



## **Syllabus & General Course Information**

### **ENTOM/ENVIR ST 205 - Our Planet, Our Health** Fall 2023

#### **3 Credits**

#### **Course Designations and Attributes**

LAS, Breadth in Biological Science, Elementary

#### **Course Description**

An introduction to the multiple determinants of health, global disease burden and disparities, foundational global health principles, and the overlap between ecosystem stability, planetary boundaries, and human health. Explore the core fundamentals of global health scholarship, including but not limited to infectious disease, sanitation, and mental health, and consider ecological perspectives on these issues through the lens of planetary boundaries. Attention is placed on how human-mediated global change (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss, land-use patterns, geochemical cycling, and agricultural practice) impacts human health and the ecosystem services we depend on. An overview of pertinent issues in sustainability science and planetary health discourse, including the 'Anthropocene' and resilience to understand and critically assess global trends.

#### **Requisites**

None

#### **Meeting Time and Location**

The course has both in-person meetings and asynchronous online components. In-person meetings will be on Mondays from 1:20 to 2:10 pm in 272 Bascom

Canvas course URL: <https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/375234>

#### **Instructional Modality**

Hybrid

#### **How Credit Hours Are Met by the Course**

This class meets during the fall semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities for at least 127 hours, including in-person meetings, online lectures and videos, readings, studying, discussions, completing portfolio assignments, and quizzes. Accordingly, please take note that we expect that you will spend up to **9-10 hours each week** on this class and budget your time accordingly. The weekly list of topics and this syllabus include more information about expectations for student work.

## Regular and Substantive Student-Instructor Interaction

Instructors provide direct instruction through weekly in-person meetings and office hours, weekly curation and creation of online resources, weekly updates about course content, and by facilitating weekly online discussion forums.

## Instructors & Teaching Assistants

### Professors

Professor Susan Paskewitz (Ph.D.), Faculty Director CALS (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences) Global Health Undergraduate Programs, Co-Director CDC (Centers for Disease Control) Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Disease, Department of Entomology. [smpaskew@wisc.edu](mailto:smpaskew@wisc.edu)

Professor Joshua Garoon (Ph.D.), Department of Community and Environmental Sociology

Professor Linda Oforka (Ph.D.), Department of Entomology

### Teaching Assistants (TAs)

For students whose last name begins with A-M, your first point of contact for general problems/issues should be Rylee Mrachek. If your last name begins with N-Z, then contact Oliva van Hammond.

Rylee Mrachek ([mrachek@wisc.edu](mailto:mrachek@wisc.edu))

Olivia van Hammond ([ovanhammond@wisc.edu](mailto:ovanhammond@wisc.edu))

### Instructor and TA Availability

**OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours are a terrific way to get your questions about the course answered but you can also drop by to discuss current events, non-classroom opportunities, and events on campus, or career tracks. Think of this as a “tea or coffee time” rather than a formal meeting. We recommend requesting an in-person meeting or one-on-one Zoom meeting to discuss concerns or personal issues.

Dr. Paskewitz will have drop-in hours every week on **Mondays** from 3 to 4. Her office is in room 739 Russell Labs. She is available for Zoom meetings by request.

Dr. Garoon’s office hours are on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 2:30-4:30 pm in Agricultural Hall, Room 340A. Signing up for slots at <https://garoon.youcanbook.me> is recommended; drop-in visitors will be accommodated around those who have booked ahead. If an appointment outside of these days/times is needed, please email Dr. Garoon.

### Teaching Assistants

Rylee Mrachek will hold office hours on **Wednesdays** from 10-11 using Zoom on Canvas.

Olivia van Hammond will hold office hours on **Mondays** from 10-11 using Zoom on Canvas.

Information about specific topics for office hour meetings for the Teaching Assistants or Professors will be found in the Announcements at the Canvas course site.

### **Instructor and TA Email/Preferred Contact**

Your first point of contact for course-related issues is your Teaching Assistant (TA). For students whose last name begins with A-M, your first point of contact for general problems/issues should be Rylee Mrachek. If your last name begins with N-Z, then contact Olivia van Hammond.

When emailing **PLEASE include “ENTO 205” in the subject line** so we do not miss seeing your email.

### **TAs**

Rylee Mrachek ([mrachek@wisc.edu](mailto:mrachek@wisc.edu))

Olivia van Hammond ([ovanhammond@wisc.edu](mailto:ovanhammond@wisc.edu))

### **Instructors**

Professor Paskewitz: [smpaskew@wisc.edu](mailto:smpaskew@wisc.edu)

Professor Garoon: [garoon@wisc.edu](mailto:garoon@wisc.edu)

Professor Linda Oforka (TBD)

## Course Learning Outcomes

1. Use a local-to-global perspective to assess the historical, current, and future trends in human health and well-being
2. Describe the use of planetary boundaries to measure Earth system sustainability and the potential impacts of instability in these systems on global health and human well-being
3. Describe current primary global health challenges, their distribution, and prevention strategies
4. Analyze global health disparities through a social justice and human rights lens
5. Analyze ecological perspectives on the connections among human health and well-being, animal health, and ecosystem health
6. Assess and reflect on the successes and failures of global health interventions and become familiar with current events and current literature that describes these efforts
7. Demonstrate a basic understanding of contemporary issues, problems, and controversies in global health through an interdisciplinary perspective that recognizes the complex relationships between social, economic, political, and environmental systems.
8. Reflect on personal goals, objectives, and role as a global citizen and future professional or researcher

### Grading

- Grading is on the A-F scale.
- Consistent participation is a critical part of the grading and will be assessed through weekly assignments (e.g. participation in asynchronous discussions)
- Grades will be based on the following:
  - Online Discussions: 13 discussions worth 4 points each (we will drop the lowest two scores;  $11 \times 4 = 44\%$  of the grade),
  - Online Quizzes: 8 worth 4 points each (we will drop the lowest two scores,  $6 \times 4 = 24\%$ ),
  - Attendance checks: 8 worth 1 point each (we will drop the lowest two scores;  $6 \times 1 = 6\%$  of grade)
  - Portfolio Assignments: 4 worth 6 points each (24% of grade)
  - Portfolio 2 group progress assignments: 2 worth 1 point each (2% of grade)
  - Note: There is no weighting, so each point = 1 percentage point of the total grade. Additional information about these assignments can be found below in this syllabus.
- Grades will be assigned as follows:
  - 100-94 = A
  - 93.9-90 = AB
  - 89.9-80 = B
  - 79.9-70 = C
  - 69.9-60.0 = D
  - Below 60.0 = F
- Final grades are not curved and there is NO extra credit

- There is NO Final Exam
- Monday in-person meetings will not be recorded

## **Course Website, Learning Management System & Digital Instructional Tools**

We will use the University's learning management system, [Canvas](#), for course content and other university instructional tools or platforms (e.g., Zoom) for office hours and meetings with students. It is strongly suggested that students explore and become familiar not only with Canvas' site navigation but with the content and resources available for the course. The link to the Canvas site is: <https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/375234>

## **In-person meetings**

Our class will have a regular in-person meeting on Mondays from 1:20-2:10 in 272 Bascom. If you become ill with a respiratory infection during the semester, we strongly recommend you wear a mask during this in-person meeting to protect the safety of others in the room and of those they may contact. **Monday in-person class attendance is strongly encouraged and we will be doing attendance checks at some meetings.**

We will use Monday meeting times for lectures, to share the work of the discussion groups, review upcoming assignments, and discuss current news events. We will also invite guests to join us for expert presentations. Monday meetings will not be live-streamed or taped to protect student privacy. Topics covered during Monday meetings that are outside of the Canvas module content may still be used as the basis for quiz questions. If you absolutely cannot come to class, you will need to get lecture notes from someone.

Town Hall Mondays: We will arrange multiple Town Halls to host one or more experts who will talk about their work and take your questions. The Town Hall schedule is in progress so please **do not schedule conflicting events for the Monday 1:20-2:10 time slot.**

## **Discussion Groups**

Staying engaged with coursework, with everything happening in the world, can be challenging. We are going to help you to keep up with the course material and get to know some of the other students in the class using discussion groups. Discussion group activities will count for a significant portion of your grade.

You will be randomly assigned to a small group during the first week of class. Discussions will be online and will be done **asynchronously**, meaning there will be no specific time that you need to be online each week. However, there is a requirement for participation on multiple days every week. More information about your responsibilities for the small discussion groups will be provided below in the "Discussions, quizzes, portfolios, and other major graded work" section and on Canvas.

## About Textbooks, Software & Other Course Materials

Campus provides students with [technology guidelines and recommendations](#) for instruction. Students should consult these resources before the start of the semester.

Portfolio 2 will require the ability to create a narrated slide presentation. See the instructions for the Portfolio for more information.

There is no required textbook.

## Homework & Other Assignments

- You are expected to complete all required readings and watch all videos and narrated lectures available on the Canvas site. (Some extra materials will also be provided on Canvas for advanced students and those who are interested. These will clearly be labeled as \*Optional\* and are not required. However, for students who have already taken some Global Health coursework, these are important ways to continue to advance your knowledge.)
- Using online learning platforms can be challenging, and students often name procrastination as a particular struggle they want to address. We want to help you keep up and stay on task, so you get the most out of the course. We have firm deadlines for quizzes and assignments. **You are expected to meet these deadlines**, so please note them on your calendar and then submit your work on time. We will not be providing email reminders of deadlines after the first week of class.
- **IMPORTANT: Discussions are due twice a week and Canvas will only note the second due date. DO NOT rely on Canvas to remind you of the Tuesday deadline and don't expect to use this as an excuse for being late.**
- Late quizzes, discussion contributions, or portfolio assignments will not be accepted (these receive a grade of 0) unless you have the permission of your TA or Professor Paskewitz in advance of the deadline. We don't accept "I forgot" or "I didn't notice the deadline" or "I rely on Canvas to tell me when work is due" as excuses for late work. **Even if you are ill**, you need to send an email to your TA to let her know you will need an extension before the portfolio deadline. For other work, you will need to use your allowed drops of lowest scores (see above).
- In the event of an unforeseen emergency, please reach out as soon as you can to Professor Paskewitz or your TA.
- McBurney accommodations must be discussed with Professor Paskewitz during the first two weeks of class. **Note that there are no exams and extra time for quizzes is not provided since quizzes are open for at least 48 hours (about 2 days).** Deadlines will not be automatically extended for regular assignments; please discuss specific assignments with a TA or Professor Paskewitz in advance of the deadline and as soon as possible in the event of any emergency
- All assignments (portfolios, discussion posts, and quizzes) will be submitted via Canvas.

## Discussions, Quizzes, Portfolios & Other Major Graded Work

- There are no EXAMS.
- QUIZZES will be online, open-book, and cumulative. You can use your notes and your electronic devices. However, you should not consult with other students as

quizzes are examples of your own work. Sharing answers with other students or discussing answers before submitting your quiz is considered cheating (see the section on Academic Integrity below). Quizzes will be open for 48 hours and will be available beginning on Wednesdays and ending on Fridays. There will be no make-up quizzes, but **your 2 lowest quiz scores will be dropped**. This will provide some flexibility if you are ill or have other issues that prevent you from completing a quiz on time. Quizzes are scheduled every **other week** beginning with Quiz 1 due Sept 8. Other due dates for quizzes are as follows (also listed on the course calendar on Canvas):

Quiz 2-Sept 22

Quiz 3-Oct 6

Quiz 4-Oct 20

Quiz 5-Nov 3

Quiz 6-Nov 17

Quiz 7-Dec 1

Quiz 8-Dec 13

- **DISCUSSION GROUPS** will provide a venue for connecting with others in the class for in-depth conversations about the topics. This part of the class will build your ethical and critical thinking toolkits and provide opportunities for collaboration and leadership. You will be assigned to a Discussion group for the semester by the instructors. We will post guidance about discussion topics each week on Friday.

**RULES OF ENGAGEMENT** for Discussion Groups: You are required to make **two posts** to your discussion group **each week**. By 11:59 pm on Tuesday, each student is expected to post a primary response to the topic we assigned the previous Friday (your Tuesday post is called the “primary response post”). On Thursday (by 11:59 pm), each student is required to have posted at least one response to another group member’s primary post (this is called the “response post”). Your response post can be on either Wednesday or Thursday. Both posts contribute to the weekly discussion grade. Posts must be entered on the right weekdays, or the grade is reduced (you cannot enter both your primary and late response posts on Wednesday or Thursday).

Canvas will not allow us to set 2 due dates for the Discussion posts. Therefore, we will check whether you posted on Tuesday by the deadline using the time stamp on your post.

Discussions are due every week except the week of Nov 20 (Thanksgiving week) and the week of Dec 11 (final week of class). Week 1 is introductions, and these are ungraded. You are welcome and encouraged to post more than one “response post” and to engage in ongoing dialogue with your peers.

We will drop your two lowest discussion grades. **This will allow you some flexibility if you have a personal issue like illness or a technical problem or a**



particularly busy week.

- PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENTS will introduce tools for both critical and systems thinking. Additionally, they will emphasize communication skills. These assignments will vary. They will sometimes be associated with the discussion topic the following week, so your individual portfolio work may be shared with your group. More information about these assignments can be found in Canvas under the assignments tab.

Portfolios are due on the following dates:

- Portfolio 1 September 15
- Portfolio 2 October 13 (Group project)
- Portfolio 3 November 10
- Portfolio 4 December 8

There will also be 2 assignments associated with project management for Portfolio 2. These will be due September 29 and Oct 6

- ATTENDANCE POINTS: On 8 random Mondays, we will take attendance and you will earn 1 point for each meeting. More information will be provided about how to take the “attendance quiz” in these classes. You will be able to drop your 2 lowest attendance scores so this will provide some flexibility in the event you are ill or cannot attend class for other reasons.

## Teaching & Learning Data Transparency Statement

The privacy and security of faculty, staff, and students' personal information is a top priority for UW-Madison. The university carefully evaluates and vets all campus-supported digital tools used to support teaching and learning, to help support success through [learning analytics](#), and to enable proctoring capabilities. View the university's full [teaching and learning data transparency statement](#).

## Privacy of Student Records & the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures Statement

See information about the [privacy of student records and the usage of audio-recorded lectures](#)

Lecture materials and recordings for this course are protected intellectual property at UW-Madison. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record our lectures without permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or have lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

## How to Succeed in This Course

Success in this course requires that you spend time with the material on multiple days every week. You should read the Module information carefully, do the required readings, and watch all videos and presentations.

We want you to succeed, and we expect that everyone in this course is capable of receiving an A. However, not everyone will. **It is up to you** to keep up with the requirements, to schedule your time in anticipation of potential problems or conflicts, and to communicate with the instructors if you have issues that affect your performance.

Here are some additional links that might be useful for you.

- [University Health Services](#)
- [Undergraduate Academic Advising and Career Services](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Office of Student Financial Aid](#)
- [Dean of Students Office](#)

## Digital Course Evaluation (AEFIS)

UW-Madison uses a digital course evaluation survey tool called [AEFIS](#). For this course, you will receive an official email two weeks before the end of the semester, notifying you that your course evaluation is available. In the email, you will receive a link to log into the course evaluation with your NetID. Evaluations are anonymous. Your participation is an integral component of this course, and your feedback is important to us. We strongly encourage you to participate in the

course evaluation.

### **Students' Rules, [Rights & Responsibilities](#)**

Students have privacy rights. Students have the right to inspect and review most education records maintained about them by the University of Wisconsin–Madison and, in many cases, decide if a third person can obtain information from them. Students may challenge information in their records that they believe to be inaccurate, misleading, or inappropriate. The procedures and policies regarding grievances and other rights and responsibilities can be found here: <https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#rulesrightsandresponsibilitiestext>

### **Diversity & Inclusion Statement**

[Diversity](#) is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

By virtue of enrollment, each student agrees to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or helping others commit these acts are types of academic misconduct that may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary action include but are not limited to, failure on the assignment or the course, written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via Canvas Assignments either directly by you, or by your instructor on your behalf. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of your writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This report can help you discern when you are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively—skills essential to all academic work. We recommend that you submit your paper early enough to review your Turnitin report before the final due date. Then, if necessary, you will have time to ask for help from your instructors, from your TA, or from someone at the Writing Center.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Statement**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy ([UW-855](#)) require the university to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities to access and participate in its academic programs and educational services. Faculty and students share responsibility in the accommodation process. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations during the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible after being approved for accommodations. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to provide reasonable instructional and course-related accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. (See: [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#))

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# Calendar of topics

## Part I: Planetary Health and Global Citizenship

### Week 1: Sept 6-8 (Complete Modules 0 and 1)

#### Module 0: Welcome and Introduction to the Class

##### Topics:

Meet your instructors  
Canvas navigation and key elements for this course  
Course flow and assignments

#### Module 1: Developing a Global Perspective

##### Topics:

Getting Started  
What is Health?  
Global Citizenship

##### *Graded Assignments for Module 0/1:*

Quiz 1  
Coming up: Portfolio 1 - due next week  
UNGRADED: Discussion 1 (Introduce yourself to your group)

## Part II: Planetary Health and Global Perspectives

### Week 2: Sept 11-15

#### Module 2: Perspectives in Global Health

##### Topics:

The Sustainable Development Goals  
The Anthropocene and Introduction to Planetary Health  
From Health in All Policies to Environment in all Policies  
First in-person meeting in 272 Bascom Hall, on Monday Sept 11.

##### *Graded Assignments for Module 2:*

Weekly discussion posts due Tuesday and Thursday  
Portfolio assignment 1 due Friday

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### Week 3: Sept 18-22

#### Module 3: Case Studies in Global Change and Human Health

##### Topics:

Land-use Change and Emerging Infectious Disease  
Climate Change and Human Health

*Graded Assignments for Module 3:*

Tues/Thurs discussion posts

Quiz 2 due Friday

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Part III: Determinants of Health

**Week 4: Sept 25-29**

**Module 4: Making connections. Agriculture and health**

**Topics:**

Connecting Agriculture, Nutrition and Health

Health equity, environment, and development.

Possible guest speaker for Monday Sept 25: Dr. Jonathan Patz

*Graded Assignments for Module 4:*

Tues/Thurs discussion posts

Portfolio 2 Project Management Form (by Sept 29)

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**Week 5: Oct 2-Oct 6**

**Module 5: Epidemiology and Determinants of Health**

**Topics:**

Key concepts in epidemiology

Estimating the burden of disease

The social-ecological model: social determinants of health

*Graded Assignments for Module 5:*

Tues/Thurs discussion posts

Quiz 3

Portfolio 2: Module Template Form (by Oct 6)

Coming up: Group Portfolio 2 due next week

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Part IV: Communicable Diseases

**Week 6 and 7: Oct 9-13 and Oct 16-20**

**Modules 6 & 7: The global burden of communicable disease**

**Topics:**

The burden of communicable disease

Case studies of communicable diseases

Speaker for Oct 9: Dr. Linda Oforka, Neglected Tropical Diseases

Guest Speaker for Oct 16: Dr. Jessica Hite, Sex, Drugs and Evolution

*Graded Assignments for Modules 6 & 7:*

Weekly discussion posts (*both weeks*)  
GROUP Portfolio Assignment 2 (by Oct 13)  
Quiz 4 (by Oct 21)

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Part V: Noncommunicable diseases and mental health

**Week 8: Oct 23-Oct 27**

**Module 8: Noncommunicable disease**

**Topics:**

Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and injury

Connecting noncommunicable disease and resource consumption

*Graded Assignments for Module 8:*

Weekly discussion posts

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**Week 9: Oct 30-Nov 3**

**Module 9: Global mental health**

**Topics:**

The burden of mental health conditions

Deaths of Despair: alcohol, drugs, suicide

Possible guest lecture by Dr. Claire Wendland

*Graded Assignments for Module 9:*

Weekly discussion posts

Quiz 5

Coming up: Portfolio 3 due next week

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Part VI: Urban, Rural, and Environmental Health

**Week 10: Nov 6-10**

**Module 10: Case studies in urban and rural health**

**Topics:**

The geography of health

Case Study: Urban design and chronic disease

Health in rural communities

Medicine on Main Street. Health disparities affect millions in rural U.S. communities.

*Graded Assignments for Module 10:*

Weekly discussion posts

Portfolio 3

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**Week 11: Nov 13-17**

**Module 11: Connections: water and human wellbeing**

**Topics:**

Water for life  
Oceans and human well-being  
Threats to freshwater sources

*Graded Assignments for Module 11:*

Weekly discussion posts  
Quiz 6

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Part VI continued: Environmental Health

**Week 12: Nov 20-22 (short week, Thanksgiving break is Nov 23-26)**

**Module 12: Air quality and environmental toxins**

**Topics:**

How experts assess risks  
The air we breathe: air quality, ozone, and pollution  
Environmental toxins: pesticides and human and animal health

*Graded Assignments for Module 12:*

Holiday & short week: No discussion or other graded assignments due

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**Week 13: Nov 27-Dec 1**

**Module 13: Food systems**

**Topics:**

Organic versus conventional agriculture  
Thinking about food systems and human/planetary health  
Possible guest speaker: Dr. Valerie Stull

*Graded Assignments for Module 13:*

Weekly discussion posts  
Quiz 7  
Coming up: Portfolio 4 due next week

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Part VII: A Vision for the Future

**Week 14: Dec 4-Dec 8**

**Module 14: Visions for the Future**

**Topics:**

Perspectives and innovative ideas

*Graded Assignments for Module 14:*

Weekly discussion posts  
Portfolio 4 due



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**Week 15: Dec 11-Dec 15 (short week)**

**Module 15: What can you do**

**Topics:**

Taking action

*Graded Assignments for Module 15:*

No required assignments but please complete the course assessment

NO FINAL EXAM

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