

TESC 301: Sustainability in Action
University of Washington, Tacoma – Summer 2012

Instructor: Lia Wetzstein

Class: Monday & Wednesday 1:30-3:35 (first 4 weeks)
Wednesday 1:30-3:10 (last 5 weeks)

Office: SCI 238

Classroom: SCI 211

Phone w/Voice Mail: 253-692-5657

Blackboard: <http://www.bb.tacoma.uw.edu/>

Office Hours: TH 4:00-5:00 or by appt.

Course ID: TESC 301

E-mail: lwetz@uw.edu

Course Goal:

The goal of this course is to increase understanding of sustainability and sustainable practices. Students will learn about the relationship between higher education institutions and sustainability. They will use their campus to study sustainability issues and through this gain research and change agent skills.

Course Objectives:

1. Increase student knowledge and understanding of environmental and sustainability issues.
2. Increase student knowledge and understanding of incentives and barriers to sustainability for both individuals and organizations
3. Expand student research, communication, networking, and presentation skills through exploring campus sustainability issues.
4. Promoting student engagement with campus sustainability issues to increase understanding and skills necessary to create institutional change in regard to sustainability
5. Increase student knowledge regarding the history of, current state and exemplars in campus sustainability issues

Required Texts and Materials:

Various articles that can be accessed via blackboard. Others may be added to syllabus and made available as needed.

Grading and Evaluation:

Your course grade will be based upon points accumulated from the following activities. Your final grade will be calculated as a percentage of the total possible points that you earn. This percentage will be converted to a final decimal grade according to the attached UWT grade schedule. Regular attendance is expected and is a critical component of this course. While I will not take attendance formally, participation in class discussion is a necessary component of this class.

Points per Assignment:

Participation in class discussion of assigned readings	20%
Group work – pre-proposal, group eval, etc.	20%
Culminating project paper	40%
Presentation on culminating project	20%

Overview of Assignments

Class participation:

We will be discussing articles in class and working on a variety of in-class assignments. Credit for those assignments and discussions can only happen if you are in class that day. The assignments are not announced a head of time.

Group work:

Culminating projects will be group projects. During class we will be checking in to make sure all group members are participating. We will also use lecture time for brainstorming projects and assessment methods, discussion of next steps and barriers, and updating the class on projects. These assignments will be for credit.

Culminating Project:

The culminating project is a small scale sustainability project on campus. A project resource book exists on the Blackboard site. It has contact information for Facility Services, literature about a variety campus sustainability topics, and prior student projects and results. This resource book can be used to find potential projects, groups will choose a project to undertake, talk to the necessary stakeholders on campus, begin the project, and have assessment parameters to measure the extent the project affected campus sustainability. The group will have to write a paper about the process and outcomes.

Presentation:

Students will also have to create a poster of their results to present at a public forum.

RULES

Plagiarism

A major part of your experience in the class will be reading, synthesizing, and using the knowledge and ideas of others. It is the responsibility of the faculty to help you in this process and to be certain you learn to credit the work of others upon which you draw. To plagiarize is to appropriate and to pass off, as one's own ideas, writing or works of another.

Plagiarism is no less of a misconduct violation than vandalism or assault. Ignorance of proper documentation procedures is the usual cause of plagiarism. This ignorance does not excuse the act. Students are responsible for learning how and when to document and attribute resources used in preparing a written or oral presentation. Keep in mind that copying your classmates' work without attribution (even if they are in your group and share the information with you) is just as serious as plagiarizing from an exterior source, and will not be tolerated.

For more information, please refer to the Academic Honesty: Cheating and Plagiarism document for UWT:
http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/student_affairs/SC_Plagiarism.cfm

Additional information can be found in the UWT course catalog (pg. 18):
<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/catalog/>

Incomplete

http://www.washington.edu/students/genocat/front/Grading_Sys.html#I

An Incomplete is given only when the student has been in attendance and has done satisfactory work until within two weeks of the end of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control. A written statement of the reason for the giving of the Incomplete, listing the work which the student will need to do to remove it, must be filed by the instructor with the head of the department or the dean of the college in which the course is given.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE: Sustainability in Action (Summer '12)

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
June 18 th & June 20 th	Course philosophy and goals What is Sustainability? Role of <u>Higher Education in Sustainability</u> .	Ch: A Learning Society	In class- Interviews
June 25 th & June 27 th	Understanding UWT structure and sustainability initiatives The Role of <u>Sustainability in Higher Education</u>	Course Resource Book Article: Top 10 Myths of Sustainability Article: Sustainability & Civic Engagement	On-line discussion about ideas. Creation of Action Plan-In class
July 2 nd & July 4 th	Sustainability in Higher Education Why do people and organizations act sustainably?	Article: Education for Sustainability as the Mission of Higher Education Ch: Institutional Transformation	Hand in group Contract and pre-proposal
July 9 th & July 11 th	Campus Sustainability Exemplars-what other universities are doing What students have done to improve campus sustainability	Ch: Citizen Engagement	Progress check-in Students present on roadblocks
July 18 th	How do you measure sustainability? Determining metrics and how to estimate change	Assessment literature	
July 25 th	The cost or savings of sustainability Discussion of local Sustainability Exemplars-green buildings & green energy		
August 1 st	Barriers to Behavior Change? How do you convince people to change?	Article: Assessing Opportunities and Constraints in Campus Sustainability The Role of Paper Consumption	
August 8 th	Climate change and Higher Education		Final project due Presentation
August 15 th	Discussion of accomplishments, issues, and next steps		Evaluation of group

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (Student Health and Wellness - SHAW)

The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS) functions as the focal point for coordination of services for students with disabilities. In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any enrolled student at UW Tacoma who has an appropriately documented physical, emotional, or mental disability that "substantially limits one or more major life activities [including walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working]," is eligible for

services from DSS. If you are wondering if you may be eligible for accommodations on our campus, please contact the DSS reception desk at 692-4522, or visit http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm/

COUNSELING CENTER (Student Health and Wellness - SHAW)

The Counseling Center offers short-term, problem-focused counseling to UW Tacoma students who may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of college, work, family, and relationships. Counselors are available to help students cope with stresses and personal issues that may interfere with their ability to perform in school. The service is provided confidentially and without additional charge to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. To schedule an appointment, please call 692-4522 or stop by the Student Counseling Center (SCC), located in MAT 253. Additional information can also be found by visiting http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/scc_about.cfm/

Campus Safety Information

In case of a fire alarm

Take your valuables and leave the building. Plan to return to class once the alarm has stopped. Do not return until you have received an all-clear from somebody "official," the web or email.

In case of an earthquake

DROP, COVER, and HOLD. Once the shaking stops, take your valuables and leave the building. Be prepared to not be able to return to the building the same day. Do not return to the building until you have received an all-clear from somebody "official," the web or email.

For more information, please refer to the Emergency and Safety Plan prepared by the UWT Safety Committee: http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/safety/emergency/Emergency_plan.pdf

E-mail Policy

http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/policies_procedures/E-mail_Policy.pdf

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices (including, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, laptops, and personal digital assistants) may only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor. Checking/ sending email, playing games, and surfing the web may distract your neighbors and should not be done during class or lab.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather please note the following steps for determining whether the campus is open, if your class will be held as scheduled, and/or the handling of assignments:

- (1) Call the snow #: 253-383-INFO. This number will inform you whether the campus has been closed.
- (2) Call my office #: 253-692-4556 to check for an outgoing message indicating any changes in the scheduled class meeting and the status of pending assignments. Assume no changes unless otherwise indicated.
- (3) Call the program office #: 253-692-4450. This number is to be used only after trying the first two numbers if you are unable to ascertain whether the class will be held or not.

NOTE: It is important to remember that safety should always be considered when deciding whether it is advisable to attend classes during periods of inclement weather. It is sometimes difficult for us to determine the state of the roads away from campus, therefore please err on the side of caution if the weather turns nasty. Please e-mail me or leave a voicemail message if you cannot make it in due to inclement weather.

Grading Scale

Letter	%	UW decimal grade
A	97-100	4.0
	94-96	3.9
A-	93	3.8
	92	3.7

	91	3.6
	90	3.5
B+	89	3.4
	88	3.3
	87	3.2
B	86	3.1
	85	3.0
	84	2.9
B-	83	2.8
	82	2.7
	81	2.6
	80	2.5
C+	79	2.4
	78	2.3
	77	2.2
C	76	2.1
	75	2.0
	74	1.9
C-	73	1.8
	72	1.7
	71	1.6
	70	1.5
D+	69	1.4
	68	1.3
	67	1.2
D	66	1.1
	65	1.0
	64	0.9
D-	63-62	0.8
	61-60	0.7
E	59-0	0.0