

Global Sustainability Scholars Class of 2015

BRAZIL

An illustration of a traditional Brazilian thatched-roof hut, likely a palafiteira, built on stilts. The hut has a steep, conical roof made of dried palm fronds or similar natural materials. The walls are made of vertical wooden planks. In front of the hut, there is a wooden platform or deck. A red cloth is hanging on a line in front of the hut. The background is a dense, lush green tropical forest with various types of trees and foliage. The sky is a deep blue.

Human Rights and Sustainability

The right to food, housing, resources and a healthy environment are all areas where human rights and sustainability overlap. Conservation efforts can create obstacles for access to housing, land and livelihoods. At the same time, the world's poor and indigenous populations often bear the costs of environmental degradation, pollution and climate change resulting from patterns of production and consumption from which they do not personally gain. While visiting the Amazon rainforest, São Paulo and Curitiba, students will explore the connections between human rights and sustainability.

Faculty

Dr. LaDawn Haglund

Student Participants

Halima Belal Alshehi

Chris Barton

Allie Brickner

Molly Cashion

Kim Castillo

Liz Gray

Omar Ashraf Hassan

Evelyne Jepicemboi Lelei

Cassandra Mac

Allison Miller

Sarah Moratto

Amy Otto

Victoria Sullivan



GUATEMALA

Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness™

Community development is an integral part of a sustainable future. Developing and revitalizing neighborhoods with the intent of promoting greater opportunities for happiness could fast track a move toward sustainability. In this course, students will consider how the development of a new neighborhood impacts the happiness of the residents within, while considering the intricacies of a complex culture. Students will partner with fellow students and expert faculty members to analyze community development within several contexts, including water, waste, energy, food, transportation, buildings, economic development, community governance and neighborhood environment. Students will ultimately help establish the baseline knowledge for a sustainable approach to community happiness and the building block for the development of a sustainable community in Zacapa, Guatemala.

Faculty

Dr. Scott Cloutier

Student Participants

Davi Briggs
Aisling Force
Christopher Frettoloso
Michaela Jones

Siddanth Paralkar
Sambram Patel
Paul J. Prosser
Aislyn Richmond
Christopher Robinson



HONG KONG

Cities, Sustainability and Public Policy

In the absence of successful global and federal leadership on sustainability, cities are increasingly taking the initiative for sustainability policymaking for greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, efficient transportation, water management and community resilience. Using Hong Kong as the setting, students will gain knowledge, insights and experience in understanding how cities formulate and apply public policy to the challenges of local sustainability.

Faculty

Dr. Rob Melnick

Student Participants

Gabrielle Blanchette
Vanessa Davis
Elija Flores
Lisset Gonzalez
Joshua Haddad
Alexandra Novak
Jeffrey Ong
Helios F. Osmanoglu

Tara M Pryts
Haley Randell
Taylor Reimann
Evan Siegel
Zoe Stein
Curt Truman
Heather Catherine Turrentine
Paulina Thao-An Vu



NEPAL

Rural-Urban Sustainability: Transitioning Livelihoods

For the first time in history, more people live in urban spaces than in rural areas. The transition to urban areas is occurring most rapidly in developing nations. As the world's population moves from rural to urban areas, sustainability is threatened by changing livelihoods, communication methods and technological advances. During this trip, students will witness firsthand the distinctions between the rapidly growing urban center of Kathmandu and the rural areas surrounding the picturesque town of Pokhara. Students will examine the changes in how people live and prosper and what that means in terms of sustainable livelihoods.

Faculty

Dr. Nalini Chhetri
Dr. Mark Henderson

Student Participants

Haley Downing
Trinity England
Jayme Foland
Thomas Hawthorne
Jessica Hoffman
Nicholas Kiedrowski

Phillip Moore
Patricia Alessandra Susanto
Brynn Marie Szukala
Jesse Walberer
Aleksandra Wrobel

An abstract graphic showing rows of solar panels in a desert landscape. The panels are arranged in a grid pattern, with some panels in the foreground being dark blue and others further back being lighter blue. The background is a gradient of blue and white, suggesting a bright, sunny day.

SPAIN & MOROCCO

Sustainable Development across the Mediterranean

Despite being on two separate continents, the E.U. country of Spain and the North African country of Morocco share a rich and interconnected past and currently have close economic and political relations, though often fraught with disagreement as solutions are not always easy or equitable. While visiting these countries, students will experience the complexity of global sustainable development in a region of the Mediterranean that provides a fascinating location to witness socio-economic disparity, sustainable energy challenges and local realities. During this trip, students will evaluate current solutions and imagine potential new solutions as they visit with government officials, non-governmental organizations and rural and urban citizens extending from the Sahara Desert to Madrid.

Faculty

Dr. Mary Jane Parmentier

Student Participants

Callie Rose Alden
Hailey Baker
Kylie Brown
Ernest Chakwera
Breeonna Combs
John Dickkut
Aaron Gardner
James Gomez
Arnaud Irakoze

Liliana Tapia Jimenez
Suzanne Jumper
Ashley Knudsen
Zachary Koehler
Rebecca McCarthy
Austin H. Olaiz
Adam O'Neil
Dan Reck
Ashley Zafaranlou



Brazil



Guatemala



Hong Kong

Spain/Morocco



Nepal

