Module 2 CSUS 841-730 Building and Implementing Watershed Management Plans

Instructor Information

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Course Description

Developing and implementing watershed management plans. Problem definition, data collection, public consultation, and program evaluation.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

The text used in this class is Isobel Heathcote, "Integrated Watershed Management Principles and Practice Second Edition" John Wiley & Sons; (2009). The book can be purchased at several local bookstores (MSU bookstore, Student bookstore) or at Amazon.com, John Wiley & Sons.

Course Instructions and other readings are available online through Desire 2 Learn.

Course Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to Desire2Learn at https://d2l.msu.edu/

Course Structure

- This course will be delivered <u>entirely online</u> through the course management system Desire2Learn. You will need your MSU NetID to login to the course.
- In Desire2Learn, you will access online lessons, course materials, and additional resources.

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 http://www.lib.msu.edu/dls/
- Visit the *Desire2Learn* Help Site http://help.d2l.msu.edu/

Course Objectives

The course explores the process of developing and implementing a watershed management plan, from problem definition through data collection, public consultation, and program evaluation. Case studies will showcase watershed management plans that have been implemented in other watersheds, with special emphasis on watershed planning in the Great Lakes region.

Course Outlines

Here is an overview of the topics covered in this course:

Unit 1: Using Adaptive Management to Guide the Planning Process
Unit 2: Identifying and Networking with Local Agencies and Citizens
Unit 3: Getting to Know Your Watershed
Unit 4: Defining a Critical Area/Focusing for Effect
Unit 5: Surveying the Water to Inventory Your Critical Areas
Unit 6: Prioritizing Pollutants, Sources and Causes
Unit 7: Determining Objectives for Your Watershed Goals
Unit 8: Identifying Systems of Best Management Practices (BMPs) Needed
Unit 9: Considering Additional Management Alternatives
Unit 10: Identifying and Analyzing Existing Local Projects, Programs and Ordinances
Unit 11: Informing and Involving the Public
Unit 12: Evaluating Costs and Benefits in Watershed Planning
Unit 13: Developing an Evaluation Process
Unit 14: Assembling Your Watershed Plan

This course also includes three projects: A semester project for which students critique a watershed management plan, a review of a Watershed Comprehensive Assessment Tool, and a short outreach project for which students contact a local watershed group/organization to learn about local activities.

Course Schedule

Refer to the _Course Calendar_ in the Desire2Learn calendar tool for each week's corresponding learning topics and important assignment due dates. The course has no 'assigned' log-in or meeting times, and no campus visits are required, however a course calendar indicates dates you should be working on specific units and homework assignments.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on homework exercises, two exams, 2 projects, and weekly discussions. All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Desire2Learn unless otherwise instructed. Late or missing assignments will affect the student's grade.

Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Course Grades				
Homework	30%		4.0	> 90%
Midterm	20%		3.5	85 - 89%
Watershed Plan Critique	15%		3.0	80 - 84%
Watershed Outreach Project	10%		2.5	75 -79%
Final Exam	15%		2.0	70 -74%
Discussion Questions Participation	10%		1.5	65 - 69%
Total	100%		1.0	60 - 64%
			0.0	< 60%

Late Work Policy

Homework: You will have a 2-day grace period from the listed due date on the course calendar. After that, you will be deducted 3 points per every day past this grace period. Exceptions may be made for technical problems or student conflicts.

Midterm: Midterm examination is open for 1 week. You can go in and out, saving your answers and return to it later throughout the week.

Final: Final examination is available for completion for 1 full day, however once you log-in you will only have 2 1/2 hours to complete it and cannot go in and out.
Both tests are open books, Internet, course, notes. But not open neighbor.

In the past, occasional technical difficulties resulted in temporary problems accessing the course web page or certain links. Please inform your TA or course assistant or contact **the MSU Distance Learning helpline at (800) 500-1554**. Usually, if a link is broken or a server is down, it can be fixed quickly or an alternative will be suggested.

Course Policies

Students are expected to participate in all assignments/activities. If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor or your TA know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

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." Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments 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. 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 http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html).