

*This course is only open to SLS-France Students



FREN 3501 Syllabus

Sustainable Communities

TTH 3:00pm-4:15pm, GTL

Instructor Information

Instructor

Email

Office Hours & Location

General Information

Description

This course focuses on social, artistic, cultural, and scientific dimensions of sustainability and the concepts of identity, diversity, social equity and inclusion/exclusion in the French context.

In the years to come, we will have to face the impacts of global warming, the accelerated degradation of our environment and the scarcity of resources that keep our civilization alive, three upheavals that will be accompanied by profound societal changes.

Far from advocating withdrawal into oneself, resilience strategies encourage sharing, cooperation, creative autonomy and the imagination of all local actors. This course focuses on the fundamentals of our society: health, food, transport, management of vital resources, energy, habitat, what are the challenges we are facing and what communities do to change trajectories and build resilience.

Conducted in French.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

- To have an increased awareness among students on issues in areas of sustainability
- To analyze documents and content related on sustainability in French & Francophone society and understand what sustainable communities can do
- To understand sustainable development and its challenges
- To establish a clear understanding of the role and impact of various aspects of human decisions on environmental and societal problems
- To improve oral and written communication skills at the mid-advanced level

Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Date	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
Présence en classe; preparation; participation / in-class discussion	20%	
Weekly postings + Website	20%	2 remarks/2 questions

Assignment	Date	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
PowerPoint Presentation or Leading Conversation on specific topic (1)	20%	Powerpoint
Mini Essays (2)	20%	500-word essay
Final Project	20%	

Extra Credit Opportunities

No extra-credit.

Description of Graded Components

1. PRESENCE, PREPARATION, PARTICIPATION (20%)

- **Presence:** Attendance is required for this course and is graded. You are expected to attend all class sessions unless you have a compelling reason not to do so.

In case you cannot make it to one session, please send me a brief e-mail to explain your absence to class session in advance.

- **Prepare :** Read material in Canvas before class. Take notes.

- **Participation:** Your active engagement with our sources and your peers is essential to a productive learning environment and generative discussion. Since many of our sources are accessed electronically, please consider whether printing hard copies of PDFs or using an e-reader will facilitate stronger attention to the materials and the conversation. During class meetings, please close all browser tabs except course readings, and turn off any chat or messaging apps, as well as notifications. Our conversation will be most rewarding when you speak with each other, rather than at your screens or printouts. Let's work together to make this class a successful and safe learning environment. Make a constant effort to participate in each class and in French only.

2. WEEKLY POSTINGS (20%): on theme/topics for the week using texts or documents for the week and/or (when applicable) films/videos or other documents shown in class.

Discussion Topics in Canvas. Your postings will support class discussion. Grading criteria: content 50% (arguments, research, originality), format [3501: 2 remarks/2 questions, 10 sentences, full sentences / 8803: 3 remarks/ 2 questions, 20 sentences, full sentences], overall organization and written French (50%). Grades averaged over time.

3. POWERPOINT (20%) During the semester, each student will do one PowerPoint presentation on topics/readings studied in class. Always finish your presentation with at least one question addressed to class. You are encouraged to use film clips/photos/documents/quotes to support you analyses.

Double-check your French. Grading criteria: content 50% (arguments, research, originality), effective delivery, overall presentation and [spoken and written] French (50%)

Registration for PowerPoint in Discussion: deadline August 31st. PowerPoint presentations can start on Sept. 2nd.

3501: Powerpoint. 20min

4. SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS (20%) 2 mini essays. (20% - 10% each)

500-word essay.

Your mini essay is reflection paper on a given theme. It is a short essay: be precise, concise, avoid generalizations and vague statements.

The essay will be 12 point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1.25 inch left and right margins. WORD document. PDF is NOT accepted.

Grading criteria: content 60% (arguments, research, precision), overall organization and written French (30%).

5. FINAL PROJECT (20%)

Submit your project abstract (see Canvas) before November 10th.

Submit your final project file last day of class (Dec 7)

Grading criteria: 50%: Content (quality of arguments, research, coherence), material used, innovation/innovative ideas; 50%: French, effective delivery, ability to engage class, correctness of text on slides [written French]; overall presentation [spoken and written]

COMPLETION OF THE TWO SHORT ESSAYS + FINAL IS MANDATORY TO PASS THE COURSE.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

According to policy, grades at Georgia Tech are interpreted as follows:

A	Excellent (4 quality points per credit hour)
B	Good (3 quality points per credit hour)
C	Satisfactory (2 quality points per credit hour)
D	Passing (1 quality point per credit hour)
F	Failure (0 quality points per credit hour)

See <http://registrar.gatech.edu/info/grading-system> for more information about the grading system at Georgia Tech.]

Course Materials

Course Texts

Selection of:

- Sylvie Brunel, *Le Développement Durable*
- André Gortz, *Écologie et liberté; écologie et politique*

- Bruno Latour, *En attendant Gaïa*
- + PDFs and Films

on Canvas

For each class, you need to:

1. Read assigned reading documents + take notes, check vocabulary
2. Post in “Discussion” (Tuesdays); prepare for discussion and presentations
3. Contribute to Class discussion: observer / participer / présenter
4. Think and develop: post-viewing critical thinking on issues that emerge from and converge with other issues.

Note: All course assignments will be submitted electronically via Canvas.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Collaboration is welcome and encouraged. You may find it helpful to consult with your peers about readings or paper ideas. However, all written work submitted for evaluation should be the product of your own thought, research, and writing. Accordingly, you must properly cite any engagement with other authors.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance is required. Our classroom will be a space for intellectual conversation, debate, and questioning, so your active participation and engagement with the material is imperative. If you are quieter by nature, please come speak to me in office hours so we can discuss strategies for your participation.

The success and interest of this course rely on the respectful and thoughtful participation of each and every member of the class. I hope that you will all find your own way to engage with the material that has been selected for your experience of sustainability issues as well as with your peers. Note that your active participation in class is crucial and will help to determine your final grade. You will be rewarded with a *perfect score* as long as you attend all class sessions and actively contribute to the class discussions.

Collaboration & Group Work

For group presentations (PowerPoints), grade will be the same for all students of the same group.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

My policy during the Fall 2021 will be taking into considering the potential realities of the pandemic impacting the course. I can flexible but I will still be rigorous.

Can you request extensions on completing the assignments/reading/discussion questions if you become sick? Yes. Contact me. Make-up assignments will be given only for documented reasons of illness, family emergency, or participation in approved Institute activities.

Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences providing that they notify me *in advance* and show approval of such activities by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate and/or statements of the approved absence from the Office of the Registrar. - see <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4b.php> for more information.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Additional Course Policies

- **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION:** You are encouraged to share personal experiences and opinions with respect to the topics covered in this class. However, please keep in mind that our purpose in this class is to think critically about the issues. In an environment of mutual respect, we should be able to engage in well-rounded and constructive discussion that is beneficial to all of us.
- **PREPARATION FOR GUEST SPEAKERS:** in case we have a guest speaker invited, please come prepared to discussion and participate, ask questions.
- **RECORDING CLASS ACTIVITIES:** In order to preserve class integrity, student privacy, and

a safe environment to express opinions, recording of our classes using digital, tape, or audio devices is not allowed. You are welcome (and even encouraged) to take notes of the board. This policy can be waived for students with accommodations upon explicit recommendation from the Office of Disability Services.

Campus Resources for Students

- The Office of the Dean of Students: <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/services> 404-894-6367; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor. You also may request assistance at https://gatech-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid383662
- Counseling Center: <http://counseling.gatech.edu>; 404-894-2575;

Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention. Their website also includes links to state and national resources.

Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2204.

Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources

(STAR): <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/need-help>

- Stamps Health Services: <https://health.gatech.edu> ; 404-894-1420
- OMED: Educational Services: <http://www.omed.gatech.edu>
- Women's Resource Center: <http://www.womenscenter.gatech.edu>; 404-385-0230
- LGBTQIA Resource Center: <http://lgbtqia.gatech.edu/>; 404-385-2679
- Veteran's Resource Center: <http://veterans.gatech.edu/> 404-385-2067
- Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500.

Additional Syllabus Components

Tips for successful performance

1. **Demonstrate your knowledge and thought.** Please provide full, rich, thoughtful mini essays + final paper. If you find yourself *at any point answering a question with a simple Yes/No or one-line response/comment*, please try to rethink the questions provided during discussions and do some research.
2. **Use the resources.** I have provided/will provide a number of resources, including articles, authentic documents, websites, images, etc. All course materials, including additional resource materials, are available on Canvas.
3. **All French.** With the exception of private consultations or emails, all work in this class will be done in French, as this is a 3000-level French course.
4. **Cut and paste prohibited.** It has become quite easy these days to detect material lifted from internet sites, even if it has been translated, so be very careful to always attribute source. There is never a penalty for using an author's language and/or ideas as long as that person is clearly cited, e.g. "According to XXX...". In fact, I encourage the citing of ideas you have found useful. If you quote someone, however, you must use quotation marks along with the author attribution. Please do not translate another person's words. *If your source is in English, you must quote in English.*
5. **Keep up, don't procrastinate.** It is strongly recommended that you strive to complete readings for each week. If you put work off, it will be difficult to get back on course, so procrastinate at your own peril.
6. **Contact me if you have questions.**