

University of Louisville
Urban and Public Affairs
426 W. Bloom Street
Louisville, KY 40292

SUST 602: Sustainability and the Natural Environment (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Tamara Sluss

Office: USI/UPA/COS 109

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Information: tamara.sluss@louisville.edu or 5025291602

Spring 2022

Class Meeting Time: Thursdays 4-6:30 via Teams except when noted for sampling

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 502-792-9582](tel:+15027929582)..865540063# United States, Louisville

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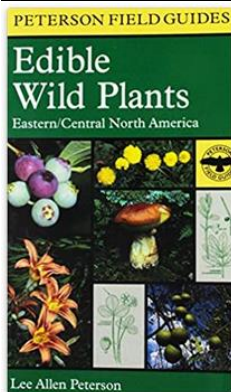
What is SUST 602?

SUST 602 will focus on sustainability and natural systems including populations, freshwater, soil, and air.

Prerequisites: Consent of Instructor

A field book is required. Other content will be derived from journal articles.

Required Text: Peterson Guide to Edible Plants



Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to summarize major findings from published journal articles related to sustainability and natural systems.
2. Students will collect data and develop reports
3. Students will be able to develop a technical report related to sustainability of natural systems.

Grading: Letter grades will be earned based on the following percentages:

97-100=A+ 87-89=B+ 77-79=C+ 67-69=D+ 59 and Below=F

93-96=A 83-86=B 73-76=C 63-66=D

90-92=A- 80-82=B- 70-72=C- 60-62=D-

Assignments:

Six Paper Summaries at 5 points each = 30 points
 Field Trip/Event Summary Presentations 10 points
 Report of results 3 at 10 points each = 30 points
 Guest speaker summary = 5 points
 Grant proposal reviews = 2 at 2.5 points each for 5 points
Final grant proposal = 10 points
 100 Points Total

Course Schedule/Topics

Week	Topic/Content	Activity/Work Due
1: 1/13	Introduction to Course, Project Descriptions, Perspectives on Sustainability,	
2: 1/20	Natural Environment Organizations, Ecosystem Services, Land use and soil	
3: 1/27	OAK	
4: 2/3	Urban Soil Contaminants and Sources, Plant uptake and Phytoremediation,	Paper Summary 1,
5: 2/10	Carbon Cycle and Climate Change, UofL GHG Report	Paper Summary 2,
6: 2/17	Energy and Urban Air Quality: Biogeochemical Processes, Urban Heat Island	Paper Summary 3
7: 2/24	Sample for Carbon Storage Assignment , Water Issues: Citizen Science with Salt River Watershed Watch	Paper Summary 4
8: 3/3	Carbon Storage Assignment Work, Continue with Water Issues	
9: 3/10	Stream sampling , Presentations	Paper Summary 5
10: 3/17	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS	
11: 3/24	Water Quality Analysis, Succession and Invasive Species, Presentations	Assignment: Carbon Sequestration Estimate
12: 3/31	Plant Identification and Diversity Calculation, Homogenization Hypothesis	Paper Summary 6
13: 4/7	Plant Identification and Diversity Calculation, Homogenization Hypothesis, Presentations	Proposal Due Assignment: Macro and Water Results Report,

14: 4/14	Finish presentations	Assignment: Diversity Results Report Assignment: Proposal Reviews Due
Final Proposal Due on 4/25/21 by 11:59pm		

Homework Field Trips/Events

Each student should select a field trip or event and create a short presentation with pictures of the site or event and a reflection on the activity. Please feel free to suggest trips or events and I can approve those and share with the class. Ideally, the sites or events would be free.

Important Statements and Resources:

All students with a disability who require special accommodation to participate in and complete this course must contact the Disabilities Resource Center (852-6938) for verification of eligibility and for determination of specific accommodation. Please see instructor as well.

- Any incidence of plagiarism will result in an F for the course and reported to Dean’s office.
- The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus when necessary. Students will be notified in advance of these changes.

Title IX/Clery Act Notification

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111). Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University’s Title IX officer.

Sexual Harassment

The University of Louisville strives to maintain the campus free of all forms of illegal discrimination as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and unlawful conduct and will not be tolerated in the workplace and the educational environment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment, even when carried out through computers or other electronic communications systems. Students and Instructors are protected from Sexual Harassment according to the Affirmative Action policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the UofL Computer Account Usage Agreement.

Anyone experiencing Sexual Harassment should refer to the links above and/or contact the PEACC Program at 852.2663 and an advocate will explain your choices. This is a free and confidential service.

Statement on Diversity

The University of Louisville strives to foster and sustain an environment of inclusiveness that empowers us all to achieve our highest potential without fear of prejudice or bias. We commit ourselves to building an exemplary educational community that offers a nurturing and challenging intellectual climate, a respect for the spectrum of human diversity, and a genuine understanding of the many differences-including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, disability, religion, national origin or

military status-that enrich a vibrant metropolitan research university. We expect every member of our academic family to embrace the underlying values of this vision and to demonstrate a strong commitment to attracting, retaining and supporting students, faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of our larger society.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Louisville is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require accommodation to participate and complete requirements for this class, notify me immediately and contact the Disability Resource Center (Stevenson Hall, 502.852.6938) for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.

Inclement Weather

This course adheres to the University's policy and decisions regarding cancellation or delayed class schedules. Adjustments are made to the class schedule as necessary to take into account any delays or cancellations of this class. Local television and radio stations broadcast University delays or closings. The UofL web site (www.louisville.edu) and telephone information line (502-852-5555) also broadcast delays or closings.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is prohibited at the University of Louisville. It is a serious offense because it diminishes the quality of scholarship, makes accurate evaluation of student progress impossible, and defrauds those in society who must ultimately depend upon the knowledge and integrity of the institution and its students and faculty.

Religious Holy Days and Observances

Federal law and university policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of religious belief. It is the policy of the University of Louisville to accommodate students, faculty, and staff who observe religious work-restricted holy days. Faculty are obliged to accommodate students' request(s) for adjustments in course work on the grounds of religious observance, provided that the student(s) make such request(s) in writing during the first two (2) weeks of term.

Grievances

Students who have grievances regarding the course should contact the course director. Until a satisfactory resolution is reached, the matter is referred, in succession, to the chair of the course's department, the Associate Dean for Students, and the School's Student Academic Grievance Committee, the Graduate Student Academic Grievance Committee, and the University's Student Academic Grievance Committee. More information is located at <http://louisville.edu/disability>.

Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities are afforded reasonable accommodation. The Disability Resource Center certifies a disability and advises faculty members of reasonable accommodations. More information is located at <http://louisville.edu/disability>.

Continuity of Instruction Plan

A plan for continuity of instruction for this course has been developed and published. All plans are available at <https://sharepoint.louisville.edu/sites/sphis/do/aa/coip>. Continuity of instruction plans provide guidance for how instruction may be modified to lessen disruption by events that affect transportation, communication, or personal interaction. Such events may be weather-related (e.g., floods, blizzards, tornados), health-related (e.g., epidemics), or other widespread occurrences or threats.