

Course Syllabus

Please include the following information in your online syllabus.

Course Title

SCIC 5090.W1 Experiments in Environmental Education

Course Number

SCIC 5090

Course Description

This course is built on a sustainability framework entitled, *The Natural Step*. This framework was developed by a cadre of scientists and serves as the foundation for understanding and addressing environmental issues. Crucial for today's students, this framework will also provide you with the tools to go beyond identifying environmental problems and prepare you to envision the path towards a healthier future for all sentient beings.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Course Objectives/Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of environmental issues through reflection, analysis and synthesis of basic foundational principles of sustainability.

Students will be able to:

- Summarize non-negotiable nature of living systems
- Explain a systems perspective and describe examples
- Compare and contrast three types of capital
- Analyze discussions within the environmental debate and determine the context of the discussions
- Compare and contrast "waste" streams
- Diagram a simple resource and energy flow
- Discuss four scientific principles that serve as basis for sustainability
- Summarize case studies in sustainability
- Critique their daily routines with regard to sustainability
- Define and site examples of biomimicry
- Measure impacts within audit process
- Design and critique Product Analysis Project

Required Textbooks/Readings

Benyus, Janine. (1997). *Biomimicry, Innovation Inspired by Nature*. New York. HarperCollins

Lotter, Donald W. (1993). Lafayette, CA. Morning Sun Press.

Students will also purchase and view video, *The Nature of Things: Biomimicry*

Optional Textbooks/Readings

Numerous, cited within each week

Supplementary Textbook/Readings

Numerous, cited within each week

Online Participation Expectation

Students must log on and have active participation with questions and answers in weekly discussions at least twice per calendar week (Mon – Sun). Your discussions will account for approximately 30% of your course grade. All discussion questions should be grammatically correct, not offensive and well conceived before submitting online to the class.

Course Requirements

Students will successfully complete the following expectations for this course:

- Answer biweekly discussion questions
- Develop a Product Analysis Project within small groups
- Design and conduct one field trip
- Analyze and evaluate Personal Environmental Audit
- Develop class unit or workshop presentation on sustainability

Assignments Submission

You are required to submit all assignments in a timely manner via WebCT Assignments area. WebCT will stamp your submission date/time automatically. If you are encountering technical problems in WebCT submission, please contact technical help desk. You are also recommended to contact your instructor right away and submit your assignments to your instructor personal email account as suggested.

Policies on Late Assignments

Students are expected to be on time and not miss assignments. If work is posted late it may not be accepted and the instructor has the option of deducting points off of your score.

Feedback Schedule

Graded work will be returned in a timely basis. The instructor will log on during all real-time chat sessions; these sessions will be set up in advance so students may plan their schedules around the course work.

Course Grading

Discussions –	31%
Quizzes (3)	15%
Field Trip	10%
Project	22%
Final	22%

Policies on Plagiarism or Cheating

The same policies on plagiarism and cheating for traditional classes apply to this online course as well.

The syllabus is subject to change.