**SPAN 6693 RMA – Studies in Sustainable Development**

Dr. Kelly Comfort

**Course Objective:**

This course is designed to allow students to examine the connections between environmental and economic sustainability in the Spanish context. Taught overseas in Spain, the course covers key concepts and case studies in the field of sustainability studies. Graduate students are asked to conduct a case study design and analysis project, complete a teaching module to the undergraduate students on the program, write an annotated bibliography on assigned sustainability issues, and complete a sustainability documentary project.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course aims to achieve the following learning outcomes:

* Students will identify, investigate, and analyze sustainability issues in terms of both economic and environmental perspectives (while also taking into account cultural and social dimensions).
* Students will identify, analyze, and interpret case studies related to sustainability issues in Spain.
* Students will analyze, critique, and compare sustainability issues across cultures, formats, and modes to communicate complex issues in culture, media, and technology to a variety of constituents.
* Students will apply critical thought and relevant theory in the production of a sustainability documentary project.
* Students will be identify and use scholarly sources, both print and online, successfully, which includes the ability to demonstrate accepted methods of citation, to detect author bias, and to read critically via an annotated bibliography.

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| **Class Topics:** |
| Spain’s location on various sustainability indexes |
| Spain’s Economic Crisis: Causes and Consequences |
| Spain’s Economic Crisis: Solutions |
| Environmental Consequences of the Economic Crisis |
| Geographic Sustainability and Protection: National and Natural Park System in Spain |
| Sustainable Architecture: Cave Construction |
| Rural Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, and Cultural Patrimony |
| Solar and Wind Energy Production and Research |
| Environmental Issues on the Granada Coast: Water Use, Erosion, Agricultural Methods, Desertification, etc. |
| Smart Cities in Spain |
| Sustainability Case Study 1: Plastic Greenhouses in Almeria and Granada, Spain |
| Sustainability Case Study 2: Solar Energy Production in Spain |

**Grade Breakdown:**

Case Study Design and Analysis Project 30%

**Rubric:**

*Case Study Design and Development: 20%*

*Case Study Implementation and Field Work: 20%*

*Analysis of Results and Conclusions: 40%*

*Written and oral Spanish: 20%*

Teaching Module to Undergraduate Students 20%

**Rubric:**

*Clarity of Presentation: 15%*

*Organization of Teaching Module: 15%*

*Content of Teaching Module: 20%*

*Ability to Foster Discussion and Critical Analysis among students: 20%*

*Quality of student assignment developed for teaching module: 10%*

*Reflection and Discussion of Teaching Module: 20%*

Annotated Bibliography on Assigned Sustainability Issues 20%

**Rubric:**

*Summaries of selected texts: 30%*

*Reflective and critical commentaries of selected texts: 50%*

*Written Spanish: 20%*

Sustainability Documentary Project 30%

**Rubric:**

*Social Dimension of Project; 20%*

*Economic Dimension of Project: 20%*

*Environmental Dimension of Project: 20%*

*Interrelation between three dimensions—Explanation and Consequences 20%*

*Oral Spanish 20%*

**Attendance:**

Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>

**Academic Integrity:**

In some of the classroom activities in this course, you will be asked to work with other classmates; in addition, you are encouraged to study with others in order to help yourself and others in the class understand the information presented by the professor. However, any written/oral work that forms the basis of your final grade in the class MUST be your (or your group’s) own original work. This includes all exams and assignments.

Any and all indications of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Should you have any questions regarding what constitutes "academic dishonesty" in this class, please see your instructor at once. See also: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>

**Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities will receive necessary accommodations. For details, please refer to the GT Disabilities Services’ “Policies and Procedures” page located at this link: <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/content/15/policies-procedures>