

Antioch University McGregor

**VIS 393: Living Sustainably: Strategies of Consumption & Collaboration
(4 credits)**

Summer 2008

**Joe Cronin
Saul Greenberg**

Use FirstClass E-mail for contacting Instructor

August 18-21, Mon-Thurs, 9am-4:30pm - Multipurpose Room

**Public Presentations by learning communities: August 28, 6-9 p.m. -
Multipurpose Room**

**NOTE ON ATTENDANCE: STUDENTS NEED TO BE PRESENT FOR ALL
CLASS MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION IN ORDER TO
OBTAIN CREDIT**

Course Content

In this course, we will examine both public and private means for reducing our ecological footprint and building human bridges to a sustainable future. We will specifically address activist strategies and consumption strategies that call attention to habit modifications that we will have to make in terms of housing, energy use, food consumption, transportation and communications, and economic redistribution, in order to foster an environmentally adaptable and future generation friendly "green ethos."

Learning Outcomes

Course Requirements (including modes of assessment)

*Students are required to attend ALL course sessions, plus the public presentation.

*Students are required to work in small teams to produce a one hour public presentation, that will be made available to all community members.

*Students must write a paper based on course reading materials, and individual research. Papers will be 10-12 typewritten, double-spaced pages for Undergraduate students, and 16-20 pages for Graduate students.

*More details for each of these assignments will be given at the first class session, August 18.

Texts Required

State of the World 2008: Innovations for a Sustainable Economy
January 2008 ISBN 13: 978-0-393-33031-1

Brian Halweil, *Home Grown: The Case for Local Food in a Global Market*
(Worldwatch Paper #163, Available electronically)
Articles from *The Ethics of Consumption* (Handouts)

Assignment for the first day of class

Please read through as much material listed below as you can before this class begins. We will be busy throughout the week of class meetings, and you are expected to work with your small group on your public presentations the following week, so time will become scarce. Please, read ahead!!!

GUESTS: Jonathan Scherch, Antioch Seattle

FILM: *Community Solutions: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*

Course Schedule (Note: Please check for updated version in early June; graduate students will be given additional reading assignments)

August 18: The Consumer Economy and Globalization
Readings – *State of the World*, chapters 1-8

August 19: The Ethics of Consumption: Determining our Ecological Footprint
Paul Wachtel, “Alternatives to the Consumer Society,” Juliet Schor, “A New Economic Critique of Consumer Society,” from *The Ethics of Consumption* (handouts). Consult www.footprintnetwork.org electronically.

August 20: Alternatives to Living the Consumer Life – Lowering energy usage, water consumption, and waste
Readings – *State of the World*, chapters 9-14

August 21: Alternatives to Living the Consumer Life – Community Reorganization: Local Alternatives to the Global Economy
Readings – *Home Grown: The Case for Local Food in a Global Market*

August 28: Public Presentations

September 4: Final Papers Due

Antioch University Policies

This course observes all institutional policies as defined in the Antioch University McGregor Undergraduate Student Handbook, *including the policy on attendance*. In this course [excluding the summer session and workshops] students may not be awarded credit if they miss more than two classes.