The concept of social sustainability is currently the least developed leg of the "triple bottom line" of environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability. Work on the social aspect of sustainability is as yet so undeveloped that we do not have an established definition of the concept. We will begin this class with the insights gained from discussions in previous PSU graduate classes on social sustainability, that:

Social sustainability refers to both (1) the processes that generate social health and well-being now and in the future and (2) those social institutions that facilitate environmental and economic sustainability now and for the future.

We hypothesize that social health and well-being require a society that is adaptable, resilient, equitable and democratic, while fostering the full development of each individual's capabilities and functions, as theorized by Amartya Sen.


This class is conceived as an active enterprise, in which we will work together to clarify and develop our joint understanding of the concept of social sustainability by surveying possible definitions and measures of social sustainability; investigating the relationship between social sustainability and other aspects of sustainability; and exploring attempts to reach the goals identified, locally, nationally and internationally.

Consequently it is critical that everyone attends class consistently, and come prepared to discuss the readings and issues, as scheduled.

**Class Format:** presentation/discussion

**Evaluation:**
30% on short, oral presentations of weekly readings and participation;
20% on weekly reading notes, which should be about 2 pages each week, engaging with the material rather than reporting on it;
20% on attendance, because it is crucial to the success of the class, and
30% on a research paper, for which guidelines will be available.

**Books:**


we will read three chapters from this book. you may purchase the book or read it on reserve

**Additional Reading material:**

A reading packet, to be made available at Smart Copy, at 1915 S.W. 6th, contains all required reading not available electronically or for sale at the PSU Bookstore. In addition, all material not available electronically is available on reserve at the Library. Location of each item is identified in the syllabus.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

March 31  
Course organization and requirements. What elements should be included in defining social sustainability? How should it be measured? Concepts in social sustainability. The three bottom lines.

April 2  

**Week 2**

**Conceptualizing and Measuring Social Sustainability**

April 7  


April 9  

Recommended for those interested in further reading
Week 3 **The Political Economy of Social Reproduction**

April 14 Much in the same way that the natural environment has become a key dimension in planning for sustainable societies and economies, the sources of investment for social reproduction must be accounted for and appropriately valued in the interest of sustainable societies. Internalizing externalities: the value of unpaid work. The role of labor unions. Evaluating the impact of minimum wage regulations.

*The Family and Unpaid Work*


Week 4 **Social Reproduction: Consumption and Growth**


Michael F. Maniates, “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?” *Global Environmental Politics* 1:3, August 2001. pp 31-52 [e-journal]


Week 5 **Social Reproduction: The Labor Market: Living wages; Minimum wages; Unions; Business Codes**

April 23 Documentary: *The Take* [http://www.sweatfree.org/portland]


April 28 Fantasia and Voss, Ch 1 “Why labor matters” and Ch 2 “An Exceptionally Hostile Terrain” in *Hard Work: Remaking the American Labor Movement* [packet, reserve]


April 30 Corporate Codes of Conduct

Portland Sweatshop Ordinance, [http://www.sweatfree.org/portland](http://www.sweatfree.org/portland)


Sweden’s H&M: [http://www.hm.com/no/corporateresponsibility_responsability.nhtml](http://www.hm.com/no/corporateresponsibility_responsability.nhtml)

[Nike's Supply Chain Monitoring](http://www.nikebiz.com/supplychainmonitoring/supplychainmonitoring/supplychainmonitoring/supplychainmonitoring/ourcodeofconduct_monotoringarticle1.nhtml)


Week 6 **Social Sustainability of Cities and Regions**

Social sustainability at the local level. A comparative examination of some cities: housing, transportation, tax policy.

May 5 Polese and Stren “The Social Sustainability of Cities” Chapters 1(Intro); Chapter 2 (Montreal); Chapter 4 (Miami); Chapter 5 (Baltimore);


Ch. 5 and 6, from Hugh Schwarz. 2006. *Urban Renewal, Municipal Revitalization, The Case of Curitiba, Brazil*. [packet]

Polese and Stren Chapter 10 (Nairobi); and Chapter 12 (Conclusion)

Week 7 **The Role of States**

What do they do? Can social sustainability be achieved without them?


Week 8  A View from the Global Economy

May 19  Walden Bello, 2004, Foreword: The Crisis of the Globalist Project; Ch 1 Intro: The Multiple Crisis of Global Capitalism; Ch 2: Marginalizing the South in the International System

May 21  Bello, Ch 3: Sidestepping Democracy at the Multilateral Agencies; Ch 4: The Crisis of Legitimacy; Ch 5: The Vicissitudes of Reform

Week 9  A Sustainable Future?


Bello, Ch 6 Proposals for Governance Reform: A Critical Analysis; Ch 7 The Alternative.


Week 10  Wrap-up. Unanswered questions.


The State of the Commons (Report)
http://onthecommons.org/content.php?id=1548


June 4  Last Class: Summary Day

How do we define social sustainability? Course Evaluation Discussion

Final Papers are Due June 4th in class!