INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN PERU

COURSE SYLLABUS | THE GREEN PROGRAM (TGP) – PERU ONLINE

DECEMBER 2021 | DISTANCE LEARNING EDITION

PROFESSOR OSCAR ORTEGA

I.   COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents the Peruvian Andes as an ideal place to consider the connections between indigenous knowledge and sustainable development. It aims to understand how the Quechua communities in the Andes exemplify the paradoxical relationship between indigenous knowledge and environmental issues: they are extremely vulnerable to the effects to issues such as climate change, but they also possess a wealth of knowledge, practices, techniques, and technologies used by these communities to ensure food security in face of calamities. Specific examples of indigenous knowledge will be provided to help illustrate the role of the Peruvian people as actors in protecting, restoring and achieving sustainable development.

II.   COURSE OBJECTIVE & GENERAL COMPETENCIES

The objective of this course, beyond providing a basic introduction to indigenous knowledge and sustainable development concepts, is to bridge the gap between textbook learning and real-time field experience by exposing students to ancient and contemporary sustainability initiatives using Peru as a case study.

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Understand concepts related to sustainable development and its components.
2. Identify the multiple social, economic and environmental stressors that affect indigenous people.
3. Understand the value of indigenous knowledge towards sustainable development in the Highlands of Peru.

III.   TEACHING METHODS

This course provides knowledge of the theory and practice of sustainable development, investigating how indigenous people perform environmental management by using an interdisciplinary approach. Topics aim to stimulate a critical examination of historical and conceptual antecedents;

provide experience in the complex challenges of implementing indigenous knowledge. It will review the ecosystem approach to understanding sustainable indigenous practices, policy, decision-making, ethics, and corporate approaches play out in the inclusion of this information. Peru will be examined through case studies.

The methodology used includes a combination of tools in order to facilitate the enhancements of knowledge, promote debate in class and increase students' ability to formulate proposals, such as presentation-debate classes and case studies.

The structure of each topic includes a compulsory reading, followed by oral presentations by the students which will lead to class debates, group works, and other practical activities. Virtual field Trips are essential to the course, where interviews will take place with indigenous communities. All these activities will be complemented by lectures.

Registered students are provided online content on google drive in the form of a five-part Lecture Series. This series is sequential and modularized. Each module contains:

- Specialized learning outcomes
- Virtual lectures distributed over 17 days (recorded for future reference)
- Associated lecture slides
- Reading material
- Pre Recorded Field Trips for Discussion

Each lecture serves as a platform for accelerated learning. After participating in the lecture and studying the lecture slides, students are expected to be able to read and understand the main points discussed in related scientific literature. Accompanying each lecture are a short list of articles detailing present-day developments on the respective subject matter. Students are then examined on their comprehension of this material.

IV.   LECTURE SERIES (Total: 49 hours)

A. INTRODUCTION (02 Hours)

This lecture will outline the contents, expectations, and learning outcomes of the certificate course.

Lecture Content

- Introduction to the course
- Review Syllabus
- Day-by-Day Description
- Course Planning and Deadlines

B. PERUVIAN GEOGRAPHY AND DIVERSITY (04 Hours)

This lecture focuses on understanding why Peru has such a high diversity of ecosystems and how this impacts economic activities and sustainability.

Lecture Content

- Peruvian Geography
  - ✔ The Three Geographical Regions
  - ✔ The Eight Natural Regions
  - ✔ The Eleven Ecoregions
- Main Economic Activities

C. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (18 Hours)

In this module, students are presented with the main characteristics of Indigenous People in Peru, going over their knowledge, livelihood, beliefs, vulnerabilities and strengths; analyzing their potential impact as part of the future of sustainability.

Lecture Content

- Main criteria for Indigenous Peoples Identification
- Indigenous Knowledge and Science
- Indigenous People Livelihoods and Vulnerabilities
- Shamanism and Spirituality

D. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (16 Hours)

These lectures provide knowledge of the theory and practice of Sustainable development based on the premise that human well-being should advance without irreparable harm to ecosystems and the vital services they provide. This section aims to stimulate a critical examination and help students understand the present and imagine alternative futures facing complex issues of development as they relate to the interactions of the natural, economic and social systems

Lecture Content

- The Price of Human Development
- Sustainability as a Concept
- The Three Pillars of Sustainability
- Indicators and Challenges
- Principles and Sustainability Goals

E. THE WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH (07 Hours)

This section aims to stimulate a critical examination and help students understand the present and imagine alternative futures facing complex issues of development as they relate to the interactions of the natural, economic and social systems; mainly focusing on how a holistic system using Indigenous Knowledge could be part of this process

Lecture Content

- The Whole System Approach
- The Sustainability Complex
- The Sustainable Development Goals

F. FINAL PRESENTATIONS (02 Hours)

Students will need to create a short, five-page paper on a topic of their interest, related to Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability. They will be able to apply and reflect on their newfound knowledge of Peru's indigenous communities, and compare differences and similarities with another region's indigenous community and sustainability. Students will present their findings and concepts to the cohort on the last day of the course.

All sources used must be reputable and may include peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, articles or papers from government agencies sources or reputable NGO sources. Sources should be referenced using APA referencing style. Consult the APA style guide if you have any questions regarding formatting.

V. SCHEDULE AND OFFICE HOURS

Students are expected to attend the Virtual Lecture Series via a Video Conference Software as scheduled which will be distributed before the start of the course. The start date for their respective programs will be announced by TGP and listed on their website.

- Dec 9-28: Classes will take place on the following schedule, excluding Dec 24-25
  - Mon-Fri: 5 - 8 PM ET (3 hours per day)
  - Saturdays: 9 AM - 2 PM ET (5 hour intensives with break per hour)

The Video Conference Software link and login information will be listed under the Syllabus in The GREEN Program course.

VI.   GRADING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation will be on a Pass/Fail basis throughout the course and will take in consideration the participation and the use of acquired competencies by each student. Readings, tasks, class work and written reports will be evaluated. Students must Pass the course in order to receive TGP's certificate.

- ✔ 60% - Ongoing Evaluation (homework, reports, reading discussions, debates, and forums)
- ✔ 20% - Final Presentation and Paper
- ✔ 20% - Participation in Class (participation and attitude in class)