

Course Syllabus

Instructors	Teaching Assistants
Dr. Brian Powell	Ms. Nicole Yamase
Dr. Malte Stuecker	Mr. Shaun Wriston
Dr. Michael Guidry	

This course is asynchronous online for the full semester. The course does not have a regular meeting time; however, lessons and assignments will be made available each week during the semester. **NOTE:** This is not a self-paced course and the student must follow the course schedule.

Required Materials

Textbooks: None

Workbooks: None

Other Resources: See Required Hardware and Software.

Course Communication

All course communication between the students and courses instructors/TAs will be through Laulima.

If you have a question about a topic, concept, or assignment, please post it to the Laulima Q&A Forum. The instructors and TAs will be checking the forum at least once a day to reply to your questions. Before posting, please review the Q&A forum to see if your question has been answered.

Do not use personal/university emails to communicate with the instructors/TAs unless it is regarding a private/personal matter

Lessons

All lessons and materials will be delivered via laulima and published on the left column of the site. Every Thursday (unless notified), we will make new lessons available that you are expected to complete in the following week. You will have two weeks to complete each lesson assignment and quiz, but if you do not do it in one week, you will quickly fall behind in the class. Furthermore, when an exam is scheduled, you will be responsible for the lessons provided prior to the exam (in some cases provided one week earlier).

Quarters

The semester will be divided into quarters (see the schedule below). At the end of each quarter, there will be an exam given through laulima. Your grade will be evaluated after each quarter so that you will have regular feedback on how you are doing in the class.

Grades

Four Exams (12.5% each) = 50%

Assignments = 25%

Quizzes = 10%

Participation = 15%

Extra Credit = 10%

Each **exam** will cover all material presented in the given Quarter, and there will not be a cumulative final exam in the class. See the class schedule below for the dates of the exams and what they cover. Exams will be available via laulima on the day of the exam (it will open at 12:01am HST on the assigned day and close at 11:59pm HST on the assigned day). This means that you can begin the exam at the time that is best for you. However, each exam is timed, so once you begin taking it, you will have a set amount of time to complete it.

All **assignments** must be completed by the assigned due date.

Quizzes are given as part of each lesson, and they must be completed by the due date.

Your **participation** score is based on your contributions to the Class Discussion Groups for each Quarter. To earn 3% of the participation each quarter requires that you start at least 2 conversations (1 every ~2 weeks) in your group forum and reply to at least 12 topic messages (~4 per week). All posts above those numbers will increase your score to a maximum of 15% for the semester.

Extra Credit is available that could raise your score a full letter grade. Due to COVID-19, we have had to shift this class to fully online quickly, and we want your feedback to make it better. As such, we are providing you an incentive to increase your grade by 10% by providing detailed feedback (2-3 sentences) on each lesson. For every lesson you provide feedback you can earn extra credit for each lesson. Honest feedback will receive credit; however, statements like "I liked it!" will not receive credit without an explanation for why you are saying that. If you provide feedback to at least 22 lessons, you will receive a full 10% added to your grade. Do not worry that you should only list what you like. Your extra credit score is based

solely on that you provided an explanation for your score. If you don't like a lesson (or any aspect), say why. Negative feedback is welcome.

Assignment Descriptions

Midterms: Questions will be in any of the following formats -- multiple choice, true/false, short answer.

Assignments: Will vary for each assignment; however, most will be to write a detailed response to a query.

Quizzes: Questions will be in any of the following formats -- multiple choice, true/false, short answer

Participation: Posts to the forum may be via text, video, audio, or photos.

Course Technology

As you know, this course is delivered in Laulima as a Learning Management system ([Laulima \(Sakai\) Accessibility](#)).

Please also be aware that Laulima

- will be unavailable on a daily basis from 3:00am-4:00am Hawaii Standard Time for server backup and maintenance.
- automatically logs you out if it does not detect activity for two hours. A warning message will appear notifying you of the lack of activity. Activity is defined as clicking a button in Laulima such as "Save Draft" or "Next" (in a test), clicking on a course tab, or taking an action that sends information to the server.

Other technological tools are used in this course. Remember to review privacy/security policies before using technologies for online learning.

Required Hardware and Software

- Recent model computer (2014 or later model), tablet, or phone. Windows, Mac, or Tablet is recommended as the phone screen will make reading the material difficult.
- Reliable high-speed (Cable or DSL) Internet connection
- A recent version of a Browser: [Firefox](#), [Safari](#), [Edge](#), or [Chrome](#). All are free downloads.
- [Adobe \(Acrobat\) Reader](#). Download is free.

Minimum Technical Skill Requirements

In this course you would be required to utilize the Laulima learning management system to navigate and access course content. You will need to be proficient with basic computer skills such as word processing, navigating Internet browsers, downloading/uploading files, etc.

Technical Support

- [UH ITS Computer Help Desk](#) – email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883 (or toll free at 1-800- 558-2669 from the neighbor islands)
- Laulima Assistance Form – Click on the [Request Assistance](#) link at the bottom of any Laulima Page to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- [Laulima Student Support](#)
- [Information Security for Students](#)

UHM Academic Support

- [Hamilton Library](#)
- [Distance Learning at UH Mānoa](#)

- [Writing Center](#)
- [Learning Assistance Center](#)

Course Policies and Resources

All course communication is through the course email tool. Do not use your personal email or send to individual email addresses.

University Policies and Procedures

The University of Hawai'i is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. It is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, victims of domestic or sexual violence, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, income assignment for child support, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, national guard absence, or status as a covered veteran. For additional details, visit the [UH Systemwide Policies and Procedures Information System \(PPIS\)](#) site.

Student Conduct

Review the [UH Systemwide Student Conduct Code](#) for more information.

Review the [Online Netiquette and Privacy Tips](#) to prepare yourself when interacting online. You will be spending a significant effort with the forums in this class, and you must treat others respectfully and professionally. In your group discussions stay on the topic of the course.

Academic Honesty

Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:

- Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.

Cheating is an act of academic dishonesty and includes, but is not limited to:

1. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
2. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
3. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student body; and
4. engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

Plagiarism is also an act of academic dishonesty and includes, but is not limited to:

- the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement.
- It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office.

Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification.

UH Title IX

- The University of Hawai'i is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking ([UH Title IX](#)). If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, the University has staff and resources on your campus to support and assist you.
- If you would like to report incidents of sex discrimination or gender based violence, contact your campus [Title IX Coordinator](#) or submit the online [reporting form](#).
- If you wish to remain ANONYMOUS, speak with someone CONFIDENTIALLY, or would like to receive information and support in a CONFIDENTIAL setting, contact your campus' [confidential resource](#).

Accommodation Statement

The University of Hawai'i is committed to a barrier-free campus and provides accommodations to ensure students with disabilities equal access to education. We agree to make academic adjustments to ensure non-discrimination of students with disabilities. This commitment is in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II) and the Rehabilitation act of 1973-section 504 and 508, individuals with disabilities have protections against discrimination and are assured access to programs, services and activities. For more information see "Americans with Disabilities Act" and "Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Section 504 or Section 508".

Students must self-identify to the appropriate Disability Services Office and

complete the intake process before receiving reasonable accommodations. To ensure the prompt and effective provision of accommodations, students should contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible. Find your disability services office contact for your home campus.

- UH Mānoa
Visit the [KOKUA](#) website. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612, email: kokua@hawaii.edu.

Student Support

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)
- [Registration](#)

Financial Aid Statement

If students do not begin attendance in a course or stop participating in a course, Title IV funds must be returned according to Federal Return of Title IV funds regulations (34 CFR 668.21(a)). This means you may be required to return some (or all) of the financial aid you have received. It is very important to remember that colleges are required to take steps necessary to ensure that students are academically engaged in order to justify the disbursement of Federal Title IV student aid funds. If at any time your plans change and you no longer plan to participate in the courses in which you enrolled, you must contact the financial aid office to minimize any possible negative financial impact.

For more information on financial assistance for your education, please

contact the Manoa [Financial Aid Office](#). Financial assistance may include grants, scholarships, and other resources to help you pay for the cost of college. A financial aid adviser will be able to help you navigate this process to determine your eligibility for these funds.

Course Goals

This course addresses the need for the students to understand the concepts of sustainability and the history of sustainable practices across a wide range of cultures; this knowledge will allow you to be informed, active participants in efforts to address future global environmental change and to develop sustainable solutions.

This course focuses on the use of scientific tools to study how past civilizations and cultures impacted both the environment and environmental resources through their use of environmentally sustainable or non-sustainable practices.

There are three areas of focus for the course: (1) investigation of historical case studies to demonstrate how cultures and societies from pre-historic times to near-present-day have used resources in sustainable or unsustainable ways; (2) discussion of general sustainability concepts and how they apply to discussions of how past societies and cultures impacted and controlled their environments; and (3) consideration of the tools and data used to determine past environmental change (both human-induced and non-human-related forcings such as natural climate change).

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. Provide a simple and clear definition of societal sustainability.

2. Explain the underlying principles of societal sustainability and resilience, particularly with regards to environmental change prior to the year 1500.
3. Explain the major means by which societies have been undermined by both humanly induced and natural environmental change, and provide examples of such occurrences from before the year 1500.
4. Explain the factors commonly responsible for societal collapse, and provide examples from before the year 1500.
5. Discuss the major features of global environmental change over the past 200,000 years (with a focus on the interval between 15,000 to 1,500 years before present) and how these changes affected people and societies.
6. Critically read and evaluate quantitative and qualitative information (such as figures and graphs) presented at the public level concerning issues of climate, environmental change, and the sustainability and resilience of cultures, societies, and resources.

Institutional Learning Objectives:

- 1a. Breadth and Depth of Knowledge -- General education
- 1c. Breadth and Depth of Knowledge -- Understand Hawaiian culture and history
- 2a. Intellectual and Practical Skills -- Think critically and creatively
- 3b. Personal and Social Responsibility -- Respect for people and cultures, in particular Hawaiian culture
- 3c. Personal and Social Responsibility -- Stewardship of the natural environment

Course Calendar

Quarter	Dates	Laulima Lessons to Complete
1	08/24 - 08/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Here • Class Intro • Sustainability
1	08/31 - 09/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geologic Time • How Science Works <p>09/01 is the last day to register or change your grading option</p>
1	09/07 - 09/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homo sapiens • Exam #1 (9/10) covers Sustainability, Geologic Time, How Science Works, and Homo sapiens
2	09/14 - 09/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving Africa • Into Europe <p>09/15 is the last day to drop the course</p>
2	09/21 - 09/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards and Into Asia • Australia
2	09/28 - 10/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey to the Americas • Exam #2 (10/01) covers Leaving Africa, Into Europe, Towards and Into Asia, Australia, and Journey to the Americas
3	10/05 - 10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Framework • Sedentism
3	10/12 - 10/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Early Mesoamerica

3	10/19 - 10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumer • Egypt
3	10/26 - 11/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam #3 (10/29) covers Sustainability Framework, Sedentism, Agriculture, Early Mesoamerica, Sumer, and Egypt
4	11/2 - 11/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maya <p>11/02 is the last day for restricted withdrawal</p>
4	11/09 - 11/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire: Rome
4	11/16 - 11/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire: China • Empire: Collapse
4	11/23 - 11/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anasazi
4	11/29 - 12/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapa Nui
4	12/07 - 12/13 (12/10 is last day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past and Future • Exam #4 (12/10) covers Maya, Empires Rome, China, and Collapse, Anasazi, and Rapa Nui
	Finals Week	NO FINAL EXAM

CONTRACT, Sustainability in a Changing World

By remaining enrolled in this online class, you agree to:

- Be responsible for keeping on-track (we will not be meeting to tell you what you need to do);
- Do all quizzes and assignments (unless stated otherwise) on your own to be prepared for the exams;
- Read the assigned material and work through each lesson with an open mind;
- Understand that when studying the past, you know the outcome, while those who lived it did not;
- Participate in the Group Forums discussions thoughtfully and respectfully;
- Finish all lessons (including the assignments and quizzes) by the deadline;
- Not request time extensions;
- Read and familiarize yourself with the way that the class is conducted;
- Use Laulima Q&A Forum to submit all questions/inquiries that are not covered elsewhere (unless personal);
- Review the Laulima Q&A to see if your question has been answered before posting;
- Not submit questions/inquiries to instructor/TA email addresses;
- Check the announcements to stay up-to-date on the class and expectations;
- Abide by the University of Hawai'i [Student Code of Conduct](#).

If you have any questions about the Syllabus, read the Q&A forum. If your question isn't answered, please post your question for an answer so everyone can benefit.