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SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY AND BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT

INFORMED CONSENT FORM RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This research is being conducted to assess the impact of this course (NCLC 210 or NCLC 275 or EVPP 480) on students' perspectives and understanding of sustainability and their motivation and comfort in pursuing sustainability. It will provide sustainability studies faculty and programs with insights regarding the impacts of problem-based learning on potential sustainability practitioners. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a 30 minutes survey at the beginning and end of this course.

RISKS

There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research.

BENEFITS

There are no benefits to you as a participant other than to further research in field of sustainability education, literacy and behavior. It will inform the continuous improvement of sustainability studies and related courses' design to meet students' interests and learning needs at Mason and elsewhere. It will also demonstrate to the wider society how sustainability education affects students' sustainability perspectives over time and how this translates into behavior that benefits the wider society. It will contribute to the knowledge on methods of delivery and potential effects of sustainability education in higher education and the wider society. As the world seeks to achieve economic prosperity, social justice and equity while preserving our natural environment for current and future generations, this research will contribute to the knowledge of how to prepare graduates for practical problem-based research; application and learning. These are vital skills and prerequisites for rapidly proliferating post-graduate jobs and research careers in the emerging field of sustainability.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The data in this study will be confidential. The privacy of participants will be protected by restricting access to data to only principal and co-investigators in the research, inside of password protected accounts. While the students' G #s will collected, data linking G#s to names or other identifiable information will not be used in the study. The investigators will have access to data linking the names and G#s to students but this data will be stored separately and not used in the study.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If you decide not to participate or if you withdraw from the study, there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. There are no costs to you or any other party

CONTACT

This research is being conducted Allison Richards, Ph.D. Student, Environmental Science and Policy Department in the College of Science at George Mason University. She may be reached at 703-993-2012 for questions or to report a research-related problem. The faculty advisor is Dann Sklarew, Ph.D., Associate Director, Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center, and Associate Professor, Environmental Science and Policy department in the College of Science at George Mason University. He may be reached at 703-993-2012 for questions or to report a research-related problem. You may contact the George Mason University Office of Research Integrity & Assurance at 703-993-4121 if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research. This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research. CONSENT I have read this form and agree to participate in this study. (Please check consent box below)

I have read the Consent Form and agree to participate in this study.

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Page 1 (Instructions and identification questions)

SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY AND BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT

Instructions

Please answer all questions. This is a subjective assessment. THERE IS NO ONE RIGHT ANSWER. We are trying to get your personal perspectives. It asks 5 sustainability questions, then 5 education questions, then 4 demographic questions. If you have any questions of your own, or would like to review your past responses, please insert request in the final "comments" section or contact your course instructor. * If you are asked to take the survey in two courses in the same semester, please only complete it once at the outset and once at the end of the semester. Thank you very much!

1. Please enter your G# Numbers only. do not include the letter G e.g. 00555999

2. Please identify the class in which you are taking this survey.

- NCLC 210: Sustainable World
- NCLC 275: Leadership for Sustainability (LLC)
- EVPP 480: Sustainability in Action

3. What is your main reason for taking this class? Select all that apply. If "other," please briefly explain.

- Environmental and Sustainability Studies B.A. requirement or elective
- Sustainability Studies Minor requirement or elective
- Sustainability LLC Resident
- General Education requirement
- Personal interest or enrichment (elective)
- Other:

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Page 3 (Perception and behavior)

SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY AND BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT

Sustainability Perception and Behavior

4. How do you personally define "sustainability?"



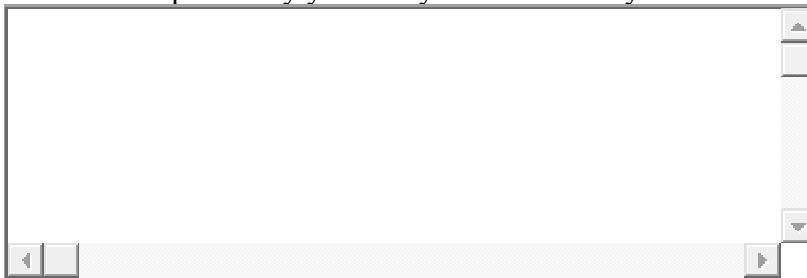
Based on your definition of "sustainability" please answer questions 5 - 9.

5. In your opinion, to what extent do you live a sustainable lifestyle? 1 - Not Sustainable; 2 - Only Slightly Sustainable; 3 - Somewhat Sustainable; 4 - Very Sustainable

1 2 3 4

Not Sustainable Very Sustainable

5b. Please explain why you rate yourself that way:



6. How often do you apply sustainability knowledge and skills in your home and community?

	Not at all	Occasionally	Often	Most of the time
Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Online Questionnaire

6b. List some ways in which you apply sustainability knowledge and skills in both your home

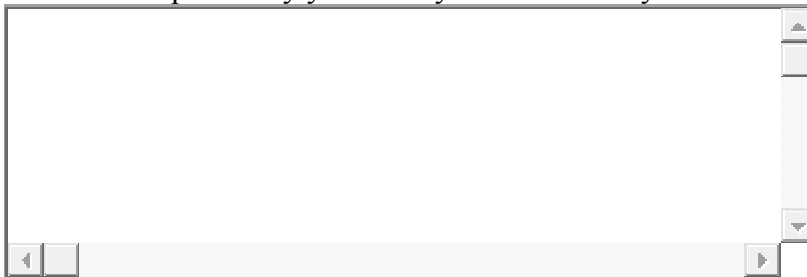


and community.

7. How would you rate your impact on the planet compared to the following groups?

	Much Lighter	Slightly Lighter	Equal	Slightly Heavier	Much Heavier
Other Mason students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other United States residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People in other developed or "rich" countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People in developing or "poorer" countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7b. Please explain why you rated yourself that way.



8. What level of control do you think you have over your personal impact on the planet?

- Very little
- Some
- Complete
- Not sure

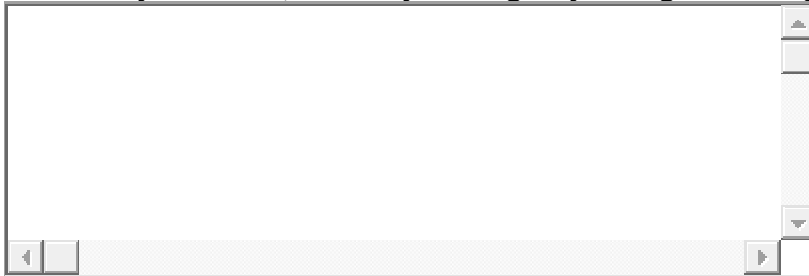


8b. Please explain your answer.

9. In the future, how likely are you to apply sustainability knowledge and skills you have gained to your career and/or life? 1- Certainly not; 2- Somewhat likely; 3- Very likely; 4- Certain

	Certainly not	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Certain
Life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9b. If likely or certain, how do you imagine you might be doing so?



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SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY AND BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT

Sustainability Education

Sustainability courses provide valuable grounding in the concepts and principles of sustainability. They educate students about how different dimensions of sustainability relate to and support each other in theory and practice. In addition, these courses help equip students with the skills to weave together disparate components of sustainability in addressing complex issues.

Online Questionnaire

In Mason's course catalog, these courses are usually designated as "Green Leaf" courses. (For full list of Green Leaf courses, see <http://sustainabilitystudies.gmu.edu/green-leaf/courses>)

10. How many sustainability-related courses did you take before attending Mason?

- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- >5
- Other:

11. How many sustainability-related courses have you taken at Mason?

- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- >5
- Other:

12. How likely are you to take other sustainability courses while here at Mason? 1- Certainly not; 2- Somewhat likely; 3- Very Likely; 4-Certain

1 2 3 4

Certainly not Certain

13. What major(s) and/or degree(s) are you pursuing? list all (e.g., Environmental and Sustainability Studies B.A.; Environmental Science B.S.)

14. What minor(s) and/or certificate(s) are you pursuing? please list all (e.g., Sustainability Studies; Global Affairs; Biology)

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SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY AND BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT

Background Information

16. What is your birth year?

17. Gender

- Male
- Female

18. To which ethnic group(s) do you consider yourself belonging? If other, please specify

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian (select and write race in other)
- Black/African heritage
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Non-Resident Alien
- White/European heritage
- Other:

Online Questionnaire

Any other comments on the expected impact of this course on your sustainability practices?

Thank you!

End

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