Course Outline

Our Vision: Rooted in our communities, we will be a globally recognized college delivering innovative learning opportunities and preparing career-ready graduates to be leaders in their fields.

Mission: We are dedicated to student success, academic excellence, and leadership in our communities.

Land Acknowledgement: St. Lawrence College is situated on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe People.

Course Information

Course Name: Creating a Sustainable Society

Course Code: GENE 115

Program(s): This course is taught across multiple programs.

Credit Weight: 3

Total Course Hours: 42

Hours by Instructional Environment: Class: Lab: Field: Other: 42[1]

Pre-requisite(s): n/a

Co-Requisite(s): n/a

Course Equivalencies: n/a

PLAR: n/a

Experiential Learning:

Sustainability Development: Sustainable focused

Campus Dean/Associate Dean Signature of Approval:

Effective Date:

---

[1] This course is offered in multiple delivery modalities: in-class, online, in-field, or faculty-led study abroad.

Course Description

In this course, students are introduced to a systematic approach in the analysis of sustainability challenges in society and the environment. Participants learn to recognize the effect of personal day-to-day practices on global sustainability and to associate the ways in which personal sustainability can be increased. Additionally, students evaluate methods to help move individuals, organizations, or practices toward improved environmental, economic, cultural and social sustainability.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:

Ontario Qualifications Framework Category	Course Learning Outcomes
Depth and Breadth of Knowledge	1. Describe approaches to evaluating sustainability using the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the "pillars of sustainability" framework.
Knowledge of Methodologies	2. Analyze information from a variety of relevant sources in order to think critically about sustainability challenges and solutions.
Application of Knowledge	3. Implement a sustainability [program/plan/event] that promotes increased sustainability efforts by the target audience [individual/community/organization] on an environmental, economic, cultural, or social level. 4. Evaluate how personal choices and actions can positively and negatively impact local and global sustainability.
Communication Skills	5. Use a variety of communication styles to illustrate the inter-connectedness of environmental, economic, social, and cultural aspects of sustainability issues.
Awareness of the Limits of Knowledge	6. Assess professional knowledge and skills relevant to sustainability to identify areas requiring further exploration.
Professional Capacity/Autonomy	7. Set goals for personal and/or professional sustainability to enhance global citizenship.

Relationship to Vocational /Program Specific Learning Outcomes

It is expected that all of the approved provincial outcomes (or those approved in the program proposal) will be achieved during your program. This course contributes to your learning by supporting you in achieving the following identified vocational/program learning outcomes:

General Education courses do not contribute directly to the learning outcomes of any individual program.

Essential Employability Skills

It is expected that all 11 of the Essential Employability Skills will be acquired during certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs. This course contributes to your learning by providing assessed feedback on the following essential employability skills.

Type/Category	#	EES Description	Assessed
Communication	1	Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.	x
	2	Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.	x
Numeracy	3	Execute mathematical operations accurately.	
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	4	Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.	x
	5	Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.	x
Information Management	6	Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.	x
	7	Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.	x
Interpersonal	8	Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions to others.	x
	9	Interact with others in groups or teams in ways that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.	x
Personal	10	Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.	x
	11	Take responsibility for one's own actions, decisions, and consequences.	x

Course Learning Modules

The course will feature the following modules:

Module Title	Topics	CLO*	Learning Experiences	Resources
Introduction to Sustainability	Introduction to sustainability Environmental, social, cultural and economic pillars of sustainability UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	1	Guided discussions with peers Prescribed research Critical reflection Inquiry-based learning	Blackboard Provided material (e.g. readings, websites, videos)
Local to Global Case Studies: Challenges and Solutions	Case studies related to various sustainability topics; examples may include the following themes and will be examined from an interdisciplinary perspective: • Food • Waste • Energy • Environment • Population • Ecotourism • Digital data • Health care	2,5	Case Studies Field trip(s) and/or Guest speaker presentation(s) Peer discussion and feedback Critical reflection Teamwork Inquiry-based learning Independent or class-wide experiential learning opportunity	Blackboard SLC Library Provided material (e.g. readings, websites, videos) Field trip, guest speaker presentations, and/or provided case studies
Personal Sustainability: Challenges	Intercultural competence Identifying effects of personal day-to-day practices on local to global sustainability	4,5,7	Brainstorming Self-directed research Self-evaluation Inquiry-based learning Critical reflection	Blackboard SLC Library Provided material (e.g. readings, websites, videos)
Personal Sustainability: Solutions	Increasing personal sustainability • Goal setting	4,5,6,7,8	Self-directed research Self-evaluation Goal setting Critical reflection	Blackboard SLC Library

Module Title	Topics	CLO*	Learning Experiences	Resources
	• Executing goals		Independent or class-wide experiential or service-learning experience	Provided material (e.g. readings, websites, videos)
Sustainability Knowledge Exchange	Sharing knowledge with others Advocating for sustainability Learning from others	3,5,6	Presentation to peers Peer feedback Inquiry-based learning Critical reflection	Blackboard Provided material (e.g. readings, websites, videos)

CLO: Course Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

Students will demonstrate learning in the following ways:

Assessment Type	CLO*	VLO/PLO**	Description (e.g. Frequency, format)	Weight
Critical Reflection	1,2,4,5,6,7,8	N/A	Students share their learning experiences and explore associated thoughts and analysis using a critical reflection practice approach. Varied formats.	30%
Sustainability Case Study	2,4,5,6	N/A	Documentation and sharing of personal learning resulting from exploration of approved case study topic. Part 1: Progress report. Part 2: Final submission. Variety of formats provided.	 15% 30%
Engagement Activities: Making Learning Visible	1,3,4,5,7,8	N/A	Structured In-Class and/or Homework Learning Experiences. Will include collaborative and individual activities. Activities may be organized so they are stackable or independent. Formats will vary and could include: role-play; guided discussion; mini-presentations; debate; reflections on class material, guest speaker presentations, service learning experiences, or field trips; or other.	25%
Total				**100%**

*CLO: Course Learning Outcome; **VLO/PLO: Vocational Learning Outcome / Program Learning Outcome – refer to previous sections for more details.*

College Policies and Procedures

It is important for students to familiarize themselves with the [Academic Policy Manual](https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/about/college-reports-and-policies/academic-policies/)[2]. This manual contains information on College Policies and Procedures relating to the following:

- Rights and Responsibilities of Students
- Student Academic Appeal Procedure
- Grading/Assessment Description
- Continuance Policy
- Program Specific Continuance and Readmission Policy
- Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition (PLAR)
- Attendance and Participation
- Acceptable Use Policy for Computing

Academic Accommodations

St. Lawrence College is committed to creating a welcoming, barrier-free, inclusive learning environment, promoting integration and full participation. This commitment to Universal Design for Learning applies to all instructional settings (e.g., classroom, laboratory, online, placement, etc.), as well as to attitudinal beliefs. It is the policy of SLC to accommodate students with disabilities, ensuring equitable access to and benefits from educational opportunities, in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The accommodation process is a shared responsibility. Students with disabilities seeking accommodations are asked to self-identify with [Student Wellness & Accessibility](https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/campuses-and-services/services-and-facilities/student-wellness-and-accessibility/)[3] as early as possible to ensure timely development and implementation of appropriate accommodations.

Under provincial legislation, students are not required to provide diagnosis information, but rather, may be asked to provide information from a regulated health professional regarding functional limitations and accommodation needs, in order to provide appropriate supports. Once accommodation needs are determined, a member of the Student Wellness & Accessibility team will distribute an Accommodation Letter on your behalf electronically to all Professors identified within your academic schedule.

Amended: April 2020

Use of Electronic Devices
The use of electronic devices used for communications and data storage during classes is at the discretion of the course professor. The professor identifies his/her policy on this under the Special Notes about this course section.

---

[2]https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/about/college-reports-and-policies/academic-policies/
[3] https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/campuses-and-services/services-and-facilities/student-wellness-and-accessibility/

Email Account

All full-time students are provided with a St. Lawrence College email account. This is the only account that will be used by the college or your professors to communicate course or program information or college events. It is the responsibility of each learner to become familiar with and use the college email system.

Grading System

The grading scheme is applicable to all graded courses at St. Lawrence College. All final grade submissions will be numeric representing a percentage score between 0 and 100 and will be converted to letter grades automatically by the student records system, as noted in the [Academic Policy Manual](#)[4].

Maintaining Records

Learners are responsible for retaining the course outline and the current Academic Policy Manual for their records. It may be required for future use of applications for transfer credit to other programs or educational institutions.

---

[4] https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/about/college-reports-and-policies/academic-policies/