

## **Understanding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Human Well-being**

**Class times: Tuesday and Thursday, 7 to 8 pm.**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 8 to 9 pm.**

**Zoom link for all sessions**

### **Program Overview:**

This program provides students with an opportunity to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the way in which they are promoting human well-being across the planet. The four week sessions will give students an overview of the SDGs and then focus on three of the goals related to human well-being:

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Students will work to develop an individual research project on a specific country that explores these three goals. Each student will prepare a research outline, bibliography and research poster that summarizes their findings on their chosen country. In addition to classes, students will have the opportunity for coaching on their own research project development.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Acquaint students with the Sustainable Development Goals as a way to understand human well-being
- Foster critical thinking related to different types of data to measure human well-being
- Enhance research skills with the development of a project that utilizes data to explore progress on three Sustainable Development Goals
- Create an research outline, bibliography and poster that showcases research and presentation skills

**Program Readings:** Readings for this course will all be accessible from the Moodle site. No additional materials will be required.

### **Assignments:**

In addition to the weekly readings assigned, there are three final assignments - a research outline, bibliography and research poster. The research outline will lay out the project, providing an overview of information that will be used for the research poster. The bibliography will support the research and will be graded on accuracy of formatting and quality of sources. The research poster will reflect the findings of the research depicted graphically and succinctly. **The research outline and bibliography will be due Thursday, Feb 19. Posters will be due and presented to the group on Thursday, Feb 26. The graduation ceremony for the course will be held March 12.**

**Grading:** This program is offered on a pass/fail basis. Students must complete the assignments by the due dates to pass. Failure to attend all 8 sessions of the course without extenuating circumstances may compromise your ability to complete the course. The posters will be evaluated based on a [rubric](#) that includes appearance, content and presentation. Each presentation should take about 5 minutes.

**Office Hour/Coaching Sessions:** Office hour/coaching sessions will be held each week as follows: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 9 pm. Suggested topics for these sessions are included in the course outline below but the sessions are open and other issues can be discussed.

### **Program Outline:**

#### **Week 1: The Sustainable Development Goals and Human Well-being**

**Feb 3:** What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

Objective: Provide an overview of the United Nations and the creation of the SDGs, including how success is measured for the goals related to the targets and indicators.

Explore the relationship of the goals to A. Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Activities: Interactive lectures, case studies, short film presentation and group discussion.

[The 17 Goals](#), United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

[Sustainable Development Goals overview](#) from the UN Development Agency

#### **Office Hour/Coaching Session topics: Review of course requirements**

**Feb 5:** What is the relationship between the SDGs and human well-being?

Objective: Identify three goals for in-depth analysis: Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, and Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

Activities: Introduce how these goals are specifically measured through UN data and their greatest impact through examples and interactive data demonstrations.

[Goal 2: Zero Hunger](#)

[Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being](#)

[Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#)

[UN Data Commons for the SDGs](#) - An overview of UN data on the SDGs from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Office Hour/Coaching Session topics: Exploring the indicators for the SDGs and how to work with them.**

## **Week 2: Quantitative versus Qualitative measurements**

**Feb 10:** Types of measurements related to the SDGs

Objective: Introduce the variance in the ways in which success in meeting these goals can be measured over time. Focus on independent versus dependent variables, quantitative and qualitative measurement, outline preparation.

Activities: Interactive lecture, case study, writing methodology.

[Measurement for SDG indicators](#)

[Purdue Online Writing Lab resource](#)

**Office Hour/Coaching session topics: Choosing a country for your topic and where to get the data**

**Feb 12:** How to depict measurements used to determine progress toward human-well-being

Objective: Develop hands-on skills to assess progress on our specific SDGs - hunger, health and water utilizing research poster presentation model.

Activities: Group work to build out practical examples for the three SDGs and how each student can develop their individual projects. Introduction of research poster method to present findings.

George Hess, Kathryn Tosney and Leon Liegel. [Creating Effective Poster Presentations](#), 2022.

**Office hour/Coaching session topics: Exploring research posters and how to depict data.**

### **Week 3: Specific country analysis for the three chosen SDGs**

**Feb 17:** Country analysis

Objective: Look at specific country progress on the three chosen SDGs and different approaches to development.

Activities: Examine specific countries and their approaches to the SDGs based on their level of economic development, access to resources, the role of international organizations and governmental engagement.

[ESCAP methodology for SDG Progress Assessment](#) - Economic And Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

[The Human Development Report](#)

**Office Hour/Coaching session topics: Troubleshoot problems with data and where to find alternative sources of information**

**Feb 19:** Integrate the broader view of the SDGs with specific country data

Objective: Differentiate between different types of data and their indicators

Activities: Group work on comparative data sources and source of variation through examples. Outline and bibliography due.

[National SDG Tracker – SDG progress assessment tailored for your country | SDG Help Desk](#)

**Office Hour/Coaching session topics: How to present your poster to fellow students**

### **Week 4: Human well-being and the SDGs**

**Feb 24:** Will the SDGs make a difference by 2030?

Objective: Progress to date on the SDGs and what can be done to improve outcomes

Activities: Final preparation for presentations

## [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#)

### **Office Hour/Coaching session topics: Final questions on posters and presentations**

Feb 26: Research poster presentations

Objective: Present projects to peers and receive feedback

Activities: Student presentations

### **Coaching session: Wrap up and discussion about the presentations and course**