

MFC 481

Sustainable Practice in Action: Applications and Opportunities in the Field of Environmental Education

Fall Semester 2010

Online Course

1 credit hour

Instructors

Jim Simon

Associate Environmental Educator

UB Green

(716) 829-5725

jrsimon@buffalo.edu

Erin Moscati

Environmental Educator

UB Green

(716) 829-5743

emoscati@buffalo.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Email is the preferred method of communication with the instructors. To schedule a conversation with one of the instructors, please email or call to schedule an appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online distance learning course offered by the University at Buffalo in partnership with the North American Association for Environmental Education will consist of targeted readings, online discussions, conference attendance, and a paper to be submitted within two weeks following the conference. Targeted reading assignments will focus upon current issues and best practices in the environmental education field and will provide conversation points for the online discussion to be facilitated through UBLearns and social networking tools such as Twitter and blogging.

The course requires that the student be competent in using online tools such as blogging software. Each student must have reliable access to a computer and the internet.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental university value. All work submitted for grading must be your own. Resources used in a submission must be properly cited. Plagiarism will lead to a failing grade in the course. For a complete description of UB's Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures please visit <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability, you are entitled to accommodations. Please inform us of any documented disability within the first three weeks of class.

UBLearns

The instructors will be using UBLearns to post all announcements and assignments. UBLearns is an online platform for sharing documents, posting information, and submitting assignments.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

****All readings are available on the UBLearns Site****

Selection A (Read any three articles for the blog entry due 9/17/2010)

Korteweg, Lisa. "Why Environmental Education Should Heed Open-Access Technologies." Canadian Journal of Environmental Education 12 (2007): 175-182.

O'Sullivan, Edmund. "What Kind of Education Should You Experience at a University." Canadian Journal of Environmental Education 7.2 (2002): 54-72.

Ramsey, Doug. "The Role of Music in Environmental Education: Lessons From the Cod Fishery Crisis and the Dust Bowl Days." Canadian Journal of Environmental Education 7.1 (2002): 183-198.

Putnam, Vicky and Paul Paultus. "Brainstorming, Brainstorming Rules and Decision Making." Journal of Creative Behavior 43.1 (2009): 23-39.

Hong, Eunsock. "Fostering Creativity in the Classroom: Effects of Teachers' Epistemological Beliefs, Motivation, and Goal Orientation." Journal of Creative Behavior 43.3 (2009): 192-208.

McKenzie-Mohr, Doug. "Promoting Sustainable Behavior: An Introduction to Community-Based Social Marketing." Journal of Social Issues 56.3 (2000): 543-554.

Barry, Clayton. "The Environment/Society Disconnect: An Overview of a Concept Tetrad of Environment." The Journal of Environmental Education 41.2 (2010): 116-132

Bruyere, Brett. "The Effect of Environmental Education on the Ecological Literacy of First-Year College Students" Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education 37 (2008): 20-26

Orr, David. "What Is Education For?: Six Myths About the Foundations of Modern Education, and Six New Principles to Replace Them." In Context: A Quarterly of Humane Sustainable Culture 27 (1991): 52- 55.

Selection B (Read all three articles for the blog entry due 9/24/2010)

Weston, Anthony "What if Teaching Went Wild?." Canadian Journal of Environmental Education Volume 9 Spring 2004: 31-46.

Johnston, Julie "Transformative Environmental Education: Stepping Outside the Curriculum Box." Canadian Journal of Environmental Education Volume 14 Spring 2009: 149-157.

McKibben, Bill. "The End of Nature" Random House: 171-193.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All papers and assignments must be submitted by the time noted on the date the assignment is due.

1. Class Participation (10 points)

Class participation will be evaluated based on contributions to discussions surrounding the assigned readings. Given the online nature of the course, discussions will take place through a blogging service available in UBLearn.

Participation through blogging (6/10 points)

A blog has been set up for the course and all students will have access to it. Each student will be required to write two blog entries on two separate selections of readings chosen by the instructors and described in the "Required Materials" section of the syllabus. Each entry should be no more than 500 words and should address the following:

1. A brief summary of the articles
2. A reflection on the articles as they relate to the field of environmental education, focusing on how the articles speak to the students own experiences as an environmental educator.

The blog entry reflecting on readings chosen from Selection A will be due by 7:00 pm on Friday, September 17th. The blog entry reflecting on readings in Selection B will be due by Friday, September 24th at 7:00pm.

Participation through blog feedback (4/10 points)

Each student will be required to write a comment/critique on two separate blog posts from fellow students. Each entry should be no more than 250 words and should affirm or challenge the ideas shared in the original post. **Both feedback entries are due by Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00pm**

Participation through Twitter

Twitter is a social networking tool that has increased in popularity over the last few years. In contrast to much of the writing that we see and do, Twitter encourages brevity, limiting posts to 140 characters or less.

Using Twitter for this course is optional, but is a great way to share thoughts on topics such as the NAAEE conference, general thoughts on the course, new discussion topics, questions for other students, etc.

For students that choose to participate using Twitter, each post should have the tag #UBMFC481 at the end. Twitter usernames should be shared with the instructors so that posts can be properly attributed to their authors. The following page offers a helpful primer on Twitter:
<http://business.twitter.com/twitter101/learning>.

2. Final Paper (30 points)

The final paper for the course will be on a topic related to environmental education agreed upon between the student and the instructors. The topic of the final paper must be chosen and shared with the instructors by **Wednesday, October 6th**. The paper should draw upon the readings completed for the course as well as reflect on lessons learned at the NAAEE conference. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length, double spaced with one inch margins. Final **papers should be submitted as a .doc, .docx, or pdf file to UBLearn by Friday, October 29th at 7:00pm**

3. Conference Attendance (60 points)

Conference attendance is required for successful completion of the course. Only those that attend the conference will be eligible for passing. Instructors will reference the course roster with conference registration. Proof of registration for the conference must be submitted **by Monday, September 15th at 7:00pm**. Proof of attending the conference should be submitted **on Friday October 29th at 7:00pm**.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All completed assignments should be submitted to UBLearns. Late assignments will be accepted up to one (1) week past the due date, with a reduction of 50%. Assignments received after this time will receive a zero (0).

COURSE GRADING

This is a one credit hour course. In order to receive a passing grade, students must accumulate a minimum of 85 out of 100 points.

No Incomplete grades will be submitted for this course. This course cannot be taken as Pass/Fail.

Please note that **September 10th, 2010** is the last day to register for this course.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Assignment Due
9/15/10	Proof of 2010 NAAEE conference registration due to instructors
9/17/10	Selection A blog entry due
9/24/10	Selection B blog entry due
9/28/10	Feedback blog entries due
9/29-10/2	NAAEE Conference
10/29/10	Final Paper due, proof of 2010 NAAEE conference attendance due