

Sustainability through Humanistic Studies



Figure 1

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Useful Vocabulary

- What are the Humanities?
 - The study of history, art, literature, philosophy, religion, language, etc
- What is Sustainability?
 - “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (UN Bruntland Commission of 1990)

How are Humanities related to Sustainability?

- “The study of history, art, literature, philosophy, religion, language, and culture- whether native or foreign, mainstream or marginalized- sharpens (and changes) minds, opens hearts, emboldens souls.”
- In other words the humanities are about a transformation of consciousness which is at the heart of sustainability

Mission Statement

Celebrating our mission, transforming lives ... transforming communities

- Integrating teaching excellence, scholarly research, and service to society, the School of Education, Counseling Psychology, and Pastoral Ministries educates practitioners in education, counseling, health and human services, and pastoral ministry—whose professional competence, social conscience, and human compassion will transform lives, schools, and communities for the greater health, well being, and the common good of all, especially for those in greatest need. Toward that end, the school currently offers programs in four areas: Education, Counseling Psychology, Pastoral Ministries, and the Center for Professional Development.

Education and Sustainability

- Humanities make up most of SCU's core requirements.
- By educating the “whole person” graduates leave Santa Clara with not only the skills but the knowledge necessary to help create a more just and equitable society.

The Curriculum

- Religion
 - Ethics
 - Western culture
 - Global culture
 - 3rd writing requirement
 - Language
 - Proposed minors
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Religion

- All students must take 3 religion courses
 - One lower, middle, and upper division class
- The study of religion addresses the conflicts and challenges of a religiously diverse yet intolerant world
 - To educate the student body of religions in hopes to understand differences

Ethics

- To promote ethical consciousness on campus
 - Ethical consciousness can be both human and environmental
- But not to ignore the study of ethics in association with the study of religion and philosophy

Tertiary Writing Requirements




- A well-crafted argument is vital to making change in our not so “black & white” world.
- Core writing classes are directed at helping students make the transition from high school essays to free thinking analysis of complicated problems.
- With increases in writing strength, comes increases in everyday communication—the sword (or the pen) with which the sustainability battle is fought.

Western Culture

- Educates the students on western culture's past and present
- It also educates the historical encounters of western and non-western beliefs
- The goal is to provide students with the knowledge to understand (consciousness) and to cope with the many pressing matters that exist in the world today

Global Culture

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- Throughout the world, people have different ways of viewing their environment.
 - By understanding those cultures estranged from the West, one has a better understanding of how to approach topics such as sustainability on foreign soapboxes.

Language

- In a global economy like we have today, communication is a great challenge.
- Although mastery of a foreign language is not required, having exposure to another way of thinking broadens critical evaluation skills.
- Sustainability is crucial in developing nations where English is non-native.

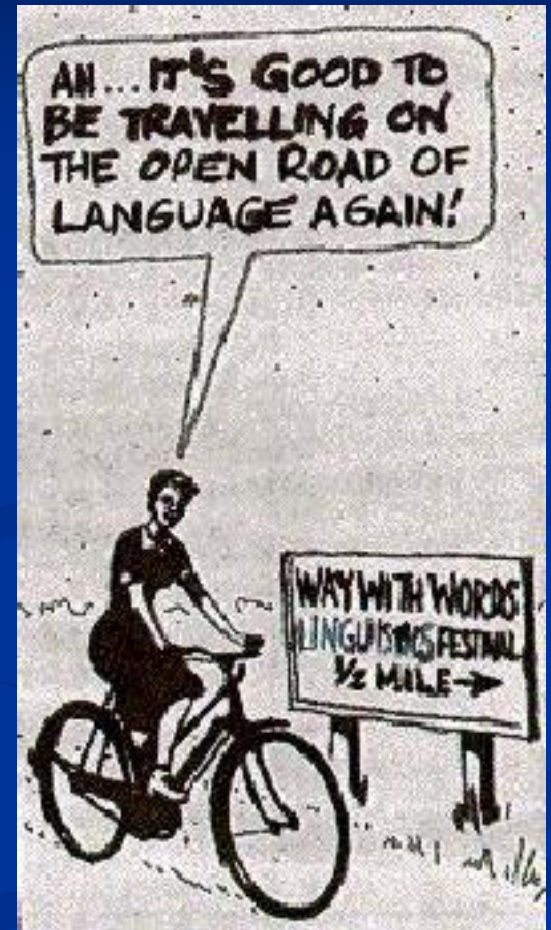


Figure 5

Proposed Minors

■ Islamic Studies

- To educate students about Islam because it addresses many issues related to the environment, poverty, diversity, and spiritual inclusiveness and the conflicts that arise from them

■ Biology, Medicine, and Ethics

- To understand the ethical issues behind cloning of humans or other mammals, artificial insemination, etc one needs to be educated about scientific knowledge.

■ Mobility and Transcultural Exchange

- Students can receive the education to recognize many of the “social dynamics of globalization.” This can place students in other countries and parts of the world through an exchange/study abroad program to see first hand many issues associated with globalization.

Conclusion to the Problems

- Wants to create curriculum around goals outlined in mission statement but...
- The school is focused on “scholarly accomplishment.”
 - Highly devoted to academic instruction of “whole person?”
- University must help find ways to educate it’s students and give them opportunities to work independently and together with their professors in order to educate the “whole person.”
 - The reason for renovating the Humanities curriculum

Photo Credits

Figure 1 [Explosion] <<http://www.historywiz.org/coldwar.htm>>

Figure 2 [Language Comic] <http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/ling100_4/language.jpg>