

Delta State University
Sociology 421
Fall 2004

Midterm Exam

Due: Monday, October 25

Instructions: Prepare a three paragraph essay that addresses the short essay question and a three page essay that addresses the long essay question. Be sure to develop an explanation or argument in your essays. See the link from the course home page for tips on writing an effective essay.

Short Essay Question:

Many people use the definition of sustainable development provided by the Bruntland Commission:

“Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable – to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (p. 8)

Critique this definition. What are its weaknesses? Provide evidence to support your arguments.

Long Essay Question:

Trace the history of sustainable development on the international stage. When did the notion that development should be more sustainable arise? Why did it arise? How has it evolved over time? Note and describe important events that have advanced understanding of sustainable development around the world.