

How do I plan to integrate the topic of Sustainability to the interdisciplinary course on the Amazon Basin, covering nine countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, the Three Guianas (Dutch, British and French).

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Besides the lectures already listed in the Syllabus (enclosed), which are followed by discussions regarding readings done at home, students will be exposed to a new item, that is, the topic of Sustainability in relation to the Amazonian Basin/Forest.

Following the pattern of this course, at least two articles will be added in the “Required Reading List” (one of them is from the book examined in the Chesapeake Project): Hawken, Paul. “You are brilliant, and the earth is hiring,” in *Choices for Sustainable Living*, pp. 13-15 (including “Definitions of Sustainability”, p. 15), and BBC Geography - “Human Uses of Rainforest,” in http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/ecosystems/human_uses_rainforest_rev5.shtml

The articles above will be Xeroxed and distributed to the class. One week of classes (two classes per week, of 1h15´ each) will be devoted to the following topic, which will be done by the students on: *The United Nations Millennium Declaration identified principles and treaties on sustainable development, including economic development, social development and environmental protection.*

Regarding the Millennium Declaration by the UNO (above), the class will be divided into three groups, each one to be requested to do research on one of the themes above: economic, social and environmental protection. The examinations of these topics should be related to the Amazonian forest/basin. There is a profuse bibliography on them in the internet and in print.

At least one video will be shown at the same week: “Amazon Rainforest: A Case for Sustainable Development” (C.S. Mott Foundation, YouTube, 5´53´´)

The learning objectives of the added items on Sustainability are:

1. Definition of the concept of Sustainability – discussion and examples.
2. Definition of the concept of Sustainability in relation to the Amazon Basin/Forest – discussion and examples.
3. Evaluation of what has been done by the government of Brazil to secure protection of the Amazonian Ecosystem – its pros, cons and suggestions, originally thought by each student on the possibility of safeguarding the forest, and on the weight of their suggestions to the well being of the universe.

Assessing students’ learning:

The plan to assess students’ learning is through their journals (once a week), plus a mid-term examination, a final examination and an oral presentation in class. Questions regarding Environmental issues will be included in all their written works (exams and paper).