

# Problem Set 1a

CEEG 340–Introduction to Environmental Engineering

Instructor: Deborah Sills

21 August, 2017

## Due Date

Wednesday 23 August, in class.

## Learning Goals

1. Describe important elements of the syllabus
2. Describe how regulations protect human health and the environment.
3. Compare and contrast multiple definitions of sustainability
4. Describe the progress of a developing country in reading the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Relevant Reading

Textbook, pp.1–9.

## Questions

1. (10 points) Go to the course website, read the syllabus, and answer the following questions briefly:
  - (a) What is the attendance policy for this course?
  - (b) What might happen if you skip a lot of classes?
  - (c) What time are problems sets due? How are they submitted?
  - (d) Are quizzes announced?
  - (e) It's a week before an assignment is due and you realize that you have three assignments due on that same day. What should you do?
  - (f) What is the late homework policy for this course?
  - (g) Where is Prof. Sills's office?
  - (h) What do you do if you have a question but you can't make it to any of Prof Sills' office hours?
  - (i) Can you use a laptop in class if you need it because you don't see well?

- (j) What is the most convenient day and time for **you** to attend office hours?
2. (20 points) Choose two events (at least one should be categorized as “government”) along the timeline of ‘critical events’ in Fig.1.3 on p.7 of the textbook. Write a short summary of each event (100–200 words). In your summary, address at least two of the following questions:
- (a) How did the event impact society?
  - (b) How did the event impact the environment?
  - (c) What was the cause of the event (scientific evidence, demand from people, political movement, etc.).
  - (d) Did the event improve people’s lives?
  - (e) (5 pts Extra Credit) What environmental regulations have been changed in the last eight months?
3. (10 points) *Adapted from Question 1.3 in the textbook*  
Identify two definitions of sustainability from two sources (e.g., private sector, government, financial institution, etc.). Compare and contrast these definitions to each other and to the definition created by the Brundtland Commission (described in the text).
4. (10 points) *Adapted from Question 1.5 in the textbook*  
Research online and describe the progress that one country has made in meeting one SDG. Focus on a developing country (e.g., in South Asia, Central America, or Africa).