

SABBATICAL REPORT
JOHN WINGARD
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My one-semester sabbatical for Fall 2019 had two primary goals—develop curriculum on climate change and develop a certificate/minor in Global Climate Change Studies.

I was quite successful in accomplishing the first. I developed two completely new courses and significantly modified a third. Both new courses are listed under ANTH 352—Global Issues.

ANTH 352 is a topics course that students can retake for credit if the topic is significantly different. The course line was created when I first arrived at Sonoma State in 2001 and was specifically designed to allow for flexibility in content offerings to meet student demand. Consequently, it was an ideal place for the new climate change focused courses.

The substance of the first new course, ANTH 352 Global Issues—Global Climate Change, is captured in the course description:

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Yet efforts to address this problem have been, at the very least, woefully inadequate. A major reason for this is a lack of agreement on what must be done, what can be done, and who is responsible for doing it. The problem goes well beyond convincing “climate skeptics” about the reality of the problem. Significant disagreement exists even among those who recognize the problem and its magnitude. Looking primarily through an anthropological lens, we will explore and discuss the wide range of views around climate change and its impacts on peoples and communities around the world.

Global Climate is was taught Spring 2020. It had an enrollment of 29 including students majoring in Anthropology , GEP (Geography, Environment and Planning), Art Studio, Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies, Economics, History, Sociology, and Philosophy reflecting the interdisciplinary interest in climate change.

The substance of the second new course, ANTH 352 Global Issues—Sustainability, is also captured in the course description:

Increased population and growing per capita consumption levels are putting pressure on the global environment. There is general agreement within the scientific community that this pressure is unsustainable. The challenge is to bring humanity back on a path of sustainable development. The 1987 Brundtland Report defines sustainable development as development that “meets the needs of the

present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". But what does that mean? What does that mean to people living in poverty who already consume well below non-sustainable levels. What does that mean to people living in the West who are consume well above sustainable levels? How do we reconcile these disparities as we strive for sustainable development? And what assumptions are we making about the needs of future generations? Is 'sustainable development' an oxymoron?

Achieving sustainability will require the efforts of people from many disciplines. In this course we will explore the challenges of sustainability from an anthropological perspective. We will also consider what anthropology has to offer for understanding and addressing the challenges of moving humanity to a sustainable path.

ANTH 352 Global Issues—Sustainability is being taught Fall 2020. Currently, 31 students are enrolled including students majoring in Anthropology, American Multicultural Studies, Computer Science, Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies, Early Childhood Studies, English, GEP (Geography, Environment and Planning), Global Studies, Liberal Studies-Hutchins, Philosophy and Sociology, again reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the topic.

The third course, ANTH 345 Environmental Anthropology was modified to significantly expand its coverage of global climate change with an emphasis on the theoretical and methodological contributions of anthropology to understanding and addressing the issues of global climate change. This course will be taught Spring 2021.

The second goal, develop a certificate/minor in Global Climate Change, was less successful, in large part to the timing of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the sabbatical period I did a significant amount of groundwork identifying faculty who might be interested in participating in the proposed certificate/minor and courses currently taught that would be appeared to be appropriate for being included in such a program.

My absence from campus made it difficult to meet with faculty, so I planned to meet with faculty when I returned to campus in Spring 2020. Faculty meetings would have two purposes. First, was to meet to discuss the proposed program and explore their interest. The second was to establish a steering committee to serve as faculty advisors in the development of the program. (The steering-committee model was inspired by my participation for many years on the Global Studies steering committee.)

Simultaneously, I was having discussions with members of faculty governance, in particular, the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) who would have to approve the program when it was developed.

During the sabbatical period I had several discussions with members of EPC who explained that significant revisions were being made to the curriculum in response to changes to the CSU GE program. It was thought that some of that the program would complement some of the new curriculum structures that were being considered. Because the form of these structures was not yet finalized, there was some reason to slow down the development of the Global Climate Change so the final program would fit more smoothly into the new structures. Again, my regular presence on campus was required for these discussions.

All was progressing smoothly until the abrupt move off campus associated with COVID-19 pandemic. The difficulty of meeting both with faculty and faculty governance was compounded now not only because of my own absence from campus, but by the absence of the rest of the faculty as well. An additional confounding situation was the admonition to limit social interaction.

Currently, the development of the Global Climate Change certificate/minor is on hold pending normalization of campus activity. However, I fully plan to continue pursuing its development when conditions become more favorable.