin, transport, deposition and lithification of sedimentary rocks, and is critical to accurate interpretation of the geologic rock record. Observations of modern sedimentary processes illuminate past environments; sedimentary strata record evidence of sea level change, glacial advances and paleoclimate cycles, and preserve the fossil record. Natural resources including groundwater, coal and petroleum are found in sedimentary rocks. Society is impacted by sedimentary processes in popular human habitats including coastlines and flood plains.

GEOS 320 Isotope Geochemistry

Brabander

This seminar-style course will use the primary literature to study techniques in isotope geochemistry. Radiogenic, cosmogenic, and stable isotope systematics will be explored with applications ranging from geochronology, tectonics, fate and transport of pollutants, and the use of isotopes to trace biogeochemical processes. Field trips to Boston area isotope labs and opportunities for collaborative research projects will complement the seminar.

PHIL 233 Environmental Ethics

Deen

Does recognition of the importance of the environment call for a brand new kind of moral philosophy or merely a more sophisticated application of an old one? This course will examine a variety of philosophical answers to many environmentally-related questions and apply those answers to a set of pressing current issues, including global climate change; population policy and reproductive freedom; the local food movement; and the use of non-human animals for food, research and entertainment.

POL3 332S People, Agriculture and the Environment

Paarlberg

Political explanations will be sought for deforestation, desertification, habitat destruction, species loss, water pollution, flooding, salinization, chemical poisoning, and soil erosion – all of which are products of agriculture. These political explanations will include past and present interactions with rich countries, as well as factors currently internal to poor countries. Attention will be paid to the local, national, and international options currently available to remedy the destruction of rural environments in the developing world.

SUST 201 Introduction to Sustainability

DeSombre (Wellesley), Staff (Olin), George (Babson)

This case-based course introduces students to the basic concepts and tools that business, engineering, and the liberal arts bring to a consideration of sustainability. It is team-taught by three faculty members, one from each institution, with coursework fully integrated across the three approaches. The course will draw empirical material from, and apply concepts and tools to, a semester-long case.

SUST 301 Introduction to Sustainability

To be announced

This project-based course provides an opportunity for students to synthesize the work from the introductory course and elective courses to apply their knowledge of sustainability to a specific problem or issue of interest to an identified community. Groups of three to five students representing more than one school will work on a semester-long project of their choosing that focuses on understanding and providing solutions for a specific environmental problem.

SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED

AFR 204 'Third World' Urbanization

Steady

Beginning with the origins and characteristics of cities in selected 'Third World' countries, the course focuses on the socioeconomic structure of pre-industrial cities and the later impact of colonialism and corporate globalization, concluding with an examination of contemporary issues of 'Third World' cities.

AFR 306 Urban Development and the Underclass: Comparative Case Studies

Steady

Throughout the African Diaspora, economic change has resulted in the migration of large numbers of people to urban centers. This course explores the causes and consequences of urban growth and development, with special focus on the most disadvantaged cities. The course will draw on examples from the United States, the Caribbean, South America, and Africa.

ANTH 110 The Anthropology of Food (First-year Seminar)

Van Arsdale

This course will explore both the history of human cuisine and the how contemporary diets informs areas such as gender, power, labor and health. The course will be structured around a series of "meals" and will include an ethnographic project, archival research into prehistoric food culture, and a computer based exploration of your diet at Wellesley. As such, the course offers not just an introduction to anthropology through food, but also an introduction to Wellesley through food.

ANTH 251 Cultures of Cancer

Karakasidou

This course critically examines cancer as a pervasive disease and a metaphor of global modern cultures. They will investigate responses to the disease and the ways cancer challenges our spirituality, our ways of life, notions of pollution and cleanliness and our healing strategies. This approach to cancer focuses on how specialists in different societies have described the disease, how its victims in different cultures have narrated their experiences, how causality has been perceived, and what interventions (sacred or secular) have been undertaken as therapy and prevention.

ANTH 299 Home and Away: Human Geography and the Cultural Dimensions of Space and Place

Armstrong

This course will analyze why some places evoke strong emotions, or why particular locations resonate culturally. It will examine the impact our environment has on us, from how the layout of streets dictates our path through a city to the effect of landscape on our thoughts and emotions. Covering past, present, and future notions of space and place, this course will explore the diverse ways cultures interact with their surroundings to continually create (and recreate) meaning.

ANTH 314 Human Biology and Society

Van Arsdale

This seminar will provide an anthropological perspective on the intersection between human biology and society in three related topics. The first will focus on human genetic diversity and the increasing use of genetic information. The second will examine the genetic basis of phenotypic traits and disease. The final unit will analyze human biological variation by looking at the relationship between humans and our environment, how our environment has changed, and what role the environment plays in shaping human variation.

ARTH 175/BISC 175 The Art and Science of Food in Italy, from the Renaissance to the Slow Food Movement (First-year Seminar)

Musacchio and Jones

This seminar explores food and agriculture in the art and life of Italy from the Renaissance to the present day. We will analyze methods of and attitudes towards growing, harvesting, and preparing food, as well as the representation of food in art and the material culture surrounding its production and consumption. We will also investigate the biology of relevant crops to understand the nutritional rewards and horticultural and environmental challenges of producing them.

ARTH 231 Architecture and Urbanism in North America

McNamara

This course will present a survey of American architecture and urbanism from prehistory to the late twentieth century. It will focus particularly on placing the American built environment in its diverse political, economic and cultural contexts. It will also explore various themes relating to Americans' shaping of their physical surroundings, including the evolution of domestic architecture, the organization and planning of cities and towns, the relationships among urban, suburban and rural environments, the impact of technology, and Americans' ever-changing relationship to nature.

BISC 301 Topics in Plant Biology (Seminar)

Peterman

Topic for 2011-12: Plant Biotechnology. This seminar will examine the use of recombinant DNA technology to address some of the most pressing agricultural, environmental and health-related problems of our day. Topics will include the design and production of genetically modified plants for increased food productivity (especially on marginal lands and in the face of climate change), improved nutritional value, for production of drugs and vaccines and for use as biofuels and in bioremediation. Environmental, social and ethical issues associated with these technologies will be discussed.

ECON 319 Economics of Disease and Destruction

Lucas

Diseases, wars, and disasters exert important influence on economies. In this course students analyze the effects of factors such as malaria, HIV/Aids, Chagas, drought, and civil war on the economies of developed and developing countries. Both the effects of disease and destruction on outcomes and how economics can shape policy reactions will be considered, with a special emphasis on careful empirical estimation of cause and effect.

EDUC 215 Understanding and Improving Schools

Shalaby

This course will examine what is meant by "a good school," in terms of both aims and practices, of how a school and its curriculum are experienced by its students, and of how a school's culture and social relationships are created. We will use case studies of different kinds of people working to improve schools, including teachers, principals, education advocates, and researchers.

EDUC 335 Urban Education (Seminar)

Hong

This course will be an intensive examination of urban education reform and urban schools. There will be an emphasis on how the context of cities affects education and on some of the challenges faced by urban teachers, students, and parents. Through the study of foundational educational texts and urban contexts such as Chicago, Boston, and Newark, NJ, the class will focus on economic, political, social, and cultural aspects of urban school reform.

ENG 365/SOC 365 Images of the American City

Cuba and Brogan

This course considers how literary representations and sociological studies of urban life variously respond to the growth of cities in the twentieth century, helping to shape new cultural meanings of the city. The class will explore the relationship between the individual and the urban environment, how life in cities is socially organized, patterns of immigration and tensions between ethnic groups, the creation of the slum and ghetto and efforts to gentrify them, cognitive mapping, and the legibility of the cityscape.

EXTD 105 The Nuclear Challenge (First-year Seminar)

Kolodny

This course will examine the development of nuclear weapons and the treaties limiting them, as well as the ongoing danger of nuclear terrorism. It will also explore the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the generation of electricity and for medical diagnosis and treatment, as well as the waste disposal problems resulting from these uses.

GEOS 230 Earth from Above

Besancon

Governments, consulting firms, journalists and scientists use geographic information systems (GIS) and image analysis to manage natural resources, administer city infrastructure, search for water supplies, analyze land use and planning, investigate relationships between environmental factors, and prepare maps of all types. Assignments examine a variety of problems in natural science using ArcGIS.

HIST 230 The Hand that Feeds: A History of American Food (Seminar)

Grandjean

This seminar investigates the place of food in American history and culture, from reputed cannibalism in the American colonies to the rise of fast food in the twentieth century. We will explore the role of taste, competition for food, and capitalism in recasting American lives and identities. Topics include: colonial hunger and violence; the development of taste and "refined" eating; the role of food in defining race, class, and regional culture; the rise of mass production and its environmental effects, and the reshaping of American bodies.

HIST 240 Cities in Modern Europe

Slobodian

This course explores the uses and visions of the city in Europe since the mid-nineteenth century. The course covers both the history of modern urban planning and the responses to it. It will begin by looking at differing theories of the city: Was it a place of freedom or increased control? Themes include colonial urbanism, modernism, fascist city planning, suburbanization, tourism, migration and reclamations of urban space by social movements, squatters and youth subcultures.

PSYCH 311 Environmental Psychology (Seminar)

Schiavo

This course explores of the interaction between the physical environment and an individual's behavior and feelings. This includes examination of children responses to environmental

issues, such as conservation and psychological consequences of natural disasters. Specific settings, such as urban environments, playgrounds, and homes, will be studied.

SOC 320 Technology, Society and the Future

Silver

This course explores the powerful roles that technology plays in contemporary social life and suggests that some of the impacts that our ever-greater reliance on technology might have upon our lives. The course begins with a critical overview of the heralded promises that technology often carries; here, we explore some of the undersides of so-called "technological progress." The remainder of the course examines a variety of salient contemporary issues concerning the social implications of technological change.

SOC 334 Consumer Culture (Seminar)

Rutherford

This seminar will explore the history of consumer culture in the U.S. and globally, with special attention to understanding the effects of commodification upon the self, human relationships, and social institutions. We will consider both classical and contemporary critiques of commodification and consumerism, as well as arguments for the liberatory dimensions of consumer society.

WGST 240 U.S. Public Health: Theory and Practice

Galarneau

This course attends to US public health history, epidemiology, ethics, and law; also to public health's government infrastructure, services, and core functions including policy-making. Relationships between public health, medicine, and health care will be explored as will the roles of private players (NGOs, industry, academia). Topics include chronic and infectious diseases, global health, violence, bioterrorism, and environmental health.

WGST 340 Global Health (Seminar)

Galarneau

The class will focus on a close examination of the recently revised *Textbook in International Health*, which offers a political economy perspective that expands the disease-oriented, biomedical model of global health to engage the social determinants and disparities of population and individual health. In the absence of a global health infrastructure we will attend particularly to the role of the U.S. in shaping global health (past and present) as well as to the influences of gender, culture, nationality, and related social structures.

WRIT 125 Hidden Worlds: Desert Islands, Ghost Towns, Invisible Cities, and Writing About Place

Armstrong

This course will explore the complex relationship between human beings, their emotions, and their environment through the lenses of cultural geography and anthropology. By reading memoirs, cultural histories, and critical essays, students will learn how space and place can be translated into texts. Students will create their own written geographies of memory and analyze popular conceptions of space and place.