

**ECO 365/ENS 252 - SUSTAINABILITY - SPRING 2010**  
**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 11AM – 1PM**

Dave Anderson  
David@Centre.edu  
DavidAAnderson.com

Merida Address:  
99J Calle 14 (x19 y 21)  
Itzimna, 97100, Merida

### **Description**

A study of the practices of sustainable architecture, permanent agriculture, alternative energy, urban environmental strategies, dining low on the food chain, and designing ecological communities. Case studies will include local farming practices and off-the-grid lifestyles.

### **Requirements**

Grades will be based on attendance and participation, quizzes, a paper, a midterm, and a final exam. Attendance at all class sessions is required. The weights and grading scale are as follows:

Attendance / Participation	20%	93-100	A
Quizzes	20%	90-93	A-
Paper / Presentation	20%	87-90	B+
Midterm	20%	83-87	B
Final	20%	80-83	B- (and so on)

### **Paper**

The topic is: great opportunities for advancement in sustainability. Choose one area of unsustainable practices (e.g., home design, hot water heating, diet, appliance disposal, paper manufacturing, souvenir retailing, ...) in which feasible advancements could be made with high benefits relative to the costs. In 1800+ words (about 6 typed pages) you will attack the problem, answering *every so very specifically* what exactly the problem is, what exactly the solution is, and perhaps most importantly, what specific approach you would use to make the appropriate changes. (Not specific: I would put billboards around town telling people to conserve water. Specific: I would use the \$96,500 revenues from a 1% tax on water to post billboards at Calles 42 y 4 and Calles 60 y 42 saying “Will your grandchildren have water to drink?”) The approach might involve lobbying, petitions, ad campaigns, education programs, legislation, community organizations, or grass roots activism. Oh, and please be specific. It’s when grappling with the specifics that the writing project gets interesting, useful, and fun to think about. The problem can be in Mexico, the U.S., or anywhere else. Papers can be handwritten if your handwriting is easy to read. Please proofread carefully.

### **Books**

*Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management 2e*, (2006, Pensive Press)

*Treading Lightly: The Joy of Conservation, Moderation, and Simple Living* (2009, Pensive Press).

Our formal class meetings below will be supplemented with visits to biosphere reserves, natural areas, and other sites of interest during the two extended trips and two day trips that are part of the Merida program.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic / Reading Assignment (2<sup>nd</sup> line)</b>	<b>Location</b>
16	What is Sustainability? Ch. 8 Enviro	UNAM
18	Sustainable Agriculture	
23	The Role of Government Ch. 4 Enviro	
25	Environmental Quality Ch. 6 Enviro	
March 2	Sustainable Energy Sources Ch. 7 Enviro	
4	Sustainable Architecture	
9	Population, Poverty, and Economic Growth Ch. 9 Enviro	
16	<b>Midterm</b>	
18	Valuing Biodiversity Ch. 10 Enviro	
30	Why Free Markets Need Help with Sustainability Ch. 3 Enviro	Case de Anderson
1	Waste, Object Permanence, and Uncertainty Ch. 17 TL	Case de Anderson
April 6	Policy for Sustainability Ch. 12 Enviro, Ch 12 Treading Lightly	
8	Natural Resource Management Ch. 3 TL, Optional: Ch. 13 & 14 Enviro	
20	Growth, Development, & Discounting the Future Ch. 5 Enviro	
22	Review John Somville Article	
27	Paper Presentations Summarize your best ideas in 5 minutes	
29	<b>Final Exam</b> - Comprehensive	UNAM