

Weekly Assignment Questions

WA 10- due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 4/24

1. How is Black Friday indicative of the overwhelming success of the neoliberal economic market (think capitalism) to indoctrinate commodity fetishism into American society?
2. What is 'degrowth' and why do its advocates argue this model is a necessary step beyond practicing sustainable development?
3. How to/ what will/ what can successfully challenge the dominant neoliberal economic paradigm? (Focus on the basic ideas proposed rather than listing the proposed policy changes, though you should familiarize yourself with these for the discussion.)

WA 9- due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 4/17 (remember Response 4 is due **Sunday** night)

1. Why is just banning plastic bags not likely to promote sustainability?
2. What issues interfere with banning plastic bags?
3. In what ways do plastics used in farming challenge sustainability?

WA 8- - due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 4/3

1. What are 'one-ways' and why does much of that plastic now end up going to China?
2. Why doesn't the plastics industry fight or back the Bottle Bill?
3. Why and how are people more sustainably using plastic waste in Global South countries?

WA 7- due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 3/27

1. How is food waste a sustainability issue?
2. Why aren't Christmas lights recycled in the U.S., but they are in China?
3. How does the harvesting (i.e. collecting) of recyclable materials differ in the U.S. and China?

WA 6- due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 3/13

For this WA, instead of answering questions, I would like you discuss what you think are the most important issues from the readings (you don't need to discuss the water quiz; we'll talk about that in class). You still have a 307 word limit, so be sure to be discriminating in how much time you spend talking about any one point in order to cover all of the key points. Also, remember to discuss the main points collectively, rather than going reading by reading.

WA 5 due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 2/27

1. How is the livestock industry a threat to sustainability?
2. Why should we eat bugs? Why don't we?
3. What factors interfere with promoting plant-based diets?

WA 4 due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 2/20

1. How do conventional, GMO methods of farming promote sustainability?
2. What are the main contributing factors to organics movement? (Remember, your answers should come from the readings, not just what you've heard in the news.)
3. How would diets have to change for local food movements to succeed?

WA 3- due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 2/6

1. How does the highly-concentrated coffee roasting industry give MNCs an advantage over producers even in a fair trade (FT) model? (Note: This issue is discussed in both readings and the video.)
2. Why is it important to understand commodity fetishism as a product of the capitalist market to discuss fair trade (FT) issues?
3. **Cappuccino Trail** argues that Global North (GN) consumers have become "Foodies without Frontiers." How do the buying habits the video highlights affect the producers of coffee and other farm-produced commodities?

WA 2- due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 1/30

1. How does the capitalist system promote Global South (GS) poverty through commodity exchanges?
2. How did the fair trade (FT) movement shift from one based on charity, instead to a focus of equality and promoting “trade not ‘aid’” as equal exchange?
3. The Doherty, et al., article examines the micro- and macro-economic perspectives and implications of mainstreaming fair trade (FT) products. How do the factors they discuss highlight the tensions between the radical FT movement and the mainstream approach to FT? (We’ll discuss the details in class, but focus on the big picture when answering this question.)

WA 1 (due to Blackboard by 1:30 pm, Monday, 1/23)

4. How does the rise of the credit card undermine sustainability?
5. Why is whether plastic can be green (i.e. ‘green plastic’) up for debate?
6. Why are MNCs’ “sustainability” policies more aptly described as “efficiency” policies?