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17.181 / 17.182 Sustainable Development: Theory and Policy  
Spring 2009

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# Sustainable Development: Theory and Policy 17.181-17.182

## Final Examination Spring 2009

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### Instructions

Please **answer** two (2) of the following four (4) questions. This is the same type of format and approach as the mid-term.

Suggested **length** no less than 5 pages and no more than 6 pages for each question – double space ( not triple space with wide margins).

Each answer is in essence an ‘**essay**’ on the topics you have selected. **You must draw on the assignments.** Since you need to demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings relevant to each question, please feel free to draw from materials across various weeks – as needed.

Please make sure that **you do not use** the same assignments in both questions. If you find it necessary to draw on the same assignments, then please use **additional references** to make up for the ‘double duty factor.’

For general points, please note that you need the author’s name; for specific points noted you need the author plus the relevant page. Please add your reference list at the end of each question.

### Questions

**One.** Please select one issue or ‘problem’ that you consider to be an impediment to sustainability, define the nature of the problem, its key features, and highlight strategies for “solution.” This question is intentionally open-ended, to allow you to consider issues or problems of particular interest to you.

**Do NOT choose the same issue that you selected in the mid-term. For example, if you selected ‘population,’ you cannot focus on that again for the Final Exam. The same holds for ‘energy.’**

**Two.** What is the relevance of knowledge and technology (and technological change) to the challenges of sustainability? How do different authors (or analysts) factor in the knowledge and technology variable(s) in discussions of sustainability? How effective is their analysis?

What criteria would you use to determine 'effectiveness' of analysis? What information would you need in order to improve our understanding of 'technology' in the context of sustainable development?

**Three.** Compare and contrast the role(s) of governments and private firms in the potential management of sustainability. Please address the respective contributions to the 'creation' of sustainability problems as well as approaches to 'resolution.'

You may wish to focus on specific topics (or domains) or, alternatively, you might prefer to take a more theoretical perspective.

**Four.** Please write an essay on global accord, focusing on the development of international collaboration for the management of sustainable development and environmental challenges – taking into account national as well as international institutional contexts.

What are the issues? What are the challenges? What are the strengths and weaknesses of current understandings in theory and policy?

### **Suggestions**

- a. Develop an outline of your key points and overall argument before beginning to write.**
- b. Make sure that your first and last paragraphs are related to each other.**
- c. Be sure to cover the key literature and assignments -- within and across weeks -- and to reference as needed.**
- d. Please send an e-copy and be sure to keep a hard copy as a backup.**