**Open Seminar – The Sustainable Campus**

**Discussion Leader:** Cynthia Klein-Banai, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Sustainability, Office of Planning Sustainability and Project Management, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

cindy@uic.edu Tel: 312-996-3968

**Course:** Mostly the third Tuesdays of every month: 12-12:50 p.m., on Zoom

*Registration link:* <https://uic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsf-mrqzItHNCOolbuxqIvYC3n5iEbFHxC>

This discussion course is about climate and how it manifests generally at the global level and how it pertains specifically to complex institutions at college and university campuses. Sustainability in this course is broadly defined and will be discussed in the context and intersection of environmental, fiscal, and social justice; please have an open mind. Furthermore, you will also learn how to get involved with sustainability initiatives on and off campus.

For the best experience, please complete preparation activities prior to attending. Attendees of all eight sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 1** | September 21 |
| **Theme** | Definitions of sustainability and the field |
| **Preparation 9/21** | Read: [Richard Heinberg – What is Sustainability?](https://cdn.auckland.ac.nz/assets/arts/documents/What%20is%20Sustainability.pdf) Consider:1. Is this definition of sustainability complete?
2. Which part resonates with you this most?
3. How would you define sustainability?
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 2** | October 19 |
| **Theme** | International sustainability  |
| **Preparation for 10/19** | Read: [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)And [Implementing the UN SDGs In Universities](https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/sus.2019.0004?casa_token=zzMUCP1awMMAAAAA%3APcx01GGfhQMwR4E1XPQSkGewazqccOP3eRW8JenyU7x98Y_D76JQSz-NLXyHSQiMjmOxRj0_cZCrUFQ)Consider: 1. Which goal is most interesting to you?
2. Which goal(s) could be achieved on the UIC campus?
3. Are these goals enough?
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 3** | November 16 |
| **Theme** | Environmental sustainability and climate change |
| **Preparation for 11/16** | Read: [The Great Climate Migration](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/23/magazine/climate-migration.html) And/or Listen to: [Like the Monarch: Human Migrations during Climate Change](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/how-to-save-a-planet/id1525955817?i=1000529690461)Consider:1. How would you define climate migration?
2. How should the international community respond to climate migration?

Will the UN Sustainable Development Goals help mitigate climate migration? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 4** | December 14  |
| **Theme** | Economic sustainability and the Midwest  |
| **Preparation for 12/14** | Read: [Heat in the Heartland: Climate Change and Economic Risk in the Midwest](https://riskybusiness.org/report/heat-in-the-heartland-climate-change-and-economic-risk-in-the-midwest/#:~:text=Midwest%20Report-,Heat%20in%20the%20Heartland%3A%20Climate%20Change%20and%20Economic%20Risk%20in,and%20increased%20heat%2Drelated%20mortality.)Listen to: [NPR – Climate Change is Driving Deadly Weather](https://www.npr.org/2021/07/29/1022241936/climate-change-is-driving-deadly-weather-disasters-from-arizona-to-mumbai) Consider:1. How does climate change differ between the Midwest and the rest of the world?
2. How does Chicago differ from other areas in the Midwest?
3. What can the Midwest do to mitigate climate change?
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 5** | January 18 |
| **Theme** | Justice in the climate movement  |
| **Preparation for 1/18** | Read: [A Year after Smokestack Implosion Coated Little Village in Dust, Environmental Justice Fight Grinds on](https://news.wttw.com/2021/04/11/year-after-smokestack-implosion-coated-little-village-dust-environmental-justice-fight).And [Race, Poverty, and COVID-19](https://www-liebertpub-com.proxy.cc.uic.edu/doi/10.1089/scc.2021.0027)Consider:1. What is the relationship between air pollution and COVID-19 per this article?
2. Is Chicago unique? Or is this happening elsewhere in the United States?
3. How has the intersection of air pollution and COVID altered your life?
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 6** | February 15 |
| **Theme** | Racial equity and local sustainability |
| **Preparation for 2/15** | Read: [From environmental to climate justice: climate change and the discourse of environmental justice](https://wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wcc.275?casa_token=Wx8aMzCcuegAAAAA%3AN8lVMWqTc9QWX6PrekSm1lzgcR4Nq8EF1nbPFIAZg1vU0CQoNB6MeToSbvF1NjhV4eXWsqd2HXZ3IPW8)Reflect:1. How would you define environmental racism?
2. How can USA combat environmental racism?
3. Have you or your family experiences environmental racism?
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 7**  | March 15  |
| **Theme** | Your Climate Action Venn Diagram |
| **Preparation for 3/15** | Review the [Sustainability website](https://sustainability.uic.edu)Listen to [Is your carbon footprint BS?](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fus%2Fpodcast%2Fhow-to-save-a-planet%2Fid1525955817%3Fi%3D1000513601221&data=04%7C01%7Ccindy%40uic.edu%7C653333ad629342f9141a08d95827278a%7Ce202cd477a564baa99e3e3b71a7c77dd%7C0%7C0%7C637637747445381482%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Ch66qCG3thBCg6dN0ZfiqlbY4v3Qtszmnv3JzwHqeEw%3D&reserved=0) Be prepared to talk about your Climate Action Venn Diagram – what are you good at? What is the work that needs doing? What brings you joy? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month 8 (Earth Month)** | April 19  |
| **Theme** | Stakeholders and Fossil Fuel Divestment |
|  | Read: [Heifetz – Leadership without Easy Answers](https://learn-us-east-1-prod-fleet01-xythos.s3.amazonaws.com/5cc71db6522fe/14451661?response-cache-control=private%2C%20max-age%3D21600&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%2A%3DUTF-8%27%27Leadership%2520without%2520easy%2520answers%2520-%2520Heifetz.pdf&response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Date=20200819T150000Z&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Expires=21600&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAZH6WM4PL5SJBSTP6%2F20200819%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Signature=974e460e26502fd7dd23ddaefaedf045865db51c5bebe0ed8ee89e36b1dd1922)LeadershipThe Path to Fossil Fuel Divestment[Sustainable Investing at U of I](https://sustainability.illinois.edu/u-of-i-investing-in-climate-solutions-from-the-ground-up/) |
| **Preparation for 4/19** | Reflect:1. How would you define stakeholder?
2. What is the role and/or responsibility of a stakeholder?
3. Why do stakeholders matter?
 |