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An Exploration of Human Sustainability: Guiding Undergraduates onto a Path of Responsive World Citizenship Through the Study of Global Issues

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An Exploration of Human Sustainability:

Guiding undergraduates onto a path of responsible world citizenship through the study of Global Issues

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INTRODUCTION

Through the investigative lens of one country, each student studies the forces of economic, financial, cultural, political and environmental globalization. The student examines and reflects on these issues from local and global vantage points. The student explores governmental influences, world trade issues, cultural 'expectations,' overpopulation, the globalization of crime, and disease, climate change, as well as conducting in-depth study of current cultural and political upheavals. Students then are guided in discussions based on these issues and encouraged to consider and advance possible solutions.

SCOPE

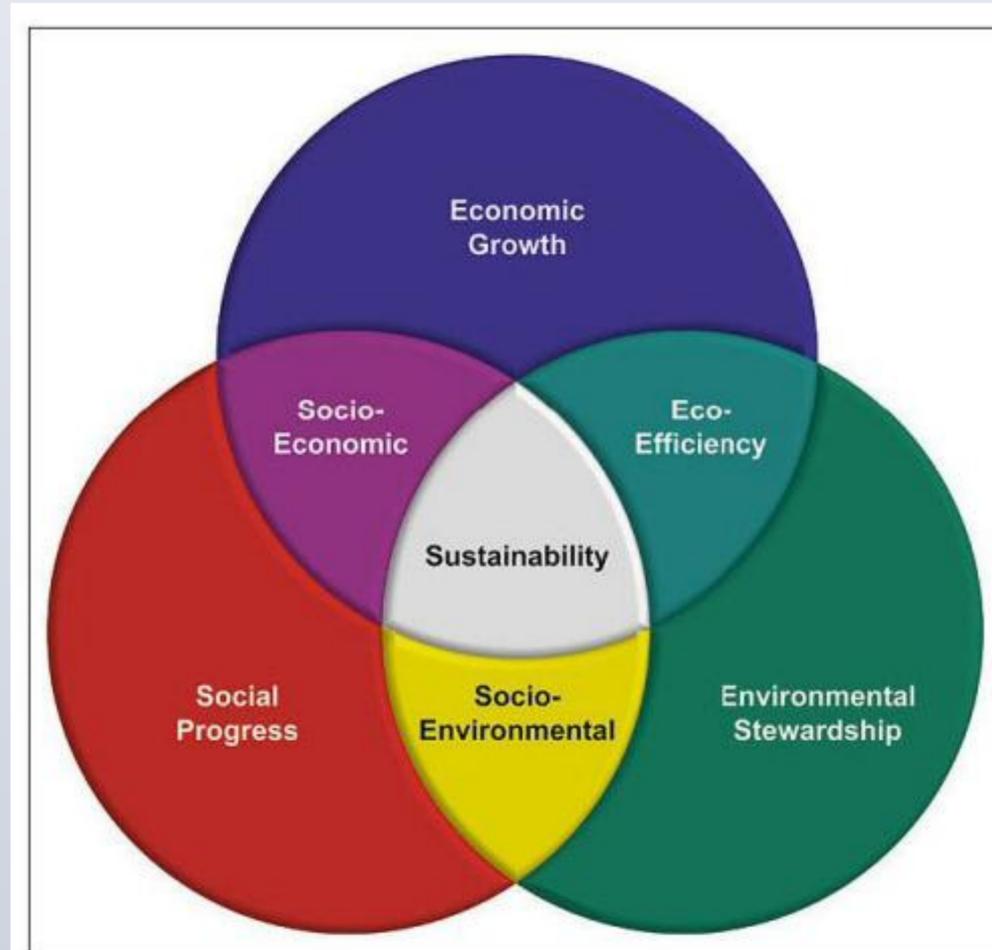
Throughout the course there are three underlying principles for student discovery and investigation:

1. The awareness that **global issues** extend beyond the capacity for a single country to resolve -- a condition, situation, political or civil action, or event that threatens humankind's ability to sustain life at acceptable levels or even survive; one that degrades or even destroys the earth's biological balance, wise use of natural resources, or other critical elements necessary for sustainability of species.
2. The realization that there is a highly developed **interdependence** of nations, governments, industries, and people in the present-day and for the foreseeable future.
3. The acceptance that **globalization**, or the interconnectivity of societies, economies, and use of environmental and natural resources, will continue to influence motives, decisions, resolution of conflicting views, disparity of wealth, and the maintenance of standards for health and the well-being of human populations.

EMERGENCE OF EBOLA: AN ACADEMIC RESPONSE TO A WORLD ISSUE

How an infectious disease is addressed by world influences discussions, expands knowledge base and leverages action

- **CURRENT ASSESSMENT:** Students review and discuss events and prognosis
- **HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION:** Focus on genesis and spread of disease and prognosis
- **SCIENTIFIC and CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH:** Revelations about infection rates, morbidity, and mortality tables, and how countries are responding, reacting, and addressing global thread of Ebola. Expenditures, assistance, UN resolutions, support systems, tolerances, resources, and recommendations for combating outbreak and required long term efforts



- **GLOBAL ISSUE SURVEY and STUDY:** Formulation of individual study and research paper, including personal assessments and recommendations for country and world responses
- **IMPORTANCE of SUSTAINABILITY for WORLDWIDE PREVENTION of DISEASES:** Reading, research, coursework, and discussions open pathway for students to be develop greater awareness and more equipped to express and support more active and dynamic approaches to resolving issues impacting world those detrimental to long-term health of earth and humankind

OUTCOMES

- ❑ An understanding of the complex social, economic and political links between people and the impact that changes have on others.
- ❑ Identity and cultural diversity - an understanding of self and one's own culture, and being open to the cultures of others.
- ❑ Social justice and human rights - an understanding of the impact of inequality and discrimination to respect the rights of others.
- ❑ Peace building and conflict resolution - an understanding of the importance of building and maintaining positive and trusting relationships and ways conflict can be prevented or peacefully resolved.
- ❑ Sustainable futures - an understanding of the ways in which we can meet our current needs without diminishing the quality of the environment or reducing the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs.

REFERENCES/CREDITS

- Kelleher, A, Klein, L.(2011) *Global Perspectives 4th ed.* Pearson Learning. Boston, MA
- World Health Organization. (2014). Ebola virus disease: background and summary. Retrieved October 4, 2014, from http://www.who.int/csr/don/2014_04_ebola/en/