

University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future

Florida Gulf Coast University

Fall 2017 Honors IDS 3920 – CRN 80358

HOW TO FIND ME:

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FIND IT QUICKLY!

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INTRODUCTION AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

Hello, and welcome to University Colloquium! The University Colloquium is an interdisciplinary course designed to explore the ecological, social, and economic aspects of sustainability through group discussion, reflective writing, field experiences, and service-learning opportunities. Please call me Brenda. I look forward to getting to know each of you over the next 15 weeks. In that time, we are going to explore the complex idea of sustainability together, incorporating the interactions of economy, society, and environment. You will have the opportunity to consider how you are placed on this planet, connect to the natural world around you, and apply the concepts we discover in the classroom to real world situations. Each week I will bring my knowledge of ecology and environmental science to share with you and ask that you bring your own expertise and interests to share with others. My classroom is a safe space of open minds and open dialogue. My guiding question to you is this: Do you know how you are placed in the world around you?

COURSE GOALS

Course goals are the broad, over-arching take-aways that I hope this course will guide you toward over the semester. A year (or more) after this course is over, I hope that you will be able to:

1. Identify ecological relationships using SWFL as a living laboratory.
2. Analyze sustainability concepts and interactions from ecological, economic, and social perspective.
3. Connect principles of sustainability to your academic major and/or profession
4. Reflect on your sense of place within the context of local, national, and global issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Student learning outcomes are the steps that will walk you toward achieving the broader course goals. By the end of the semester you will:

1. Identify the common ecosystems of SWFL
2. Interpret the interactions between those ecosystems
3. Identify the components (environmental, economic, societal) of sustainability
4. Interpret the interactions between those components
5. Relate the value of sustainable practices to your major/career
6. Relate the value of sustainable practices to your lifestyles/daily choices
7. Describe what sense of place means
8. Explore how an attachment to place affects ethics related to that place

COURSE CREDIT HOURS: 3

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS: *Please note class meets for four hours for field trips*

Class meetings: Tuesdays 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Sugden Resort and Hospitality Mgmt. 240

Field trips: some Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (see details below for meeting location)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Robertson, Margaret. (2014) *Sustainability Principles and Practice*. Routledge ISBN-10: 041584018X (THIS TEXT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU ELECTRONICALLY **AT NO CHARGE THROUGH CANVAS**)
- University Colloquium Reader*. (2011). Selected Readings for IDS 3920. Available from the FGCU bookstore.

ASSESSMENTS OF STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES*

Writing (50%)	Objective	Weight	Due
Blog entries	1, 2, 7, 8	10%	Weekly
Essay DRAFT	3, 4, 5, 6	10%	10/3/2017
Essay FINAL	3, 4, 5, 6	20%	10/31/2017
Service-Learning Reflection	5, 6, 7, 8	10%	12/12/2017
Other Activities (50%)	Objective	Weight	Due
Participation (Including attendance)	1 through 8	30%	Throughout
Service learning Group Project	5, 6, 7, 8	20%	---
Proposal		---	9/19/2017
Progress Report		---	10/10/2017
Presentation		---	11/21 & 11/28

**Detailed explanations of each assessment can be found in Canvas.*

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignments serve as a way for you to examine your connection to the natural world and to consider your place within it. They will aid you in organizing your learning about sustainability and how it relates to you, to your major, and to your life choices. Blogs will give you a safe space to formulate your thoughts related to readings, discussions, and activities as you move through the course. Your draft and final essays will allow you to research and analyze a topic related to sustainability in greater depth. And your service learning reflection will be a culmination of all you have learned and experienced throughout the semester. I will give you feedback and guidance each step of the way.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- All assignments must be submitted by the designated due date and time to receive full credit. Assignments must be submitted through Canvas.

- **Grades for late assignments will be reduced by 2% for each day past the due date that an assignment is submitted.**
- *I will determine a final deadline for all late assignments toward the end of the semester and will announce it ahead of time in Canvas. No late assignments will be accepted after that deadline.*
- **Academic Integrity** - Plagiarism is cheating. Deliberate use of another's work without any indication of the source equates to plagiarism. Student work found to contain material that is plagiarized will be reported to Student Affairs according to University policy. The student may be given an F for the assignment or for the course.
- **Turnitin.com** – All writing assignments submitted through Canvas will be submitted to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Papers that are submitted to Turnitin.com become part of the Turnitin.com student paper database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

GRADING SCALE

You'll note that I do not assign minuses, only pluses or whole letter grades. When I was a student at the University of Florida just a few years ago, it was an A- that kept me from graduating with a 4.0. Not cool! So I won't penalize you with minuses, but I'll reward you with pluses.

A	= 90-100%
B+	= 87-89.99%
B	= 80-86.99%
C+	= 77-79.99%
C	= 70-76.99%
D	= 60-69.99%
F	= 0-59.99%

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation is about more than just being physically present in the room. It also means being engaged and involved in appropriate ways. Because University Colloquium is a discussion-based course, your participation gives your classmates the opportunity to learn from you as you learn from them. Participation and attendance include 5 field trips and a service learning project, all of which are outlined in greater detail below and in Canvas.

- Participation is **30%** of your grade and represents class attendance, preparation, participation, and involvement both online and during class time. This can include quizzes, presentations, group activities, field trips, and discussions.
- I will take attendance at each class meeting (including field trips) and will calculate your final attendance grade as a percentage of the number of times we meet.
- I may deduct points for inappropriate classroom behavior such as sleeping, use of your cell phone (for calls or text messages), and inappropriate computer use (working on tasks not related to the course discussion), etc. This list is not comprehensive.
- Class activities sometimes include discussion during which students share a diversity of perspectives. It is important to maintain a level of **respectful dialogue and an open mind** with your fellow students, instructor, and guest speakers while considering some of the challenging issues that we will discuss.
- Face-to-face meetings with students outside of class time are not required, but may be necessary for you to complete assigned course work and group projects.

FIELD TRIPS

The field trips are a core component of the University Colloquium experience and facilitate the

exploration of your sense of place, identification of Florida's ecosystems, and understanding of sustainability. You will be visiting 5 locations that include the campus, freshwater, marine, agriculture, and urban environments. FIELD TRIPS GO RAIN OR SHINE!! Only in the case of severe weather will a field trip be cancelled. ***We will not meet in the classroom for field trips! We will meet in Parking Lot 7, at the northeast corner of Parking Garage 2, the corner closest to the bridge to South Village. All students are expected to ride the University-provided bus.***

Field Trip Make-ups (approved by UCAC 9.28.11)

If you miss a field trip, you will need to follow the field trip make-up policy.

- a. A student cannot receive an incomplete for missed field trips.
- b. Students are not permitted to attend another instructor's class to make up field trips.
- c. Field trips are mandatory.
- d. Students may make up a field trip on their own time (with reduced points) as per the faculty member's stated policy.

My Field Trip make-up policy

- Please communicate your inability to attend the fieldtrip **before** the fieldtrip if at all possible.
- Your final grade in the course will be **reduced by 5%** for each fieldtrip you miss with the class.
- Only in extreme cases will there be no point reduction - this would include death in the family, a medical emergency, or a University approved event (sporting event or religious holiday). All require appropriate documentation and/or communication.
- **Failure to make-up a field trip will result in an F for the class regardless of your overall grade.**

If you are running late, lost, etc. prior to a field trip contact office manager Patty Krupp (239-590-7488). Patty will be able to give you directions or contact me.

SERVICE-LEARNING GROUP PROJECT

Completing a service-learning project with a nonprofit organization working on a sustainability initiative will give you the opportunity to see the concepts we will be discussing in the classroom applied in the real world and it will encourage you to consider how you are "placed" in southwest Florida.

- You will work in groups to organize and complete your service-learning project with a non-profit, not-for-profit, or government agency.
- Your group will complete three things: a service-learning proposal outlining the details of your project before you begin (so I can be sure your project meets the class criteria before you start the work), a progress report detailing each member's contribution, and a final presentation.
- Your hours earned for this project can be counted toward your University graduation requirement.
- You must turn documentation of a completed project (with hours verified by your project supervisor) before the last day of class in order to get credit for completing the project.
- **NOTE: Students who do not complete a service-learning project and do not turn in verified documentation of project completion by the last day of classes will be assigned a grade of F regardless of overall course grade.**

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

Incompletes

An incomplete (I) grade cannot be assigned to a course if the student fails to attend the course, drops the course after the drop/add period, or withdraws from the university. A student, who registers for a course but fails to meet the course requirements, without officially dropping the course, will receive a grade of F in the course.

Students cannot be issued a grade of incomplete before the last day to drop without academic penalty during the semester. To initiate consideration for a grade of I, a student must contact the instructor before grades are reported and after the last day to drop without academic penalty. The decision to award a grade of I is solely the decision of the instructor. Should a professor decide to assign the grade, both the student and the professor must complete and retain a copy of an Incomplete Grade Agreement Form. The maximum amount of time to complete coursework to remove a grade of I is one year from the ending date of the semester for which the grade was assigned or graduation whichever comes first; however, instructors may restrict the amount of time given to the student to complete the coursework. After one year, a grade of I will be changed to an F if the instructor has reported no grade. A student may not re-register for a course in which he or she currently has an incomplete (I) grade. Once an incomplete (I) grade has converted to a failing grade (F), the grade may not be converted back to an incomplete (I) grade or to a regular grade. Exceptions due to university error may be approved by the college Dean (or his/her designee) with supporting justification attached to a change of grade form.

Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under **the Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures** sections. All students are expected to study this document, which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

University Nondiscrimination Statement

Florida Gulf Coast University is committed to ensuring equity and fairness for all University employees, students, visitors, vendors, contractors and other third parties. As such, the University prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sex (including sexual harassment/assault), gender identity/expression, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status or genetic predisposition with regard to admissions, employment, programs or other activities operated by the University. This prohibition extends to enforcement of **Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972. Questions or complaints should be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). The OIEC's phone number is (239)745-4366; the OIEC email address is OIEC@fgcu.edu.

Disability Accommodations Services

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in the Wellness Building. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or Video Phone (VP) 239-243-9453. In addition to classroom and campus accommodations, individuals with disabilities are encouraged

to create their personal emergency evacuation plan and FGCU is committed to providing information on emergency notification procedures. You can find information on the emergency exits and Areas of Rescue Assistance for each building, as well as other emergency preparedness materials on the Environmental Health and Safety and University Police Department websites. If you will need assistance in the event of an emergency due to a disability, please contact Adaptive Services for available services and information.

Student Observance of Religious Holidays

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

CANVAS Support

Should you need assistance or technical support, you can access the CANVAS guides and support desk hours and contact information: <https://canvas.fgcu.edu/index.asp>

It is strongly recommended that you go through the student demonstration course so you can become familiar with CANVAS: <https://fgcu.instructure.com/courses/7692>

Microsoft Office tutorials to assist students are available online at <http://www.fgcu.edu/support/>

CANVAS Accessibility Statement

Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen-readable. The Rich Content Editor also encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas designers have spent a lot of time making sure that the user experience is easy, simple, and intuitive, and they don't want to leave anyone out. In fact, Canvas received the "Gold" certification from the National Federation of the Blind, becoming the fastest LMS ever to do so. For this reason, limited customization of colors and schemes are allowed. Canvas conforms with the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WAI WCAG) 2.0 AA and Section 508 guidelines.

Academic Support

Academic Support Services can help you be successful in your study at FGCU.

For a description of the types of academic support services available to you as a student, visit <http://www.fgcu.edu/academics.asp>

FGCU Writing Center

The FGCU Writing Center assists student writers through free, accessible, learning-based writing consultations. Our primary goals are to help students improve their abilities to think independently, to write critically, and to learn and implement strategies that will assist them in producing effective writing assignments. Take advantage of these services available to you - <http://www.fgcu.edu/writingcenter/>