



April 15, 2013

Dear Meghan,

In Spring 2012, the Faculty Committee on Sustainability Curriculum convened to design a new interdisciplinary minor in sustainability for undergraduate students. This program would be open to students from all schools, and allow them to explore the challenges of sustainability and learn about solutions to these pressing issues at the local, regional, and global scale. The committee also envisioned a groundbreaking introduction to sustainability course to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the field, and expose students to diverse perspectives early on.

The Sustainability 1001 team is a subset of the Faculty Committee that volunteered to teach this new experimental course, over their regular course load. Composed of six dedicated faculty sustainability champions from diverse backgrounds, the team worked tirelessly over the summer to develop the class. Team-teaching has never before been done at this scale at GW, and SUST1001 serves as an exemplary model of teamwork, learning and good communication.

This course introduces students to the goals, principles, and practical applications of sustainability. The scope of the material ranges from major environmental and social issues to trends occurring in the current society from a multidisciplinary lens. It will teach students how to understand the complex confluence of social systems and natural resource systems. Topics include the intellectual origins of sustainability, environmental law and regulation, pollution, water, climate, energy and public health. The course introduces perspectives from the natural and social sciences, arts and humanities, engineering, and professional disciplines and explores how their interconnection increases the prospects for a sustainable future.

The syllabus incorporates learning aspects and readings from a plethora of sustainability-related disciplines. SUST1001 is a combination of lecture and panel-style discussions, which help students, not only learn about what sustainability is, but also get first-hand opinions from people in different related fields – which is rare for an undergraduate class. It is no wonder that the class filled its capacity of 100 students within the first few weeks of registration.

SUST1001 illustrates how GW's faculty members are innovative and dedicated to excellence and surpassing the expectations of the students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Forrest Maltzman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Forrest Maltzman  
Professor of Political Science  
Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Planning