

GYC101NavratilPSC210.doc

My plan is to continue to expand incorporating sustainability throughout my course instead of one major capstone type project at the conclusion of the semester. One major change I would like to make to my International Relations course is to have sustainability infused as an enduring theme throughout the semester by incorporating several assignments. At the beginning of the semester I plan to devote a class period to introducing sustainability, using the Venn Diagram available on the GYC Blackboard site in my overview of sustainability. We will then have a class discussion about sustainability to explore the significance across disciplines.

One example of a sustainability assignment for my International Relations course will focus on the relationship between climate change and political, economic, and social changes. For this assignment I will use the unit on political geography that addresses natural resources, climate, location, terrain, natural disasters, and many other political geography factors.

I will have a list of several articles that students can select from that relate to sustainability. They will be asked to read their assigned article and explain how sustainability relates to the article. For example, how climate change influences politics, economics, or social interactions. They will apply relevant course concepts from the unit on political geography. They will also critically evaluate the article by discussing the significance or implications of the article, what they consider to be the strengths and/or weaknesses of the article, and important questions they think the article raises.

I have used part of this assignment in the past and will be updating it over the course of this semester. I will incorporate the updated version of this assignment in the fall of 2013.

This assignment relates to sustainability by connecting climate change with major pillars of sustainability (environmental, social, and economic). As one example, one of the assigned readings is a link to a report that analyzes the role of climate change on the Arab Spring. Significant weather events, such as record droughts in China, Russia, and several other countries contributed to lower wheat yields. This limited the amount of wheat available for export, which contributed to rising food prices, particularly in countries that import much of their wheat and other food staples. In countries like Egypt, individuals devote approximately 1/3rd of their budget to food, so rising prices can significantly diminish their economic security. This report argues that rising food prices was a significant factor in the civil unrest in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, etc.

1. Greening Your Curriculum 101
2. Kevin Navratil, International Relations and PSC-210.
3. Climate Change and Political Geography.
4. Describe the rise of global and transnational issues and analyze their implications on international relations. Analyze the significance of political geography in international relations.
5. Explain how sustainability relates to the assigned articles. Apply three relevant political geography concepts to this article and explain why they are relevant.
6. Students will practice critical thinking by applying relevant course concepts, explaining why these concepts are applicable, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the article, and assessing the implications the article raises.
7. Students will consider the implications of the trends discussed in the article and the relevancy to their own lives.
8. The assignment is included in this document.
9. The method of assessment will be an assignment that students will respond to either via email or by posting their response on the discussion board.

Political Geography and Sustainability Assignment (30 points)

Directions

Select two of the articles below and thoroughly address the objectives below:

- 1) Explain how sustainability relates to the article. For example, you could explain how climate change influences politics, economics, or social interactions. (10 points)
- 2) Apply three relevant political geography concepts to this article and explain why they are relevant. (15 points)
- 3) Critically evaluate the article by discussing the significance or implications of the article. (5 points)
- 4) Evaluate the strengths and/or weaknesses of the article and important questions they think the article raises. (5 points)

Suggested Readings:

[The Arab Spring and Climate Change](#)

[The New Geopolitics of Food](#)

[Holding A Rainforest Hostage?](#)

[Global Warming Reduces Expected Yields of Harvests in Some Countries, Study Says](#)

[Harvesting a Climate Disaster](#)

[The Real Hunger Games](#)

[Lush Land Dries Up, Withering Kenya's Hopes](#)

[Energy: the new thirty years' war](#)

[Climate Migration](#)

[Why We Might Fight, 2011 Edition](#)

[Middle East Facing Choice Between Crops and Water](#)

[A Warming Planet Struggles to Feed Itself](#)

[Life After Land](#)

[Project on Global Water Policy](#)

[On Nauru, a Sinking Feeling](#)

[Nigeria Tested by Rapid Rise in Population](#)