Consumer Science 360
Sustainable and Socially Just Consumption

Lecture: M W 3:30-4:20 1120 Biochemistry
Discussion Sections: Thursday 1:20-2:10pm (304) in 2255 N Nicholas
Thu 2:25-3:15pm (306); 3:30-4:20pm (305) in 4235 N Nicholas
Friday 8:50-9:40am (301); 9:55-10:45am (302); 12:05-12:55pm (303) in 4235 N Nicholas

Professor Lydia Zepeda lzepeda@wisc.edu Office hours: M & W 2-3pm
Room 4104, N Nicholas Hall

Teaching Assistants: Room 4166, N Nicholas Hall, office hours also by appointment
Wiset “Kirk” Bumrungwong bumrungwong@wisc.edu Office hours: Tue noon-2
Discussion sections: Thu 1:20-2:10 (304), Thu 3:30-4:20 (305) and Fri 8:50-9:40 (301)
Fern Schultz fernschultz@gmail.com Office hours: Th 11:30-12:30, F 11-noon
Discussion sections: Thu 2:25-3:15pm (306); Fri 9:55-10:45am (302); 12:05-12:55pm (303)

This course explores the role that consumers play in promoting sustainability and social justice. It examines the consequences of consumer choices on the environment and workers, as well as how policy and globalization can influence consumer choices. Students will be asked to investigate how products and services and the choices that consumers make affect sustainability and social justice, and present their findings in a powerpoint presentation or video.

I wish to fully include persons with disabilities; please let me know if you need special accommodations to enable you to fully participate. I will maintain confidentiality of information you share with me. If you have a McBurney Visa please provide me with a copy by Feb 6 to ensure special arrangements can be honored.

Additional Required Materials and assignments are given in class and posted on Moodle.

Grading: A 93-100  AB 88-92  B 83-87  BC 78-82  C 71-77  D 61-70  F 0-60
Note: If you want feedback or assistance, please see the Professor or TA prior to assignment due date.

You are responsible for all assigned and in-class material. Your attention and participation in class is vital. You are expected to take notes. You are required to attend your assigned discussion section and will be graded on your preparation, attendance & participation. Exams are multiple choice and short answer.

Cell phones, pagers, tablets, computers (except for note-taking or assignments), and recorders should be off during class. Students texting, surfing, or emailing during class will be asked to leave and marked absent.

Plagiarism, whether word-for-word or patchwork plagiarism, will result in an F.

Late assignments will be marked down one full grade for each day late. Assignments turned in 4 days or later than the due date will automatically be graded as an F.

There are 100 points possible in this class:
Midterm I, Feb 23, in class  15%
Midterm II, Mar 23, in class  15%
Final, May 10, 2:45-4:45, room TBD  25%
Proposal for presentation/video March 9  5%
Original Presentation/Video  15%
Writing assignments  15%
Discussion section participation  10%
Note about writing assignments (15%): Top 10 assignments will count; throw out bottom 2. There are 9 writing assignments for Weeks 1,2,3,4,5 (discussed week 6), 7, 8, 9 (discussed week 10), 11 and the feedback weeks 12-15 (4 feedbacks) counts as 1 writing assignment.

Note about discussion section participation (10%): weeks 5 and 9 will be review for midterms; assignments are handed in that week but discussed the following week (weeks 6 and 10, respectively). Discussion section will be graded on participation rubric weeks 1-11; just showing up weeks 12-15 are equivalent to full scores for 2 weeks. Top 10 scores will count (throw out bottom 3).

Topics
1. Jan 21-23 Introduction: sustainability and consumer choices; questionnaire
2. Jan 26-30 Social Justice & Sustainability
3. Feb 2-6 Food
4. Feb 9-13 Personal Care
5. Feb 16-20 Theory: pro-environmental behaviors
6. Feb 23-27 Midterm Feb 23 Surveys/your proposals
7. Mar 2-6 Clothing
8. Mar 9-13 Proposal due March 9 - housing
9. Mar16-20 Resource extraction/electronics
10. Mar 23-27 Midterm Mar 23/ your presentations

SPRING BREAK
11. Apr 6-10 Trash
12. Apr 13-17 Fair Trade student presentations/films
13. Apr 20-24 POPs student presentations/films
14. Apr 27-May1 GHG/carbon footprint student presentations/films
15. May 4-8 Water student presentations/films

CUMULATIVE FINAL SUNDAY MAY 10 2:45-4:45, ROOM TO BE DETERMINED
Student presentations/films

Week 1  Introduction: sustainability and consumer choices; questionnaire
See film “Story of Stuff” on line 20 min  http://www.storyofstuff.com/
Read “Rethinking the Future” pp 15-20
Write 250-500 word, upload before your section Jan 22/23
Are we defined/judged by what we consume? What are the costs and side effects of a consumption society? Reference the readings, film assignments, and lecture for full credit

Week 2  Social Justice and Sustainability
Powerpoint: como abaratar costes
Read  “Declaration of Human Rights” on line  http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html
“Consumers and Citizenship” in RCB, pp 26-32
“Consuming with Respect for the Environment and Future Generations: Toward more Sustainable Consumption” RCB, pp 70-75
“Consumer Concerns and Alternative Choices” RCB, pp 46-52
“Transforming Consumption by Rejecting the Unacceptable” RCB, pp 79-86
Write 250-500 words, upload before your section Jan 29/30:
What is social justice to you? What do your consumption choices have to do with social justice?