

Campus Sustainability: Green Mountain Eco-Reps

ENV 2005

Spring, 2007

Tuesdays 6 – 7 pm

Terrace 122

Jesse B. Pyles

Withey 157

pylesj@greenmtn.edu

287.8379

office hours by appointment

Course Description

This course aims to inform students generally concerning institutional environmental sustainability, and to encourage students to serve as advocates for sustainability at Green Mountain College. Students will identify tools being used to assess and implement environmental initiatives on college campuses. Students will address key sustainability issues through alternating sessions of focused discussion and appropriate outreach actions. They will effectively become environmental representatives to others in the areas of waste, energy, water, transportation, and consumption. They will focus on promoting individual responsibility for the environmental sustainability of the campus community. Information gleaned by students throughout the semester will be compiled as a Student Sustainability Resource Guide, and will be made available to others.

Core Questions

- What makes an institution sustainable? What factors contribute to individual and campus sustainability?
- What personal responsibility does the individual have for the sustainability of the institution?
- How can students reduce the environmental impact of the College?
- What are some effective ways to increase campus awareness about sustainability?

Areas of Focus

Models of Sustainability in Higher Education

Personal and Institutional Sustainability

Peer/Community Education for Sustainability

Course Requirements

Readings: articles, essays, chapters, and web resources as assigned and necessary to inform class participation (see suggested resources below). These will occur weekly.

Faithful attendance and engaged participation in class “Discussions” and “Actions” (50%)

Writings: One 3-page *Personal Sustainability Paper* (10%), five short reflections on Eco-Rep outreach “Actions” (25%), and one 2-page contribution to resource guide (15%).

Suggested Resources/Possible Readings

Creighton, S.H. (1996). *Greening the ivory tower: Improving the environmental track record of universities, colleges, and other institutions*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Edwards, A.R. (2005). *The sustainability revolution: Portrait of a paradigm shift*. Gabriola Island, BC, Canada: New Society Publishers.

Keniry, J. (1995). *Ecodemia: Campus environmental stewardship at the turn of the 21st century*. Washington, DC: National Wildlife Federation.

Lerner, S. (1997). *Eco-pioneers: Practical visionaries solving today's environmental problems*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

McIntosh, M. et al. (2001). State of the campus environment: A national report card on environmental performance and sustainability in higher education. National Wildlife Federation.

Orr, D. (1994). *Earth in mind: On education, environment, and the human prospect*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Smith, A. & Student Environmental Action Coalition (1993). *Campus ecology: A guide to assessing environmental quality and creating strategies for change*. Los Angeles: Living Planet Press.

University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, Association of (ULSF) (2000). *Talloires declaration resource kit: A guide to promoting and signing the Talloires declaration* [WWWdocument]. URL http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html.

*In addition to the above listed possibilities, students will be asked to consult many web resources, including (but not limited to): sustainability offices/programs in higher ed. institutions, national and government sponsored sustainability programs, and industry leaders in campus sustainability, such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF), Second Nature, and The Society for College and University Planners (SCUP).

Course Schedule

Week 1	Tuesday, January 16	Introduction to Campus Sustainability
Week 2	Tuesday, January 23	A Survey of Campus Sustainability Resources
Week 3	Tuesday, January 30	Student Impact on Institutional Sustainability <i>Personal Sustainability Paper due</i>
Week 4	Tuesday, February 6	Eco-Rep Waste Discussions
Week 5	Tuesday, February 13	Eco-Rep Waste Actions
Week 6	Tuesday, February 20	Eco-Rep Energy Discussions <i>Waste Action Reflection due</i>
Week 7	Tuesday, March 6	Eco-Rep Energy Actions
Week 8	Tuesday, March 13	Eco-Rep Water Discussions
Week 9	Tuesday, March 20	Eco-Rep Water Actions
Week 10	Tuesday, March 27	Eco-Rep Transportation Discussions <i>Energy and Water Action Reflections due</i>
Week 11	Tuesday, April 3	Eco-Rep Transportation Actions
Week 12	Tuesday, April 17	Eco-Rep Consumption Discussions
Week 13	Tuesday, April 24	Eco-Rep Consumption Actions
Week 14	Tuesday, May 1	Effective Methods of Peer Education for Sustainability <i>Transportation and Consumption Reflections due</i>

Final **Saturday, May 5 6pm Terrace 122**

Student Sustainability Resource Guide due

*Please note that the final for this course is a two-page contribution to the *Student Sustainability Resource Guide due at 6pm on Saturday, May 5th*. Details concerning this assignment will follow.