



## Dr. Greg Swan, Instructor

Spring 2015, Chandler Gilbert Community College  
SSH111 online section 27982

## Course Information

Read the official course description, prerequisites, list of topics covered and course competencies here: <http://www.maricopa.edu/curriculum/M-Z/126ssh111.html> The course carries with it a G (Global) and your choice of HU (Humanities and Fine Arts) or SB (Social and Behavioral Sciences) designations. The course transfers to ASU as SOS111 Sustainable Cities and is a requirement in both the Sustainability undergraduate degree program and the W. P. Carey Business BA program with an emphasis in Sustainability.

## Course Overview and Fall 2015 Instructor Comments

We have had hundreds of years to perfect industrial civilization, creating such things as factories, consumption-based economics, and global businesses. Sustainability assumes industrial civilization is bumping up against the limitations of a finite planet and that we are rapidly approaching a point of no return. We must act now to make some adjustments. Many jobs will be affected and new ones will be created. We need people in all fields who can think in terms of sustainability and have the energy and commitment to put sustainable solutions into place.

This course is for people who suspect big changes are around the corner and that we'll need to make significant adjustments pretty soon. I assume those of you taking this course want to get ahead of the curve for various reasons: to keep civilization afloat, to help your families cope, to keep your careers and businesses headed the right direction, to renew humanity's spiritual connection with nature, to save the world's ecology or even to make money on these enormous changes.

Sustainability is a set of possible solutions to the problems we face living on a finite planet. First, we'll examine the problems of our existing system, such as exponential growth, take-make-waste business models, resource limitations, climate change and factory farming. Then, we'll look at sustainable solutions such as planned resilience, bio-mimicry, upcycling and permaculture . . . with a special focus on planning and building sustainable cities.

You probably expect our class to involve reading a book or computer screen, listening to a lecture or watching a video, taking notes and completing exams. I'll have you do those things. However, that's not the only type of study I'll ask you to do. Sustainability is about solutions. When you study for this class, I will ask you to understand real problems, design solutions and implement them. You will be asked to DO things in this class. Some of the things will require *daylight hours and you will need to get out and about and visit various locations* in nearby cities.

The main components of city design – architecture and urban planning – rely heavily on pictures and diagrams. That will push the technology in our *online* course. Like it or not, we'll need to go beyond the typical text-based nature of so many online courses. You will need to use computer and/or tablet and smartphone tools that involve graphics, audio and video.

Finally, we will be using CGCC's official online learning system with the course: Instructure Canvas. Every learning system has its quirks and challenges. For example, just try to understand how Facebook handles user privacy. Facebook doesn't do privacy well. Canvas presents an opportunity to improve service level, but there are some features that do not always work correctly. These problems will require "workarounds." Workarounds are ways to accomplish stuff despite Canvas. Every semester,

Instructure makes improvements and fixes bugs, but new problems are also introduced. When you begin the course, I'll provide you with information on the current major problems I know about and what the workarounds are. As we work through the semester, I ask that you not shoot the messenger (me) if we have to do something that isn't ideal in order to make Canvas work for the course. Instead, keep in touch with me and let's do our best to work through it.

## Instructor Contact Information

Best way to contact me is via message using the Canvas Inbox. If you don't have access to Canvas, you can email: [greg.swan@cgcc.edu](mailto:greg.swan@cgcc.edu).

For other ways to reach me and the best times to reach me, check out my college web site at: <http://pweb.cgcc.maricopa.edu/greid13331/>

## Textbooks

Textbooks are listed on my web site at <http://pweb.cgcc.maricopa.edu/greid13331> or on the CGCC class schedule at <http://classes.sis.maricopa.edu>

## Supplies, Software and Equipment

You'll need the following for the course:

- Up to \$25 for streaming video fees. Here is an example from Amazon of the sort of video I'm talking about: [http://www.amazon.com/End-Suburbia-Depletion-Collapse-American/dp/B003DWODKU/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1326386748&sr=1-7](http://www.amazon.com/End-Suburbia-Depletion-Collapse-American/dp/B003DWODKU/ref=sr_1_7?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1326386748&sr=1-7) There are other places to rent videos online and it's fine with me if you use your favorite.
- Device capable of viewing streaming videos, including YouTube videos. (Computer, tablet, smart tv and/or smartphone.)
- An Internet connection capable of streaming video.
- Smartphone, tablet, digital camera or scanner that can take pictures and allow you to upload them to the Internet.
- An HTML5-compliant Internet browser is needed. I currently recommend Firefox whose latest version is both fast and focused on compatibility with W3C standards. Chrome and Safari are close seconds. After recent problems, I actively discourage the use of Internet Explorer because it has compatibility problems and fixes are difficult. I'll provide detailed information on setting up your browser in the course materials.

## CGCC Administrative Statements

Read all these great tips and tricks about using college services written by top CGCC administrators: <http://pweb.cgcc.maricopa.edu/greid13331/administrativestatements.htm>

## Grades

### Viewing

Grades are maintained in the grade book on Canvas.

### Points

Category	Proportion of Grade
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Modules	80%
Final exam	20%

## Videos/Reading and Activities

In the modules, I quiz you over videos and readings to reward you for completing them. In each module, there is usually at least one “capstone activity” designed to help you think critically about or apply the readings, videos and other activities for the week. Example activities include discussion, site visits and analytical work.

## Final Exam

The final exam typically quizzes over the last few weeks of work and includes some activities where you apply what you’ve learned in the course to specific situations. Currently, I expect the final exam to be due by Saturday May 9th. The final exam is usually made available a week before it is due.

## Letter Grades

Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of total available points earned as follows:

### Letter

### Grade Percentage of points

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

## Late Assignments and Withdrawals

Assignments are available at least 7 days in advance of their due date. You may work on them and complete them on any day of the week at any hour. Assignments must be completed before the deadline. There are two deadlines per week: Wednesdays and Saturdays. A “module” will usually be due each of those days. If you send me an email explaining the problem on the day the problem occurs, I will automatically extend your deadline 48 hours. If the automatic extension doesn’t do it for you, I drop two days worth of work specifically to accommodate two missed deadlines. If you miss 3 days worth of assignments in a row, according to college policy I may withdraw you. So, please contact me via email to let me know if personal issues such as illness interfere with your ability to complete your studies during a given week.

## Online Study Habits That Will Make You Successful

Establish a study schedule for your e-learning course. Block off specific hours during the week to be “in class.” Beyond that, stay in touch with me, especially when you are falling behind.

## Academic Integrity

### General Statement

I encourage you to work together and to study together, but your work on quizzes, exams and other assignments must be your own. We can only continue to offer online courses if students do their own work and don’t let others do their work for them or use email, cell phones or bulletin boards, etc. to share course assessment information. If any form of plagiarism (see Administrative Statements) does occur, I will take disciplinary action within CGCC policy guidelines as stated in the student handbook. The penalty

for violating this academic integrity policy is usually assignment of a grade of Y (withdrawal failing) for the course.

## **Student Responsibility**

You are responsible for the information in this syllabus and on the course Canvas web site. I also expect you to obtain a student handbook

<http://www.cgc.maricopa.edu/Academics/Catalog/Pages/Catalog.aspx> and to follow the policies and procedures of MCCC and CGCC.

## **Change**

This syllabus is subject to change. If I must make a change, I'll provide prior notice.

## **Technical Support**

### **Maricopa Mail and Canvas problems**

<http://canvasinfo.maricopa.edu/>

 Phone

1-888-994-4433  
24 hours