



WASHINGTON CENTER
@ THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

CURRICULUM FOR THE BIOREGION INITIATIVE

**An Annotated Bibliography of Sustainability Related
Texts being used in “Sustainability 101” Courses
Suggested by the Sustainability Courses Faculty Learning Community
2011-2012**

Introduction: Curriculum for the Bioregion, an initiative of the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education at The Evergreen State College, aims to prepare undergraduates for citizenship in a world where the complex issues of sustainability—environmental quality, community health and wellbeing, and justice and social equity—are paramount. To reach large numbers of students, the Curriculum for the Bioregion initiative works with college faculty to build place-based learning and sustainability concepts into a wide array of undergraduate courses—often creating “faculty learning communities” who work collaboratively to share curriculum and teaching approaches.

In 2011, the “Sustainability Courses Faculty Learning Community” (a working group of 18 faculty members at 11 colleges and universities, mostly in western Washington) assembled this list of books, which they are using in their respective courses on sustainability.

Additional resources: Members of the Sustainability Courses Faculty Learning Community are posting their syllabi and course descriptions in the Curriculum for the Bioregion Curriculum Collection, which can be found at www.bioregion.evergreen.edu. A work-in-progress website of our collected sustainability learning outcomes and big ideas, with links to many additional resources, has been created by Robert Turner at University of Washington Bothell. Here is the website URL:
http://faculty.washington.edu/rturner1/Sustainability/Big_Ideas01.htm

Books are listed in the following categories:

1. Sustainability and Sustainable Development Principles in History
2. Sustainability and Sustainable Development Practices and Proposals
3. Systems Thinking
4. Ethics, Equity, and Justice
5. Unsustainable Aspects of Human Societies

Sustainability and Sustainable Development Principles in History

Blewitt, John. *Understanding Sustainable Development*. London: Earthscan, 2008.

In his book, *Understanding Sustainable Development*, John Blewitt discusses the often complicated topic of sustainable development in a simplistic way that readers from a multitude of backgrounds can understand. Readers are provided a comprehensive, yet simplistic, explanation of the jargon, policies, practices, and theories that are involved in sustainable development. Blewitt covers a wide range of sustainable development issues—from globalization and sustainable development, and sustainable development politics and governance, to communication and learning for sustainability, and leading a sustainable process. John Blewitt is the Sustainability and Knowledge Transfer Co-ordinator for the School of Geography, Archaeology and Earth Resources and the University of Exeter.

***Brundtland's Report. Our Common Future*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.**

In their book, *Our Common Future*, The World Commission on Environment and Development entreats the nations of the world to unite to form a more advantageous economical and ecological amalgamation in order to address the environmental and economic problems the world is facing. The commission advocates for society to start using the sustainable resources available and develop a worldwide economic structure that will eliminate the gap between developing countries and the rest of the world. The commission also explores sustainable development practices and compares them to the current unsustainable practices and a more equitable international economic system. The World Commission on Environment and Development, headed by the prime minister of Norway-- Gro Brundtland, was established by the United Nations in 1983 to address the degeneration of the world's environment and natural resources.

Dresner, Simon. *Principles of Sustainability*. London: Earthscan, 2002.

In his book, *The Principles of Sustainability*, Simon Dresner argues that the foremost issue facing the world today is sustainability. He explains the current sustainability discussions, the history of sustainability, the obstacles for sustainable development and the possible methods for defeating these obstacles in a concise—but simplistic—manner, which makes it easy for individuals without any sustainable development background to understand. Dresner also discusses economics and climate change. Simon Dresner holds a B.S. from the University of St. Andrews, an MA from California State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh. He is currently a Research Fellow in the Environmental Group at the Policy Studies Institute. **Teacher Notes:** *Dresner provides an overview of the subject in concise chapters. Unlike most authors on sustainability topics who unabashedly work to persuade readers to think as they do, Dresner strives to be objective and above the fray. His academic approach is enlivened a bit by his wry take on the issues.*

Ehrlich, Paul and Anne Ehrlich. *Betrayal of Science and Reason: How Anti-environmental Rhetoric Threatens our Future*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1996.

In their book, *Betrayal of Science and Reason*, Paul and Anne Ehrlich challenge the individuals who are downplaying the worldwide environmental issues we are facing, and explain that this downplaying is only making the search for solutions more difficult. The authors compare the common views of the scientific community with anti-environmental rhetoric-- addressing issues such as food production, ozone depletion, population growth, and biodiversity loss-- providing empirical evidence to back up their arguments. Finally, the Ehrlich's explain how scientists can become activists for environmental issues without losing support from the scientific community. Paul and Anne Ehrlich are writers and professors of biological sciences at Stanford University. Anne is on the board of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Environment, Development, and Security. Paul Ehrlich is also a Bing Professor of Populations Studies. **Teacher Notes:** *Useful as a relatively timeless source for rebuttals to anti-environmental, and now anti-sustainability, perspectives.*

Klinge, Matthew. *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

In his book, *Emerald City*, Matthew Klinge explores the role of environment in the development of the city of Seattle Washington, from its beginning to the present day. Although Seattle, which has been dubbed the Emerald City, is known for the natural beauty of the environment around it, the author argues that the city has a history of environmental degradation. Klinge proposes a new way to understand the relationship between cultures and nature in his book, using Seattle as a case study, and provides insight to any city attempting to exist harmoniously with the natural environment. Matthew Klinge graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a B.A. in history and from the University of Washington with a M.A. and Ph.D. in history. He is currently an Associate Professor of history and environmental studies at Bowdoin College. *Teacher Notes: A great book! We use it so students can learn about this place, where most of them live. It makes a strong case about the links between people, the environment and sustainability.*

McNeill, John Robert. *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th Century World*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2000.

In his book, *Something New Under the Sun*, John Robert McNeill explores the twentieth century through its environmental history. The author demonstrates how the vast changes that we have inflicted on our environment have created a new environment—with refashioned land, water and air. McNeill argues that the environmental history of the twentieth century will eventually overshadow all other historical events--like world wars and the spread of mass literacy. John Robert McNeil holds a B.A. from Swarthmore College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University. He is a writer and a professor of world history and environmental history at Georgetown. *Teacher Notes: I suggest just because I've noticed many faculty from a variety of disciplines using it.*

Sustainability and Sustainable Development Practices and Proposals

Beavan, Colin. *No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.

In his book, *No Impact Man*, Colin Beavan documents the environmental experiment he conducted for a year to produce as little impact as possible on the environment. He took drastic measures to reduce his carbon footprint, including turning off his electricity, getting rid of his car, and going all organic. The experiences he documents in his book demonstrate how this type of sustainable living can be beneficial and fulfilling. In addition to a book on his experience, he also has a blog and documentary. Colin Beavan has a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Liverpool. Beavan has worked as a consultant for philanthropic organizations and is currently on the board of directors of New York's Transportation Alternatives, an advisor to the NYU's Sustainability Task Force and a visiting professor at NYU. He has written two other books, delivered presentations all over the world and he has received numerous awards. *Teacher Notes: A family attempts to live with no impact for a year. A great way to experience sustainable practices in a personal and accessible way. Beavan also brings in other research.*

Berger, Warren. *Glimmer: How Design Can Transform Your Life, and Maybe Even the World*. New York: Penguin Press, 2009.

In his book, *Glimmer*, Warren Berger sets out to explore what defines design and discovers that it affects almost every aspect of the world. He attempts to make the principles of design accessible to the layperson as he presents its the history and future through hundreds of interviews with world famous designers, such as Mau and Dean Kamen. The book addresses business, social challenges, and the way we live and interact through the lens of design. Warren Berger graduated from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Education and went on to work as a newspaper reporter, before becoming a magazine

editor/writer. He has written for The New York Times, Wired, GQ, Reader's Digest, and the Los Angeles Times Magazine, among others. He has been self-employed for over 15 years, writing articles, novels, blogs, and nonfiction. **Teacher Notes:** *Very Inspiring! New take on design in business, social systems and personal life. Empowering!*

Cote, Charlotte. *Spirits of Our Whaling Ancestors: Revitalizing Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth Tradition*. Seattle: University of Washington Press; Vancouver, B.C.: UBC Press, 2010.

In her book, *Spirits of Our Whaling Ancestors*, Charlotte Cote examines the revival of grey whale hunting by the Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth tribes after the grey whale was removed from the endangered species list after being hunted to near extinction in the 1920s by commercial whalers. She analyzes Native studies, Native rights issues, environmentalism, animals rights, and anti-treaty conservatism in her book and argues that whaling defines who the tribes are. Charlotte Cote has a B.A. in political science from Simon Fraser University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in comparative ethnic studies from the University of California at Berkeley. She is a member of the Potlatch Fund Foundations Board and is an advisor to the United Indians of All Tribes Foundations. **Teacher Notes:** *Food sovereignty, ceremony and traditional, ecological knowledge, treaties, history, environmental movement, health, and politics.*

Edwards, Andrés R. *Thriving Beyond Sustainability: Pathways to a Resilient Society*. Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers, 2010.

In his book, *Thriving Beyond Sustainability*, Andrés Edwards presents an outline of organizations, communities, and individuals that are dedicated to a future of ecological health and a revitalized environmental, social and economical system. Among the various initiatives that are profiled in this book is Leading the way in Green Commerce, Environmental Conservatism, and Social Transformation. This book challenges its readers to view the world with hope in spite of the disease, and environmental and ecological devastation that the world faces today. Andres R Edwards has a B.A. in geography for the University of Colorado and an MA in humanities and leadership/culture, ecology and sustainable community from New College of California. He is the founder and president of EduTracks and has written two books and co-authored one. **Teacher Notes:** *Full of examples of initiatives that advance sustainability. Great and positive book. We use it in our Sustainability Course in C3 at Antioch.*

Grossman, Zoltan and Alan Parker, eds. Foreword by Billy Frank, Jr. *Asserting Native Resilience: Pacific Rim Indigenous Nations Face the Climate Crisis*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press: First Peoples: New Directions in Indigenous Studies, 2012.

Indigenous nations are on the frontline of the current climate crisis. With cultures and economies among the most vulnerable to climate-related catastrophes, Native peoples are developing responses to climate change that serve as a model for Native and non-Native communities alike. Indigenous peoples are using tools of resilience that have enabled them to respond to sudden environmental changes and protect the habitat of salmon and other culturally vital species. They are creating defenses to strengthen their communities, mitigate losses, and adapt where possible. *Asserting Native Resilience* presents a rich variety of perspectives on Indigenous responses to the climate crisis, reflecting the voices of more than twenty contributors, including Indigenous leaders and Native and non-Native scientists, scholars, and activists from the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, Alaska, and Aotearoa/New Zealand. Also included is a resource directory of indigenous governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities that are researching and responding to climate change and a community organizing booklet for use by Northwest tribes. Grossman and Parker are Members of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College who have been involved for many years, both regionally and internationally with Native communities responding to the climate crisis.

Hitchcock, Darcy and Willard, Marsha. *The Step-by-Step Guide to Sustainability Planning: How to Create and Implement Sustainability Plans in Any Business or Organization.* London; Sterling, Va.: Earthscan, 2008.

In their book, *The Step-by-Step Guide to Sustainability Planning*, Darcy Hitchcock and Marsha Willard argue that sustainability is currently the most significant business imperative, yet non-experts do not have the knowledge to carry out a sustainability plan. Hitchcock and Willard present a straightforward step-by-step guide on how to create a sustainability plan. Each chapter is broken into two sections: the first section contains case studies and background reading, while the second section contains instructions and a selection matrix, which helps the implementer choose the best methods. Darcy Hitchcock and Marsha Willard are professors of sustainable business at Bainbridge Graduate Institute's MBA program. They have won the Outstanding Academic Title award in 2007, presented by Choice Magazine for their book, *The Business Guide to Sustainability*, and have an Oregon based firm called AXIS Performance Advisors. **Teacher Notes:** *Organizational and business change.*

Hoelting, Kurt. *The Circumference of Home: One Man's Quest for a Radically Local Life.* Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press; Philadelphia, PA: Perseus Books Group, 2010.

In his book, *The Circumference of Home*, Kurt Hoelting documents his year-long environmental experiment to reduce his carbon footprint and live off the resources available within a circumference of 100 kilometers of his own home. His experiment was spurred by his realization that his environmental convictions and his lifestyle were at odds with each other, and his realization that if he couldn't make changes in his own life then why should anyone else? *The Circumference of Home* attempts to remind us all that the things we really need are closer to us than we expect. Kurt Hoelting, a native to the Puget Sound region, is an accomplished commercial fisherman, with over 25 years of experience fishing in Alaska, and a wilderness guide.

Kaza, Stephanie. *Mindfully Green: A Personal and Spiritual Guide to Whole Earth Thinking.* Boston: Shambhala, 2008.

In her book, *Mindfully Green*, Stephanie Kaza introduces the "green practice path," which is described as a Buddhist-influenced philosophy for taking environmental action in an effective and real way. She argues that the development of an individual's personal connection to the environment is often neglected in the argument for sustainable living. Kaza offers practical approaches to living eco-friendly and to make living green a personal choice founded on environmental compassion. Stephanie Kaza graduated from the University of California with a Ph.D. in biology, Stanford University with a M.A. in education, and a B.A. in biology from Oberlin College. She is currently a professor of environmental studies at the University of Vermont and the President of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies.

Louv, Richard. *The Nature Principle.* Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2011.

In his book, *The Nature Principle*, Richard Louv argues that our society, with its overmuch faith in technology, has not yet realized the power of nature and the benefits it can provide. The author uses modern research, personal accounts and other anecdotal evidence to demonstrate that by living in nature we can promote more sustainable businesses and economies, mental acuteness, creativity, and health, among other things. Louv challenges his readers to start living a nature-balance life and argues that by living a nature-balanced life the human race will thrive. Richard Louv graduated from the University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism. He has written for many prominent newspapers, including the New York Times and the Times of London, and has written seven books. **Teacher Notes:** *Building on his best-selling book, Last Child in the Woods, this book focuses more on the adult experience of nature. Accessible, journalistic style.*

McDonough, William and Michael Braungart. *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*. New York: North Point Press, 2002.

In their book, *Cradle to Cradle*, William McDonough and Michael Braungart argue that rather than the “reduce, reuse, recycle” philosophy, urged by many environmentalists, society should adopt a manufacturing model that creates products that can be used to nourish something new at the end of their life, rather than adding to the world’s waste. The authors assert that with today’s knowledge of the environment designers can create products, buildings and even regional plans that allow business and environment to co-exist. McDonough and Braungart present their design model, with instructions on how to innovate in today’s economy, and argue that this shift in design is essential for a sustainable future. William McDonough graduated from the Yale University School of Architecture and Dartmouth College. He is the founding principle of a design firm that practices environmentally intelligent architecture and is known as a leader in sustainable development. Michael Braungart studied Chemistry at Konstanz und Darmstadt Universities and received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Hannover. He is a founder of EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung GmbH and the co-founder of McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC). **Teacher Notes:** *I use concepts from this book when discussing green product design, green chemistry, toxics and human health. I use this personally but not have students buy it. Focus on changing the way we make things.*

McKibben, Bill. *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. New York: Times Books, 2010.

In his book, *Eaarth*, Bill McKibben argues that we have waited too long to respond to the threats of global warming and our planet is already changing in unprecedented ways. He explains that defending ourselves from these environmental changes will cost huge sums of money, not to mention lives and livelihoods. McKibben argues that society’s only hope of surviving these environmental challenges rests in building a society and economy that can “hunker down”, focus on what is essential, and create a community that can ride out unprecedented trouble. Bill McKibben attended Harvard University, where he was president of the Harvard Crimson newspaper. He also holds honorary degrees from over 12 colleges, including the University of New York, Massachusetts, and Maine. He is one of the first to caution of the threat of global warming and he also the founder of the environmental organizations Step It Up and 360.org.

Patel, Raj. *The Value of Nothing: How to Reshape Market Society and Redefine Democracy*. New York: Picador, 2010.

In his book, *The Value of Nothing*, Raj Patel argues that our assumption that the price of something is a determinate of its value is wrong. He questions how we came to have markets and argues that our current economic problems are due to a democratically bankrupt political system. In the first part of his book, Patel questions how to rebalance society, while the second part of his book offers methods that have been used around the world to explain the worth or the world. Raj Patel holds degrees from the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics and Cornell University. Currently he is a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, a Research Fellow at the University of KwaZulu-Natal School of Development Studies, and a Fellow at the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

Pollan, Michael. *In Defense of Food*. New York: Penguin Press, 2008.

In his book, *In Defense of Food*, Michael Pollan argues that the food being eaten in the modern western world is not really food, but rather scientifically engineered “food-like substance.” Pollan claims that real food, as our ancestors knew it, needs to be defended from both nutritional science and the food industry, and that 30 years of official nutritional advice has only made individuals sicker and more obese. Finally, Pollan proposes a new way of eating, which is informed by responsibly grown, unprocessed food. Michael Pollan holds a Masters degree in english from Columbia University. He has written four New

York Times Bestsellers and was named one of the world's top 100 influential people by TIME Magazine. Pollan was appointed the John S. and James L. Knight Professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism.

Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin Press, 2006.

In his book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan discusses the importance of an individual deciding what to eat for dinner and claims that the answer to this question may well determine our species survival in light of the current food landscape. Pollan examines the various food chains that sustain humans-- industrial food, organic or alternative food and food be forge ourselves-- and offers answers to the question "what should we have for dinner?", that have a huge political, morals and economical impact on the world. Michael Pollan holds a Masters degree in English from Columbia University. He has written four New York Times Bestsellers and was named one of the world's top 100 influential people by TIME Magazine. Pollan was appointed the John S. and James L. Knight Professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism.

Rifkin, Jeremy. *The Third Industrial Revolution: How Lateral Power is Transforming Energy, the Economy, and the World*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

In his book, *The Third Industrial Revolution*, Jeremy Rifkin argues that a Third Industrial Revolution, merging Internet technologies and renewable energies, has already begun. This revolution will bring with it a new era of "distributed capitalism" wherein untold numbers of existing and new businesses will become energy players. Jeremy Rifkin is a longstanding writer, speaker, and activist who explores the potential and impacts of scientific and technological change. Another recent book is *The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crisis* (2010).

Schor, Juliet. *Plentitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*. New York, NY: Penguin Press, 2010.

In her book, *Plentitude*, Juliet Schor offers her reader a new way of understanding the ways we live. She explains that mankind is using up the planets resources faster than they are being generated and as a result food, transportation and energy are becoming increasingly expensive-- not to mention the environmental costs. Schor argues that changing to a system that places sustainability at its center will not only start healing the environmental and accompanying economic problems, it will also allow our society to be more secure and healthy. *Plentitude* acts as a road map for starting to live a more sustainable life. Juliet Schor holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Massachusetts. She is the co-founder and co-chair of the Center for a New American Dream, an organization focused on sustainability. She was a Professor of Economics at Harvard University for 17 years and is currently a Professor of sociology at Boston College.

Shirky, Clay. *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations*. New York: Penguin, 2008.

In his book, *Here Comes Everybody*, Clay Shirky explores how new forms of social interactions—made possible by technology—are transforming how humans are forming groups and interacting within them. He claims that these new forms of communication are destroying, transforming and creating new traditional hierarchical structures, along with business models, that have existed to manage the work of groups. Shirky argues that these new forms of social interaction will have profound and lasting social and economic effects on our society. Clay Shirkey graduated from Yale University with a B.A. He is currently a writer, consultant and teacher of the effects of internet technologies, with joint appointments at New York University in the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute and the Interactive Telecommunications Program. **Teacher Notes:** *Idealistic overview of the potential of social networking for positive social change.*

Senge, Peter, et al. *Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future*. Cambridge, Mass.: SoL, 2004.

In their book, *Presence*, the authors present their examination—lasting over a year and a half—of a new theory on change and learning, transformational change. They explore what possibilities this new theory can offer the world and how it occurs. The authors introduce the term “presence”—meaning the whole is present in any of its parts—to the disciplines of leadership, business, education and government, in an attempt to encourage them to shed old patters of action and observation. The authors argue that by encouraging a deeper level of learning we become more deeply aware of “the whole” and can then shape its evolution and by extension our futures. Peter Senge holds a Ph.D. in management from MIT and is the founding chair of SoL. Both Senge and Scharmer are Senior Lecturers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Scharmer holds a Ph.D. in economics and management from Witten-Herdecke University. Joseph Jaworski is a co-founder of SoL and a member of the Board of Governors of the MIT Center for Organizational Learning. Betty Sue Flowers is a graduate from the University of Texas and the University of London, and is currently the director of the Lyndon Johnson Library. **Teacher Notes:** *Getting outside of one’s world view. Subtitle of book: An exploration of profound change in people, organizations and society.*

Worldwatch Institute. *State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability*. London: Earthscan, 2010.

The Worldwatch Institute is one the world’s leading environmentally sustainable development research centers. In its book, *State of the World 2010*, the institute begins by addressing the world’s culture of consumerism, which encourages a degree of consumption in conflict with the planet’s finite resources, explaining that by continuing along these lines will leave little chance for us to solve the environmental issues we are now facing, including climate change. The institute explains that it will take time for the world to convert to sustainable practices, but it will provide solutions to environmental, economic and social issues. *State of the World 2010* demonstrates what a sustainable future will look like. The Worldwatch Institute is a leading research center for sustainable development, which focuses on developing strategies for a sustainable society. **Teacher Notes:** *I use this book for a sustainability seminar to provide weekly reading homework to deepen engagement with the subject. Students really enjoy the book and it provides good info on subjects I’m not an expert in.*

Systems Thinking

Gunderson, Lance and Hollings. C.S.. *Panarchy: Understanding Transformations in Human and Natural Systems*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2002.

In their book, *Panarchy*, the co-editors-- Lance Gunderson and C.S. Hollings-- use the term panarchy to describe the cycles of expansion, reorganization, culmination and reinvigoration that interlink all systems (including nature systems, human systems and human-nature systems). Gunderson and Hollings present a compilation ideas from the leading thinkers of this field that examine panarchy and identify practices of management that foster modernization and resilience. Lance Gunderson attended the University of Florida where he received a B.A. and Masters degree in botany and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering sciences. He has co-authored three other books and is currently a professor of Environmental Studies at Emory University. C.S. Hollings attended the University of Toronto, where he received a B.A. and Masters degree, and the University of British Columbia, where he received a Ph.D.. He is currently emeritus faculty at the University of Florida in the Zoology department. **Teacher Notes:** *Adaptive cycles and resilience in human and natural systems. Profound.*

Meadows, Donella H., and Diana Wright. *Thinking in Systems: A Primer*. White River Junction, Vt.: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008.

In her book, *Thinking in Systems*, Donella Meadows explains that the biggest issues facing the world—including war, poverty and environmental degradation—are system failures and they cannot be fixed in isolation from one another. Essentially her book offers insight on problem solving, on the large and small scales, and teaches readers to develop system-thinking skills that are becoming more essential in the 21st century. Meadows attempts to remind readers to focus on what is important, to stay humble, and to continue being learners. Donella Meadow held a Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University. She was a Pew Scholar in Conservation and Environment and a MacArthur Fellow. Meadow's was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1991. She died unexpectedly in 2001. *Teacher Notes: Just what the title indicates—a really accessible primer on systems thinking. Excellent on key concepts!*

Montgomery, David. *King of Fish: The Thousand-Year Run of Salmon*. Boulder, Co.: Perseus Books, 2003.

In his book, *King of Fish*, David Montgomery explores the evolution and near-extinction of salmon. He traces the impact humans have had on salmon over the past 1000 years and shows a repetitious pattern of historical instances of overfishing and changes in rivers and oceans, which have made the world inhospitable to salmon. He asks his readers to consider what it means for the world and other endangered species when a region as prosperous as the Pacific Northwest, located in one of the richest countries of the world, cannot provide for its “icon species.” Montgomery presents recommendations for reinventing our environmental decisions. David Montgomery holds a B.S. in geology from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in geomorphology from University of California, Berkeley. Currently he is a professor of geomorphology at the University of Washington and is conducting field research in eastern Tibet and the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. *Teacher Notes: I have used this book in classes at all levels. It is a good balance between substantive material and bigger ideas. Interdisciplinary, Great for teaching systems thinking and complexity of problems and problem solving. It is particularly useful for showing the way different cultures have interacted with the non-human environment across space and time.*

Walker, Brian, and David Salt. *Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2006.

In their book, *Resilience Thinking*, Brian Walker and David Salt point out that our ecosystems and communities are increasingly unable to provide the resources that are essential to a sustainable planet. They introduce a new method for managing the planets resources, rejecting the traditional approach of “more control, more intensification, and greater efficiency”. Walker and Salt argue that greater efficiency cannot solve our planets resource problems and they introduce the relatively new paradigm, called “resilience”, and compare it to current practices being used to combat the issues facing our environment and the resources it provides us. The authors are careful to present theory of resilience in an uncomplicated way and they provide 5 case studies as examples. Brian Walker holds a Ph.D. in plant ecology from the University of Saskatchewan and is currently a research fellow with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and the Program Director of the Resilience Alliance. David Salt holds a Ph.D. from Liverpool University and has been a science editor and writer for over 18 years—publishing over 75 peer-reviewed journals. *Teacher Notes: Used this in my science and sustainability course as a non-technical introduction to resilience thinking.*

Wessels, Tom. *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*. Burlington, Vt.: University of Vermont Press; Hanover: University Press of New England, 2006.

In his book, *The Myth of Progress*, Tom Wessels begins by explaining that our current path, highlighted by continual economic expansion and an unsatisfactory use of resources, is in opposition of the laws that govern natural systems. He presents his 3 laws of sustainability-- (1) limits to growth, (2) thermodynamics, and (3) self-organization—which he claims have been ignored by economists,

politicians and corporations alike, who favor the idea of unlimited growth. Wessels uses examples from natural systems to explain the complex laws of sustainability, making them more accessible, and argues for a large scale cultural change. Tom Wessels holds a MA in ecology from the University of Colorado. He is currently a professor of ecology and the founder of the Master's degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch New England Graduate School. **Teacher Notes:** *I use this as a way to frame "the problem" as well as a way to define sustainability. Complex systems theory applied to biological and social systems. Critique of growth and progress.*

Ethics, Equity, and Justice

Agyeman, Julian. *Sustainable Communities and the Challenge of Environmental Justice*. New York: New York University Press, 2005.

In his book, *Sustainable Communities and the Challenge of Environmental Justice*, Julian Agyeman defines environmental justice as a response to any threat to community health and sustainability as practices that allow us to meet our needs without compromising the ability for our successors to meet their needs in the future. He explores the ideological differences between environmental justice and sustainability communities and demonstrates how these two communities can work together. Agyeman argues that sustainability has yet to collaborate with the difficulties of environmental justice and provides real-life strategies and model organizations that can be employed for sustainable communities and environmental justice partnerships. Julian Agyeman is an environmental social scientist, who has written over 150 publications and serves as an editor for several prominent journals. He is a professor and a chair of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning and Tufts University.

Garvey, James. *The Ethics of Climate Change*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2008.

In his book, *The Ethics of Climate Change*, James Garvey argues that social, political, scientific and economical arguments are not enough for taking action to fight climate change. Instead, he argues that our fight against climate change must be grounded in our moral considerations. In other words, our environmental actions must be based on the fact that we are doing matters to us and what we believe is right. Rather than focusing on science, Garvey focuses on the ethics surrounding climate change and environmentalism. James Garvey holds a Ph.d. in philosophy from the University College London. He works for the Royal Institute of Philosophy and is the editor of *The Philosopher's Magazine*. **Teacher Notes:** *The entire book can be good for a course focused on environmental ethics and/or climate change. I only have students read the chapter titled Individual Choices so they must wrestle with the ethical implications of being an American.*

Moore, Kathleen Dean, and Nelson, Michael P. (eds.). *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*. San Antonio, Tx.: Trinity University Press, 2010.

In their book, *Moral Ground*, Kathleen Moore and Michael Nelson present a compilation of testimonials from individuals from a wide range of disciplines-- including religious leaders, activists, and naturalists. The authors and other contributors argue that it is the moral responsibility of humans to care for the planet, especially in the light of the increasing environmental degradation and global warming. The authors and contributors offer what scientific knowledge alone does not-- information on what individuals can do to help the environment and our society. Kathleen Dean Moore holds a Ph.D. in the philosophy of law from the University of Colorado. She is currently a professor of philosophy at Oregon State University. Michael P. Nelson holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Lancaster University. He is currently a professor of philosophy at Michigan State University. **Teacher Notes:** *This book has crisp, provocative essays that are excellent for student seminars, as well as faculty seminars!*

Unsustainable Aspects of Human Societies

Climate Central. *Global Weirdness: Severe Storms, Deadly Heat Waves, Relentless Heat Waves, Rising Seas, and the Weather of the Future.* Pantheon/Random House, 2012.

This book attempts to lay out the current state of knowledge about climate change, including what we know, how we know it, and what is left to figure out, and attempts to explain what climate scientists are confident about. An independent organization of leading scientists and journalists researching and reporting the facts about our changing climate and its impact on the American public. Climate Central is an independent organization of leading scientists and journalists researching and reporting the facts about our changing climate and its impact on the American public.

Dauvergne, Peter. *Shadows of Consumption: Consequences for the Global Environment.* Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008.

In his award winning book, *The Shadows of Consumption*, Peter Dauvergne argues that the ecosystem and its inhabitants are in danger from the consequences of consumption. His book maps the cost of consumption and the environmental consequences of 5 commodities-- including automobiles, gasoline, and beef. In his book, he proposes “balanced consumption” for consumers and corporations and argues that it is more essential for reforms in the political economy of the world to reduce consumption than a person’s individual efforts. Peter Dauvergne is a professor of political science and the Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Politics at the University of British Columbia. He has published 9 books and currently has a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant (2010-13).

Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail and Succeed.* New York: Penguin Books, 2005.

In his book, *Collapse*, Jared Diamond explores what has caused the greatest civilizations of the past to fall and demonstrates what our society can learn from them. *Collapse* is the sequel to Diamond’s previous book—*Guns, Germs, and Steel*—in which he explores the innovations that allowed certain civilizations to become world powers. In this companion book, Diamond argues that despite our apparent wealth and power, warning signs have emerged that mimic the warning signs seen in earlier, and also seemingly powerful, civilizations before their collapse. Jared Diamond holds a Ph.D. in physiology and membrane biophysics from the University of Cambridge. He is a professor of geography at the University of California, he has published over 200 articles, and he has won many awards- including the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. **Teacher Notes:** *The last chapter of Collapse is a multidisciplinary synthesis of the many ways our civilization is environmentally unsustainable. This can be used simply as a gripping and devastating justification for the sustainability movement, but it serves even better when I challenge students to critique it. The rest of the book provides many solid examples of how past societies exceeded the carrying capacity of their environment due to environmental degradation, resource limitations, and cultural inflexibility.*

Heinberg, Richard. *Peak Everything: Waking up to the Century of Declines.* Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers, 2010

In *Peak Everything*, Richard Heinberg describes the ways in which the world is headed into an age of decline, but also describes how we can make the transition from “The Age of Excess” to the “Era of Modesty” with grace and satisfaction, while preserving the best of our collective achievements. Richard Heinberg is a journalist, lecturer, senior fellow-in-residence at the Post Carbon Institute and a self-proclaimed “Peak Oil educator.” He is the author of nine books, including *Blackout* and *The Party’s Over*.

Jackson, Maggie. *Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming Dark Age*. Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 2008.

In her book, *Distracted*, Maggie Jackson argues that despite the wonders produced by the current technological and scientific advances, these advances have also contributed to an age of fragmentation and distraction-- where individuals are able to stop, connect and reflect to an increasingly smaller extent. Jackson asserts that if this continues we will become progressively unable to think critically and creatively, and unable to form meaningful relationships-- which, in turn, will negatively affect all dimensions of our society. Jackson's book acts as a reality check and a beacon of hope. Maggie Jackson is a graduate of Yale University and the London School of Economics. She is award winning journalist and author. Jackson writes a popular column in the Boston Globe called "Balancing Acts" and was formerly a foreign correspondent in Tokyo and London for the Associated Press.

Margonelli, Lisa. *Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline*. New York: Nan A. Talese/ Doubleday, 2007.

In her book, *Oil on the Brain*, Lisa Margonelli explores the ins and outs of the oil industry, traveling over 100000 miles, from her local gas station to the oil fields in Venezuela and the Iranian oil platform in an attempt to understand the vast industry that affects nearly everyone. She presents her experiences, the history, politics, and corruption of the oil industry and warning signs that everyone who uses an automobile should heed. Finally, Margonelli argues that it is essential for the world to begin exploring and using alternative energy sources. Lisa Margonelli graduated from Yale University. She has written articles for the San Francisco Chronicle and Wired, among others. Currently, Margonelli is an Irvine Fellow at the New American Foundation.

Orr, David W. *Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

In his book, *Down to the Wire*, David Orr argues that the combination of disregard for the well-being of future generations, negligent politics, and an economy based on over-consumption has brought us to an environmental "tipping point"-- where our planet is warming, our oceans are rising, and so on. Orr explains that planet destabilization has already begun, and cannot be stopped, and offers a wide range of proposals to help cope with the changes that are taking place on our planet. David W. Orr holds a B.A. from Westminster College, an M.A. from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Currently he is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and a Politics at Oberlin College and a James Marsh Professor at the University of Vermont. **Teacher Notes:** *Passionate, if somewhat rambly. Big picture view of our unsustainability and the urgent need for cultural change. Very thoughtful.*

Robbins, Richard H. *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*. Boston, Mass.: Allyn & Bacon, 1999.

In his book, *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*, Richard Robbins examines the history, culture, and economic, environmental and social consequences of capitalism. Robbins argues that the issues associated with capitalism-- like environmental devastation and social and economic inequality-- are ingrained to capitalism and also threaten to countermand everything that the culture of capitalism has accomplished. In the final chapter of his book, Robbins offers policy changes that he believes essential to address the issues he discussed in the book. Richard H. Robbins holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina and an MA in anthropology from New York University. He received the American Anthropological Association AAA/McGraw-Hill Teacher of the Year award in 2005. He is currently a Professor of anthropology at SUNY. **Teacher Notes:** *A text book. I have used Part 1-the consumer, the laborer, the capitalist. An accessible and informative primer on the economy of capitalism.*

Speth, James Gustave, et al. *The Bridge at the End of the World: Capitalism, The Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*. New Haven, Ct: Yale University Press, 2008.

In his book, *The Bridge at the End of the World*, James Speth urges the seriousness of our current environmental situation, explaining that if we continue to consume the world's resources at our current rate we will soon find ourselves amidst environmental and economic devastation—including climate disruption and toxification. Speth argues that the current environmental degradation is a reflection of capitalism and in order to avoid catastrophe we must change our world economy. He offers detailed instructions on how we can avoid environmental disaster by converting to a society that upholds sustainability principles and practices. James Gustave Speth holds a degree from the Yale Law School and is a Rhodes Scholar. He was the dean of the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies before retiring and is currently a professor at Vermont Law School. He has won numerous awards, including Japan's Blue Planet Prize. **Teacher Notes:** *Very lucid, well organized and authoritative overview of the un-sustainability of our society with an emphasis on capitalism and economics. Used this book as the central text for a course on sustainability. Intense short course at Franklin Institute Switzerland Summer 2009.*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Millennium Development Goals Report. New York: United Nations, 2010.

In its report, *Millennium Development Goals*, the UN presents the goals of the Millennium Declaration and reveal how they have or have not been met by the participating countries since 2000. By 2010 the world leaders of the countries participating in the Declaration gathered to discuss its failures and successes in reaching the goals. The failures and successes in reaching the goals in the past are used to chart a new path for achieving the goals in the future. The report claims that with sustained funding and political commitment the goals can be reached. These goals include the elimination of extreme hunger, the creation of universal primary education, the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment, the reduction of child mortality, the improvement in maternal health, the continuation of the fight against diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, the progression of environmental sustainability, and the development of a global partnership for development. The United Nations is an international organization which exists to ensure global cooperation, international law, economic development and human rights, among other things.