

Community Sustainability/CANR

CSUS 445 Community-Based Environmental and Sustainability Education

Fall 2020

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Rebecca

Office: Online

Office Hours: By ARR or during open class hours

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Course Description

Methods, materials and theory for non-formal environmental and sustainability education. Focuses on non-profit and agency education programming in conservation, food systems, parks and recreation, and community engagement and outreach. Consideration of relationships among non-formal, informal and K-12 education systems. Field trips required.

Prerequisite

(CSUS 200 or approval of department) and completion of Tier I writing requirement

Textbook & Course Materials

All materials can be found on the D2L course page

Course Structure

This course will be delivered online through the course management system and you will need your MSU NetID to login to the course from the *D2L homepage* (<http://d2l.msu.edu>).

In *D2L*, you will access online lessons, course materials, and additional resources. Activities may consist of readings, discussion forums, email, journaling, wikis, and other online activities.

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem, you can:

- Visit the [Distance Learning Services Support Site](#)
- Visit the [Desire2Learn Help Site](http://help.d2l.msu.edu/) (<http://help.d2l.msu.edu/>)
- Or call Distance Learning Services: (800) 500-1554 or (517) 355-2345

Resource Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)

- To make an appointment with a specialist, contact: (517) 353-9642
Or TTY: (517) 355-1293
- Web site for RCPD: <http://MYProfile.rcpd.msu.edu>

Part 2: Course Objectives and Outcomes

A. Students will be able to describe the major goals of environmental education (EE) and, in many cases, environmental communication (EC) (resulting in an ability to take action toward community environmental sustainability) as:

- 1.) Motivating a desire to become active in environmental sustainability.
- 2.) Promoting issue awareness skills.
- 3.) Providing an ability to act toward environmental sustainability.

B. Students will be able to employ a systematic method to collecting data about their communication and use this information to modify their practice (evaluation).

C. Students will gain practice in employing sound teaching techniques by thinking critically about the following themes.

Students will be expected to:

- Complete 2 exams Covering the major goals of environmental education and resources for instruction (A and B)
- Complete Short Assignments
Covering aspects of critical thinking in the context of current environmental issues
(critical thinking will integrate skill in Argumentation, Empathy, and Synthesis)
(C)
- Participate in 2 final class projects Covering systematic teacher/communication practices and motivating students (A, B, and C)

Assessment Distribution:

Exams (10%) Participation (Discussion prompts) (10%) Assignment Papers (30%), Projects (50%)

Part 3: Course Outline/Schedule

Disclaimer:

This course is NOT a comprehensive review of environmental issues, nor is it a comprehensive review of science teaching strategies. This course is intended to encourage you to think critically about teaching and communication as a practice through the lens of environmental education.

Assessment scale:

Grade scale: 100-90%= A, 87-89%= B+, 80-87%= B, 77-79%= C+, 70-75%= C, 66-69%= D+, 60-65%= D, <60%= F. Note: All assignments are due at 3 pm on the due date. 5% will be deducted for each day that the assignment is late. No extra credit will be awarded, but students are encouraged to submit work early for initial comments. To be fair, I ask that any requests for a grade change or make-up (projects only and in advance) must be in writing. Grade is based on mastery, not on a curve. Please note that plagiarism will not be tolerated—always provide your sources!

OTHER INFORMATION:

It is important that students have the tools to succeed in this course. Please see the instructor *as soon as possible* with any difficulties or questions regarding the course materials.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

See D2L site. A new module will be released every week. I highly recommend that you keep up weekly. The final module will be final projects which will take 4 weeks.

Part 5: Course Policies**Diversity Equity and Inclusiveness**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are important, interdependent components of everyday life in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and are critical to our pursuit of academic excellence. Our aim is to foster a culture where every member of CANR feels valued, supported and inspired to achieve individual and common goals with an uncommon will. This includes providing opportunity and access for all people across differences of race, age, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, migratory status, disability / abilities, political affiliation, veteran status and socioeconomic background.

(See the full CANR statement: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/canr-statement-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion>)

Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty

Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.

(See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity](#) webpage.)

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

Participation and Engagement

During all classes, the instructor expects students to be fully engaged and prepared to discuss reading assignments. Students are encouraged to ask questions of the instructor, guest speakers, and their peers.

Active participation includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

1. Asking and answering questions of the instructors, peers, or guest speakers
2. Bringing forth new ideas, information, or perspectives to academic conversations
3. Discussing your readings and reflections with instructors and peers
4. Meeting with the instructors to discuss your interests, assignments, or project
5. Questioning information presented and discussed
6. Participating in small group discussions and activities
7. Assuming responsibility for personal behavior and learning

While working on group projects, students should be mindful of other students in their group; therefore, it is important for all participants to exercise:

- Respect for themselves, each other
- Openness and a positive attitude toward new ideas and other's ideas
- Flexibility and tolerance of ambiguity
- Good communications amongst themselves.

Complete Assignments

Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through *D2L* unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

PART 6: GENERAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All other general college and university policies applicable to this course are available at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/courses/policies> . Please review these policies.

Topics covered in these general policies include:

- Students with disabilities, Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) and accommodations
- Student rights under the family educational rights and privacy act (FERPA)
 - Student release authorization form
- Religious holiday policies
- Grief absence policies
- Students in distress policies
- MSU student athlete policies
- Course add-drop policies
- Honors options
- Course Management system policies

- Final exam policy and attendance
- Grade dispute policies
- Academic honesty and integrity, plagiarism, and disciplinary procedures
- Disruptive behavior
- Harassment and discrimination policies
- RVSM University reporting protocols
- Limits to confidentiality
- Social media policy
- Web accessibility policies
- MSU Code of Teaching Responsibility
- SIRS
- Commercialization of lecture notes
- University Learning Goals