

## UMass Dartmouth - IST 444 Online - Summer 2008

### *Welcome to Sustainable Living Class*

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***Sustainable Living*** introduces you to diverse global perspectives and practical personal solutions related to environmental, economic and social sustainability. The course presents a historical, ethical and technical review of the impact that our daily decisions make on the global condition. Most important however is we learn to make decisions on a daily basis related to energy, food, land use, water and air, waste, housing, personal health, and community. In this class you will create your own Personal Holistic Goal and learn to make decisions toward that end. You will be presented with a framework for changing yourself, your community and the world, and learn to speak effectively about the need for change. And if you can't take this class, just read this article by Michael Pollan titled "[Why Bother?](#)" It really sums up the class well.

**Dates:** May 27 – June 30, 2008.

**Instructor:** John M. Gerber, UMass Professor of Plant Sciences

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**Format:** This class is a lecture and discussion format delivered in an on-line environment. You will have access to the instructor via WebCT Vista, however I will not be available "24/7". The class is delivered over a five-week period and while there is some flexibility it is important to move along with the class completing a unit each week. It is designed so that

you can complete the course successfully by investing no more than two hours per day over that time.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

- To understand global challenges to sustainability from economic, environmental and social perspectives.
- To understand the impact of personal decisions on local, regional, national and global sustainability.
- To increase awareness of alternatives to current practices that impact long-term sustainability.
- To evaluate your personal life goals and practice decision-making tools to move toward these goals.
- To change personal behavior consistent with your personal life goals.

**Lesson Plan:** the draft lesson plan will be posted online.

**Required Textbook:** *The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait of a Paradigm Shift* by Andres R. Edwards. Be sure you have a textbook BEFORE the class begins.

**Exams and Grades:** There will be no exams in this class. Your grade will be based on your successful completion of 4 quizzes, 5 homework assignments, your Personal Holistic Goal, and participation in online discussions and email. Grades will be based on:

- Quizzes = 10 points each x 4 = 40 points
- Homework = 5 points each x 5 = 25 points
- Holistic Goal project = 15 points
- Final Project = 10 points
- Discussion and Email Participation = 10 points

Grades will be given using these ranges:

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
F	< 62