Sustainability and the Circular Economy

ENVENG 5170

Credit Hours:

3.00

Course Levels:

Undergraduate (1000-5000 level) Graduate

Course Components:

Lecture

Course Description:

An introduction to life-cycle thinking and the circular economy with emphasis on quantitative sustainability assessment and decision-making.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prereq: 3200 (511), or Grad standing, or permission of instructor.

Course Goals / Objectives:

- Develop, explain, and situate a personal definition of sustainability within frameworks drawn from engineering, natural science, social science, and the humanities;
- Apply life-cycle thinking in order to analyze the impacts of a product or system from cradle-to-grave;
- Develop the expertise to design a thermal or biological energy recovery process from solid waste
- Develop the expertise to design a landfill

Course Topics:

- History of sustainability: Sustainability frameworks, Industrial ecology; Life cycle assessment
- Design for the environment; Green chemistry; Design for disassembly
- Residuals Management; Waste water treatment; Air pollution control; Solid waste disposal
- Introduction to solid waste management: Regulations; History of solid waste; Solid waste generation and disposal rates
- Refuse collection systems
- Solid waste recycling and processing operations
- Material recovery processes
- Incineration and energy Recovery processes
- Biological processes for energy recovery
- Solid waste disposal and landfill design

Designation:

Required