

Course Outline

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Session Offered	Winter 2024	
Course Name	Technology Ethics and Sustainability	
Course Code	GENTECH 4SE3-SFGENTTECH 4SE3-GENTECH 4TE3	
Date(s) and Time(s) of lectures	Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm Online	
Program Name	Civil Engineering Infrastructure Technology, Software Engineering Technology, Energy Engineering Technologies or Manufacturing Engineering Technology	
Calendar Description	Resources on this planet are finite and valuable. It is our duty to preserve and extend these gifts for future generations. This course examines sustainability, associated ethics and ethics in general from a business and engineering perspective.	
Instructor(s)	Dr. Zobia Jawed	E-Mail: jawedz@mcmaster.ca Office Hours & Location: By appointment

2. COURSE SPECIFICS

Course Description			
Instruction Type	Code	Type	Hours per term
	C	Classroom instruction	
	L	Laboratory, workshop or fieldwork	
	T	Tutorial	
	DE	Distance education	39
		Total Hours	39
Resources	ISBN	Textbook Title & Edition	Author & Publisher
	ISBN:	Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation	Tom Theis and Johnathan Tomkin
	Other Supplies	Source: Open-source online textbook	
	Computer microphone	http://cnx.org/contents/F0Hv_Zza@43.5:HdWd2hN5@2/Foreword	
Prerequisite(s)	None		
Corequisite(s)	None		
Antirequisite(s)	None		
Course Specific Policies	There are 2 assignments; ecological footprint, and business profile. All assignments must be submitted in Microsoft word format online to the Avenue dropbox by the due date. A late penalty of 10% per day will apply unless an extension is granted. Group participation is mandatory. All students must attend and participate in group presentations. Where an individual does not make their contribution, the individual's grade can be reapportioned accordingly. Please contact lecturer by McMaster email.		
Departmental Policies	Students must maintain a GPA of 3.5/12 to continue in the program. In order to achieve the required learning objectives, on average, B.Tech. students can expect to do at least 3 hours of "out-of-class" work for every scheduled hour in class. "Out-of-class" work includes reading, research, assignments and preparation for tests and examinations.		

	<p>Where group work is indicated in the course outline, such collaborative work is mandatory.</p> <p>The use of cell phones, iPods, laptops and other personal electronic devices are prohibited from the classroom during the class time, unless the instructor makes an explicit exception.</p> <p>Announcements made in class or placed on Avenue are considered to have been communicated to all students including those individuals that are not in class.</p> <p>Instructor has the right to submit work to software to identify plagiarism.</p>
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3. SUB TOPIC(S)

Module 1	Introduction to Sustainability Concepts, History of Sustainable Development.	Chapter 3
Module 2	Climate Change and Carbon Cycle, Ecological Footprint	Chapter 5
Module 3	History and Politics of Sustainability and SDG	Chapter 4
Module 4	Life Cycle Concepts, LCA steps	Chapter 11
Module 5	Life Cycle Types Cradle to Cradle and Cradle to Grave	Suppl. Reading
Midterm Exam		
Module 6	Sustainability Metrics and Life Cycle Costing	Chapter 8
Module 7	Technological Development, Innovations, AI and Bio-mimicry	Chapter 13
Module 8	Non-Renewable and Renewable Energy	Chapter 10
Module 9	Sustainable Cities and Buildings	
Module 10	Group Presentations	
Module 11	Group Presentations	
Module 12	Emerging Issues/Exam Review	Chapter 12.8

Midterm recess: Monday, February 19 to Sunday, February 25
 Final Exam: During the Exam Period (TBD)

**** Guidelines on AI Use for Assignments:** Please refrain from utilizing ChatGPT or any other AI platform for your class reflections and other assignments unless explicitly directed to do so by the course instructions. Unauthorized use of AI tools may result in a deduction of marks, and in severe cases, a score of zero for the assignment in question if such usage is identified. It's important to adhere to these guidelines to maintain the academic integrity and fairness of the assessment process.

4. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING *including dates*	Weight
2 Assignments** (see above note)- Jan 31, March 13	10%
4 Quizzes (best 3 of 4) - start on Jan 17, Feb 7, Feb 14, March 20	15%
Mid-term exam- Feb 28	25%
Sustainability Group Project **(report and oral presentation)- March 27/April 3	15%
Participation (attendance and participation in discussion, posts, and tutorials)	5%
Final Exam- Date TBD	30%
TOTAL	100%

Percentage grades will be converted to letter grades and grade points per the University calendar.

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. The understanding and ability to apply sustainability concepts to real-world applications.
2. Identify the role sustainability plays in both daily life as well as in business practices.
3. Find ideas, solve problems and think opportunistically about ways in which engineering and technology can enhance current systems to become more sustainable.
4. Examine ethical issues and barriers to sustainability as well as successful management strategies that overcome these barriers.
5. Conduct internet research, and synthesis information to develop and present innovative and unique strategies to sustainable development packaged as a defensible plan.
6. Work effectively in groups to achieve a unified goal.
7. Develop effective communication skills (both oral and written) as well as group collaboration.

6. COURSE OUTLINE – APPROVED ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

The Faculty of Engineering is concerned with ensuring an environment that is free of all discrimination. If there is a problem, individuals are reminded that they should contact the Department Chair, the Sexual Harassment Officer or the Human Rights Consultant, as soon as possible.

http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/HR/Discrimination_Harassment_Sexual_Harassment-Prevention&Response.pdf

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

COMMUNICATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Maintain current contact information with the University, including address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information.
- Use the University provided e-mail address or maintain a valid forwarding e-mail address.
- Regularly check the official University communications channels. Official University communications are considered received if sent by postal mail, by fax, or by e-mail to the student's designated primary e-mail account via their @mcmaster.ca alias.
- Accept that forwarded e-mails may be lost and that e-mail is considered received if sent via the student's @mcmaster.ca alias.
- Check the McMaster/Avenue email and course websites on a regular basis during the term.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests. <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/Studentcode.pdf>

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.