



EAST-WEST CENTER

EDUCATION PROGRAM

“Sustainability: Behind the Veneer of the Rhetoric” East-West Center Wednesday Evening Seminar Fall 2007

Keoni Auditorium
Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center
September 5th, 2007- November 14th, 2007
6:30pm-8:30pm

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

The overall theme for the Wednesday Evening Seminar for the Fall 2007 semester is “*Sustainability: Behind the veneer of the rhetoric.*” The purpose of the Wednesday Evening Seminar for this semester is to examine the much used or rather abused concept of sustainability from different levels and perspectives. As in the past, we will approach these topics through lectures and panel discussions, utilizing small group discussion sessions and occasional use of other multi media technology.

The use of the term "sustainability," began with the publication of the World Commission on Environment and Development report, *Our Common Future*, in 1987(also called Brundtland Report)¹. According to this report sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In the recent years, sustainability has become a buzz word in the academic and the non academic world alike and is commonly used interchangeably with sustainable development. Seemingly a simple concept but at the same time elusive and complex in nature, the definition itself covers more than just *development* and what we understand by *sustaining* in principle. In general, sustainability is linked with climate change (and global warming), environmental crisis, modern food production etc, or by some critiqued as an elite research agenda and a waste of resources. Through this seminar series we will try to debunk some of these popular misconceptions by showing how the concept of sustainability is tied with social, environmental and economic issues whereas all the three areas overlap and feed into each other.

The theory of sustainability cuts across economic, social, environmental, biological, spiritual issues, from very macro level international policy decisions to our day to day choices and behaviors. The underlying question for this semester is to bring the many faces of sustainability to the forefront, what does it mean for us as an Asia pacific community and what should be sustained and why.

We will begin with a workshop on teambuilding as means to develop the ability to build and ‘sustain’ the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 seminar series. Then we will have an overview lecture on the theme by

¹Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future . URL: <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

Dr. Mary Tiles, Professor of Philosophy and Chairman of University of Hawai'i Sustainability Council, which will be followed by a series of other presentations over a course of seven more seminars (in Fall) on various issues affecting the Asia and the Pacific. The details are given at the end of this syllabus.

OVERVIEW OF THE WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

The Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) is a weekly gathering of Center participants in their first fall and spring semesters. WES brings together fellows from diverse academic disciplines, geographic areas, life experiences, and East-West Center programs to learn and dialogue on issues of common concern that impact the U.S. and Asia Pacific region.

While the graduate student experience tends to focus attention on highly specialized fields of study at the University, the Wednesday Evening Seminar challenges EWC fellows to explore regional issues that may extend beyond their range of expertise or comfort zones. Issues are explored through invited speakers, films and facilitated small group discussions. Through this process EWC fellows forge bonds among themselves that ultimately strengthen the Center's diverse, global community.

Recent and current Wednesday Evening Seminar themes:

- Sustainability: Behind the Veneer of the Rhetoric
- Creating Futures for Asia and the Pacific: Choices and Behaviors
- Empowering People for the Future of Asia and the Pacific
- Risk and Security in Asia and the Pacific

HISTORY OF THE WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

As with many innovative activities at the East-West Center, this seminar series emerged from student recommendations and student-led action. Degree fellows perceived the need for a unifying intellectual experience in an increasingly diversified student program. The Wednesday Evening Seminar began as a series of Center-wide discussions to explore the concept, and emerged as a student leadership project that developed into a distinctive, on-going feature of the student program.

Currently, the seminar is planned and organized by EWC degree-fellow interns, with the support of the staff in the Center's Education and Research programs.

The Seminar is required for degree fellows during their first fall and spring semesters, and fall semester for APLP fellows. Continuing fellows are welcome to attend and often continue to participate in the seminar series.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the East-West Center is to contribute to a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia-Pacific community, thus serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education, and dialogue on critical issues of common concern to the Asia-Pacific region and the United States. To reach this goal, facilitating understanding among the students of the United States, Asia and the Pacific who study together at the East-West Center is one of the Wednesday Evening Seminar's most important endeavors. Thus, discussion of the empowerment in Asia and the Pacific can lead to shared knowledge of common concerns that affect our collective futures.

Within this context, specific objectives will aid with communication and enhance the learning process. Nine objectives are listed in the schedule to clarify the educational process of the Wednesday Evening Seminar.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation: Students must attend all course meetings and participate in group discussions. If you are unable to attend a session, please contact Mendl Djunaidy (e-mail provided below). Coming to the Wednesday Evening Seminar should be a fun way to learn about the Asia-Pacific region!

Readings: Some of the speakers may have articles or other materials for students. These documents may be sent over the East-West Center e-mail list. Thus, it is always wise to check e-mail for WES announcements!

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions concerning attendance, please contact Mendl Djunaidy, Associate Dean of the Education Program at DjunaidM@EastWestCenter.org.

Other questions or concerns about the course can be directed to the following:

Azeema Faizunnisa, Wednesday Evening Seminar Planning Intern: azeema@hawaii.edu

Yurika Mori, Facilitators/Communications Intern: yurika@hawaii.edu

Byambayar Yadamsuren, Technical/Administrative Intern: byambaya@hawaii.edu

Terry Bigalke, Director Education Program, bigalke@EastWestCenter.org

Mary Hammond, Dean, Education Program, hammondm@EastWestCenter.org

Schedule: Fall 2007

Week #	Date	Presenter	Org	Topic	Format	Objective
1	Sept 5, 2007	Tony Alvarez Training Director, CTERP Center for Training and Evaluation Research in the Pacific School of Social Work 1800 East West Rd. Henke 330 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 Phone: 808-956-9611 Email: alvarezt@hawaii.edu	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Setting individual and collective goals for Sustainable living in the 21st Century, in Asia and the Pacific	Workshop	Team building, understanding the objectives of the WES and sustainability
2	Sept 12, 2007	Mary Tiles Professor of Philosophy, College of Arts and Humanities, and Chair, UHM Sustainability Council Department of Philosophy Room D-301 Sakamaki University of Hawaii, 96822 Email: mtiles@hawaii.edu	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Sustaining Environments	Presentation, Q & A	Overview of the issue of sustainability
3	Sept 19, 2007	Jefferson M. Fox Coordinator, Environmental Studies; Senior Fellow Research Program Phone: 808-944-7248 Email: FoxJ@EastWestCenter.org	East-West Center	Environmental Issues in the Greater Mekong Subregion	Presentation, group work, Q&A	Nexus of development and environment change
4	Sept 26, 2007	Michelle Staggs Coordinator, Asian International Justice Initiative Research Program Phone: 808-944-7241 Email: staggs@eastwestcenter.org	East-West Center	Sustaining the Momentum of International Justice in Cambodia	Presentation, Debate	Sustainability of 'systems'

Week #	Date	Presenter	Org	Topic	Format	Objective
5	Oct. 3, 2007	Krisna Suryanata Associate Professor Geography Department Phone: 808-956-7384 Email: krisnawa@hawaii.edu	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Global Markets and Local Livelihoods: Agricultural Transition in Asia	Presentation, group work, Q & A	Agricultural sustainability
6	Oct. 10, 2007	Gerard A. Finin Deputy Director Pacific Islands Development Program Phone: 808-944-7751 Fax: 808-944-7670 Email: FininJ@EastWestCenter.org	East-West Center	Small is Viable: Global Ebbs and Flow of a Pacific Island Atoll Nation	Presentation, group work, Q & A	Sustainability of small islands
7	Oct. 31, 2007	Jeff Mikulina Director 1040 Richards Street, Room 306, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 Mail: P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96803 Phone: 808-538-6616 E-Mail: mikulina@lava.net	Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter Office	Impact of Climate Change on Earth	Presentation, Q & A, ~video	Awareness of the climate change debate
8	Nov 7, 2007	Ramsey Taum Associate Director, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association Email: ramsay@hawaii.edu	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	The role of Ahu'puua in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	Lecture/Workshop, Q & A	Local Hawaiian concepts of co-existence with nature
9	Nov. 14, 2007	Ricardo D. Trimillos Professor and Chair, Asian Studies Moore 412 Phone: 808-956-5752 Email: rtrimil@hawaii.edu	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Sustainability of Culture and Music in the Era of Globalization and Commercialization	Video/Audio Clippings, Presentation, Q&A	Sustainability/adaptability of music in fast changing world