

# M.A. in Sustainability Studies Trent University

*March, 2014*

# What we do together...

- “ Program is born out of recognition that the world faces a cascade of challenges including extreme poverty, environmental degradation, climate change, urban sprawl & decay, persecution of minorities, & social injustice.
- “Creating a sustainable future and learning to live within our planetary limits is now an imperative for humanity.
- “We perceive an increased demand from alumni, the workplace, and prospective students for a graduate education that recognizes the convergence of leadership skills with environmentally and socially sustainable ideas and practices.”

# Objectives of the Program

- An *interdisciplinary* and *transdisciplinary* research and reflective practice program
- Designed to enable students to explore the sustainability of human societies and the natural environment.
- Provide students with education and training that will prepare them to be intellectual and organizational leaders within academia, government, industry, and the non-profit sector
- Develop skills in research and critical thinking that will enable them to pursue further academic training

# Objectives of the Program

## 1) Graduate Education

- to provide an integrative learning opportunity where graduate students become equipped with theory, experience, and skills that will enable them to pursue further research and practice in sustainability.

## 2) Research & Knowledge

- society is in desperate need of solutions to the many challenges we face. Through its research and teaching, create innovative and integrative knowledge designed to address these challenges.

## 3) Community Engagement

- committed to engaging via action communities interested in our teaching and research
- realize benefits from our research and teaching, while providing students hands-on, experiential learning

# Curricular Focus of the Program

The program offer students learning experiences spanning three areas:

- History and Knowledge of Sustainability
- Organizations and Sustainability
- Sustainability and Social Innovation

# What students will do...

- Graduates from the MA in Sustainability Studies will help meet the growing demand for highly qualified personnel who can further environmentally and socially sustainable policies, strategies, and practices in for-profit, non-profit, government, and non-governmental organizations.

# How they do it...

- The MASS Learning Community
- Advisor, Supervisor & Committee
- Complete a Plan of Study
  - establish specific course and research expectations for degree completion
- Develop a Thesis/MRP proposal by the second term of study

# How they will do it...

## *Thesis and Major Research Paper Options*

- Objectives will be achieved through a combination of course work and research through one of the following two options:
  - Thesis (2 credits) + 3.5 course credits,
  - OR
  - Major Research Paper (1 credit ) + 4.5 course credits



# Thesis Stream

- 1 core course - SUST 5000Y (1 credit)
- 2 elective half courses (1 credit)
- Student Faculty and Community Colloquium
- SUST5010/20H (1/2 credit x 2 years)
- Research Design and Methods (1/2 credit)
- Thesis

## Plan of Study:

- Identify purpose and scope of specialized studies, learning objectives
- Identify courses, beyond required program courses, that are needed to meet the student's unique learning objectives, interests, and capabilities.
- Faculty advisor approves each revised iteration of the student's individualized study plan.
- Advising process ensures that each student's individualized learning program meets appropriate levels of competence and scholarship, and prepares him or her for the successful completion of the Thesis or Major Research Paper project

# Required Courses

## 1. SUST 5000Y

- Intellectual history of the concept of sustainability
- Organizations, institutions, economic structures and sustainability
- Sustainability and social innovation/advocacy

## 2. SUST 5010H/5020H- *Student and Community Colloquium:*

- Extends through Fall/Winter terms in each of the two years of the program.
- Sessions consist of seminars on student and faculty research
  - Faculty, guest speakers on multiple issues, disciplines.

## 3. SUST5002H Qualitative Research Methods

# Elective Courses

- SUST5300H: (Bishop) Justice, Ethics, Sustainability and Capitalism
- SUST5450H: (Zohar) Perspectives And Practices For Organizational Sustainability
- INDG-ERST4740Y (Furgal): Critical Investigations in Indigenous Peoples Health and the Environment
- GEOG – 4444H (Skinner): Rural community sustainability
- CSIS.SUST5401H/CAST6201H: (Bocking) Knowledge, Society, and the Environment