ESF Course Proposal
Committee on Curriculum - ESF Faculty Governance
Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies

This course proposal form should be completed when introducing a new course or a revision of an existing course. The proposal will be reviewed by the Committee on Curriculum, or, in the case of minor revisions, will be approved administratively by the Associate Provost for Instruction.

This Course Proposal must be completed according to the guidelines provided in Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance. Please see the last page of Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance, for instructions on how this Course Proposal should be submitted to the Committee on Curriculum for review.

Date: 10/05/18

1. Course Information:

1.1 Course Prefix and Number: SUS 300
    Course Title: Sustainable Systems Thinking: Ecology, Economics, & Society
    (If a new or renumbered course, please check with the Registrar regarding the use or reuse of the course number)

1.2  ☐ This is a New Course.
    OR
    ☐ This is a Major Course Revision
    OR
    ☐ This is a Minor Course Revision

    If this is a Course Revision, please see Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance to determine if your revision is major or minor. Indicate below the reason(s) for the revision.

(Please check all that apply)

☐ Course Number/Division ☐ Learning Outcomes ☐ Institutional Resources
☐ Title ☐ Concepts, Content ☐ Semester Offered
☐ Credit hours ☐ Catalog Description ☐ Course Inactivation
☐ Pre- or Co-requisite(s) ☐ Instructional Methods ☐ Course Reactivation
☐ Format ☐ General Education

1.3 General Education knowledge and skills area (if applicable): If none, check here ☑

☐ American History ☐ Humanities ☐ Other World Civilizations
☐ The Arts ☐ Mathematics ☐ Social Sciences
☐ Basic Communication ☐ Natural Sciences ☐ Western Civilization
2. Proposer Need Statement:

2.1 Describe why this course (or course revision) is needed to meet current or proposed goals and outcomes of the program or College, and, if a revision, provide an explanation of and justification for the revision.

This is a required course for the new online B.S. in Sustainability Management. This course serves as an introduction to sustainability and sustainable development, introduces the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and helps students begin to understand the complex interactions between the environment, the economy, and society, and their implications for sustainable development. This foundational course directly relates to program learning outcome one which is to analyze the complex interactions among and between the three pillars of sustainability: the environment, the economy, and society with a focus on identifying areas of potential conflict / opportunity.

2.2 List the pre-requisite or co-requisite courses (taught within the home department or taught by another department) and explain their relationship to the proposed course.

None.

2.3 Explain the impact of this course in meeting the goals and outcomes of other Departments/programs (if any).

This course was designed to meet the goals and outcomes of the online Sustainability Management B.S. We do not expect enrollment from other departments or programs.

2.4 If the proposed course is designed to fulfill SUNY General Education Requirements, the Associate Provost for Instruction must review this proposal to ensure that General Education Requirements will be met for the specified knowledge area (See Instructions and Guidance).

Please provide an explanation of how this course fulfills SUNY General Education Requirements.

N/A

2.5 What are the staffing requirements (instructor, TA, Lab tech, etc.) for this course? If a new course, are there new staffing needs or are there adequate staff members already in place? If a revised course, are there additional staffing needs?

All required staffing is in place.

2.6 What Department (or extra-Department) resources are or will be made available to support the course or course revision?

ESF Open Academy staffing, supplemented by a SUNY Performance Improvement Fund award, are and will be available to support course.

2.7 Anticipated Enrollment (enter where applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semester</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.8 Anticipated frequency of class meetings. N/A, this is an online course.
3. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

3.1 COURSE IDENTIFICATION AND FORMAT:

3.1.1 Course Prefix and Number: SUS 300
3.1.2 Course Name: Sustainable Systems Thinking: Ecology, Economics, & Society
3.1.3 Credit Hours: 3.0
3.1.4 Semester (check all that apply): Fall ☒ Spring ☒ Summer ☒
3.1.5 Format (check as appropriate): Lecture ☐ Online ☒ Lab ☐ Field ☐ Other ☐ (explain)
3.1.6 Contact hours per week: Three hours per week
3.1.7 Prerequisite(s) – if none, please enter "None" (Be specific, as Upper Division courses and Graduate courses will likely have some pre-requisite knowledge) None

3.2 SCOPE:

3.2.1 Level of Instruction (check one, or two if a shared resource course):
   Lower Division ☐ Upper Division ☒
   Beginning Graduate ☐ Advanced Graduate ☐

3.2.2 Relation to curriculum or to other ESF or Syracuse University courses:
   a. Is this a required course? No ☐ Yes ☒.
      If Yes, please list the program(s) for which it is a requirement: Sustainability Management
   b. Is this an elective course within your department? No ☒ Yes ☐.
   c. Is enrollment in this course restricted? No ☐ Yes ☒
      If Yes, please explain: There is priority for online students enrolled in the Sustainability Management B.S. program.
   d. Are other ESF or SU courses similar or identical to this course? No ☒ Yes ☐.
      If Yes, please identify the courses:
   e. Is this course a shared resource offering (i.e. is there a graduate or undergraduate concurrent offering)? No ☒ Yes ☐.
      If Yes, what is the course number of the concurrent offering?

3.3 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Identify the student learning outcomes associated with this course.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of sustainability and evaluate the intersections between the three pillars of sustainability: the environment, the economy, and society.

2. Evaluate the importance of a global commitment to sustainable development for insuring the viability of future generations.

3. Analyze the inequities created by the current economic systems and how they relate to sustainable development.
3.4 **MAJOR CONCEPTS, PROCESSES or TOOLS:**

Identify the course content and themes (e.g. Table of Contents) consistent with the learning domains and outcomes. In this course the main themes include: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; environmental, economic, and social sustainability; and systems thinking and diagramming. Student Learning Outcomes 1 explains the concept of sustainability and evaluates the intersections among and between the three pillars of sustainability: the environment, the economy, and society. Student Learning Outcome 2 evaluates the importance of a global commitment to sustainable development for insuring the viability of future generations. Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2 are consistent with Program Learning Outcome 1, which analyzes the complex interactions among and between the three pillars of sustainability with a focus on identifying potential areas of conflict and opportunity. Student Learning Outcome 3 analyzes the inequities created by the current economic systems and how they relate to sustainable development. Student Learning Outcome 3 is consistent with Program Learning Outcome 2, which is to apply qualitative and quantitative skills appropriate to the sustainability field (e.g., energy modeling, budgeting, financial analysis, GIS, life cycle assessment, interviewing and surveying, environmental and risk communication).

3.5 **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

Identify the methods used to meet the course outcomes, as well as the principal instructional methods.

This course will engage students in regular and substantive interaction among and between students and the instructor. This course is constructed on a weekly module basis that includes learning materials, learning activities, substantive interactions, and assessment and evaluation. Overall student course expectations include active and timely engagement with course materials and participation in all course learning activities each week. In each module, students will:

- Read and, in some cases, view course materials and resources (e.g., books, reports, articles, multimedia, videos);
- Write, e.g., discussion board / threaded discussion participation, reflection/reaction statements, position papers, analysis reports, journals or blog posts, reading summaries, case study assignments);
- Complete ungraded and graded assignments, e.g., problem sets, quizzes, exams, presentations, policy briefs, self-assessments, values clarification exercises, field work reports, project reports;
- Work individually and collaborate in small groups; and
- Communicate with the instructor and fellow students, sharing their perspective and providing constructive feedback through peer interaction and feedback.

The delivery of this course will take place primarily through the Blackboard learning management system.

3.6 **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Provide the course description using the precise format to be included in the ESF catalog (i.e. course number and title; format; brief description; semester(s) offered; and pre/-co-requisites). Please do not exceed 1000 characters.
SUS 300: Sustainable Systems Thinking: Ecology, Economics, & Society

Online

This course defines sustainability and sustainable development, introduces the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and helps the student begin to understand the complex interactions between the environment, the economy, and society, and their implications for sustainable development.

Fall, with Spring and Summer as needed

Pre-requisites: None

Note: Enrollment in the Sustainability Management major, or permission of Sustainability Management program advisor, is required.

3.7 COURSE HISTORY:

Provide the dates of prior approval of this course, and its revision history. N/A

3.7.1 Relationship to current ESF courses

This course is replacing a current ESF course  [ ] YES  [x] NO

If NO, then proceed to section 4 below.

If YES, then provide below the number and name of the course to be deactivated and removed from the catalog once this course proposal has been approved:

Course Number (of the course to be replaced)   N/A
Course Name (of the course to be replaced)   N/A

If the course to be replaced is used by departments other than the department sponsoring this proposal, please indicate below which departments are affected and the date they were notified about the course replacement.

Department:  N/A   Date of Notification:  
Department:   Date of Notification:  
Department:   Date of Notification:  
Department:   Date of Notification:  
### 4. Institutional Impacts:

This section pertains to forecasting institutional resource needs to support the course or course revision. Provide clear statements regarding the needs and current availability (or absence) of resources. Note that, if this is a course revision, only the impacts of the revision should be included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing needs:</th>
<th>Staff is already in place.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom resources (e.g. physical facilities in a laboratory, lecture hall, flexible space, academic computing):</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Resources:</td>
<td>Blackboard Learning Management System is already in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Resources (software licensing, hardware, access):</td>
<td>ESF Computer and Network Services (e.g., Office 365, E-mail), Blackboard is already in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Resources (subscriptions, services):</td>
<td>Existing support, resources, and access for off-campus students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Requirements (budget, fees, fleet vehicles):</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Properties or Field Practicum Facilities:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Health and Safety Considerations:

Will any of the conditions or situations outlined below be present in association with the course? Yes / No

5.1. **Will substances with any of the following properties be used during instruction:** flammability, toxicity, corrosivity, reactivity, registered pesticide, legally controlled, or other characteristics with the potential to cause harm or injury? □ / ☑

5.2. **Will any physical hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., machines that need safety guards; razor blades or syringes; compressed gases, etc.). □ / ☑

5.3. **Will any biological hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., handling animals (rabies or hantavirus); cultures or stocks of infectious agents (fungal spores, viruses, bacteria, etc.). □ / ☑

5.4. **Will any radiation hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., radioisotopes, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, lasers, etc.). □ / ☑

5.5. **Will any electrical equipment that, due to its design, location, or method of use, pose any threat to safety during instruction?** (Give considerable thought to electrical use outdoors, or any potentially wet location.). □ / ☑

5.6. **Will there be any personal safety issues related to the class?** (e.g., due to time of day or location, at the end of any organized class exercise, will students be in danger of physical assault, etc.). □ / ☑

5.7. **Will any students be driving official state or research sponsored land or water vehicles during any class or instructional exercise?** □ / ☑

5.8. **Will any type of personal protective equipment be necessary during class exercises?** (e.g., hard-hats, eye/face protection, hearing protection, hand/foot protection, lab coat, visibility clothing, etc.) □ / ☑

If the answer was “Yes” to any of the **HEALTH AND SAFETY** questions, please explain:

For lab and field courses to which all answers are “no”, you should explain that here, also. Normally, we would expect some safety precautions for such courses.
6. Coordination and Consultation

Emails/letters, as noted below and attached to this proposal, or signatures below, indicate that the affected departments, programs or units have been notified of this proposal and have had an opportunity to assess the impact of the proposal on their respective units.

Affected Academic Department(s) or Program(s) – other than the sponsoring department:

Department/Program 1

Name of Chair/Program Director

Or letter attached □

Date

Chair Signature

Department/Program 2

Name of Chair/Program Director

Or letter attached □

Date

Chair Signature

Department/Program 3

Name of Chair/Program Director

Or letter attached □

Date

Chair Signature

[if more than three Departments/Programs, please continue on a separate page]

Other Units:

Associate Provost for Instruction & Dean of the Graduate School (for Gen Ed courses only)

Date

Or letter attached □

Registrar

Date

Or letter attached □

Library Director

Date

Or letter attached □

Computing and Network Services

Date

Or letter attached □

Physical Plant

Date

Or letter attached □

Forest Properties

Date

Or letter attached □

Environmental Health and Safety

Date

Or letter attached □
7. Proposer Information and Sponsoring Department Chair
Affirmation:

Contact Person:
Name: Douglas Johnston  Department: Landscape Architecture
Email: dmjohnst@esf.edu  Phone: 315-470-6544

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the sponsoring Department. Affected departments have been notified and given the opportunity to provide feedback. Department resources are or will be made available to support the course, or a plan is in place to meet the resource needs as identified in the Institutional Impacts section of this proposal (see Section 4, above).

Name: Chuck Spuches  Date: 9.13.18
Department Chair (or designated curriculum representative)
Signature:  Or letter attached
Department Chair (or designated curriculum representative)

8. Approvals:

Curriculum Committee  Date

Faculty Governance  Date

Provost  Date