

CSUS 320 - Environmental Planning and Management
Spring 2018

Instructor: Aimee Swenson
Office: 314 Natural Resources Building
Email: aimeeswenson01@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thursdays 2pm-4pm, or by appointment.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to CSUS 320 – Environmental Planning and Management, an introductory course providing an overview of the concepts, principles, and objectives of environmental planning and management. Students will be introduced to the demand, supply and impacts of natural resources use, as well as suitability assessments for sustainable development and community and land use planning.

Each week the student should expect to gain a broader understanding of issues specific to planning and management concepts and applications within an environment and natural resources foundation. Students will build upon these concepts as they move through the course, inevitably providing a strong foundation for more advanced study.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, each student should be able to:

1. Identify the essential components and principles of environmental planning, management, and sustainable community development.
2. Identify and apply a cross-disciplinary and multifaceted approach to understanding sustainability.
3. Develop and apply critical thinking and analysis skills to evaluate the credibility of sustainability policy positions and scientific arguments.
4. Improve decision-making capabilities within the context of sustainability.
5. Use information technologies in their formal and informal learning.
6. Consider the importance of the legal and regulatory framework in undertaking environmental planning and successful implementing of environmental management projects and programs.
7. Apply systems thinking approaches in environmental planning and management.

These course objectives support the Department of Community Sustainability undergraduate program competencies of critical thinking, systems thinking, and ethics. Successful completion of this course provides students with the background needed to frame complex problems and address them systematically in order to successfully complete additional courses in the major.

3. REQUIRED TEXTS

The course material provided will be a mix of academic discourse from books and scholarly journals, contemporary readings from books and media, exploration of the subject matter in short video clips, films, audio segments, and guest presentations (as available).

Each week the student will be presented with material that is meant to be academically challenging, yet engaging, thought-provoking, and timely. The material provided is meant to give an understanding to a wide breadth of issues and theories within the environmental planning field, and is no way comprehensive.

- Weekly assigned readings will be available on D2L. Primary material will be sourced from the following:
 - Randolph, John. *Environmental Planning and Management*. 2011 (2nd edition only).
 - Daniels, Tom. *The Environmental Handbook for Sustainable Communities and Regions*. 2014 (2nd edition only).
- Additional supportive texts will be assigned throughout the course as needed, and made available on D2L.

4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

4.1 - Specific online requirements for the course:

This course is conducted primarily in person, but with an online participation component, and as such, all students are required to have access to the course D2L page via student MSU access. Each student must have reliable and regular access to the internet and a computer. There are no specific systems requirements for this course, but students should be able to access online sources freely. The student is liable for any access issues to the material. The instructor will provide as much of the material on the course D2L site as possible, but certain things the student must be able to access on their own. No extensions will be given for technology problems on the student end.

4.2 - Participation/Attendance:

The instructor will serve as a guide and facilitator, but the student can expect to learn a great deal from engaging with their peers regularly in lively in-class and online dialogue, both facilitating each other through research, and responding to each other critically. Students are advised that participation and attendance are crucial to success. Each week students should expect to at minimum:

- Attend the in-class session
- Participate in online course regularly each week,
- Expect to read an average of 20-50 pages per week,
- Engage with related online content approximately four (4) hours per week,
- Expect to write 500 – 1500 words per week.
- Participate equally with peers in group work and activities.

4.3 - Extra Credit:

Extra credit opportunities will be provided regularly; however, the instructor does not include any extra credit into the final grade unless students have completed all required assignments. Extra credit opportunities may be provided at any time during the course, but will only be added to the final grade at the end of the semester, and only after confirmation of meeting all course requirements.

4.4 - Grading:

<i>Task</i>	<i>Total Pts</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
Attendance	150	15	(10 points for each session attended)
Weekly Response Post	150	10	(15 points for each response)
Weekly Reading Question Post	100	10	(10 points for each question set)
Environmental Plan Development	250	1	(subtasks & points will be outlined)
Environmental Plan Review	150	1	(subtasks & points will be outlined)
Presentation	100	1	
Final Exam	<u>200</u>	1	
<i>Total available points</i>	<i>1100</i>		

Grade Distribution:

Attendance: 14%
 Weekly Response Post: 14%
 Weekly Reading Question Post: 9%
 Environmental Plan Development: 23%
 Environmental Plan Review: 14%
 Presentation: 9%
 Final Exam: 18%

Grading Scale:

4.0 = 93% - 100%
 3.5 = 88% - 92%
 3.0 = 83% - 87%
 2.5 = 78% - 82%
 2.0 = 73% - 77%
 1.5 = 68% - 72%
 1.0 = 60% - 67%
 0 = below 60%

4.5 - Late Assignments:

The instructor does not normally accept late assignments for any reason. If you know in advance that you will be missing a class, please plan with the instructor accordingly. All assignments must be submitted by midnight of the date on the syllabus.

4.6 - Writing and Grammar Guidelines:

This is a 300-level undergraduate course, and as such it is expected that students come to this course prepared with college-level experience in writing, organization, and study-habits. Students should expect to write approximately 500 -1500 words per week for this course. Students should spell-check and grammar-check **all** writings prior to posting or submitting. Any written work in this class, including online posts, will be graded inclusive of spelling errors and improper grammar usage. Emails to the instructor should also be approached professionally, and grammatically correct. All course writings should incorporate proper citations, and failure to do so shall result in a reduction in points for the assignment as outlined in the rubrics. If a student is in need of extra assistance with writing and grammar, MSU has many resources available to assist, such as the Writing Center. Please contact the instructor if you would like more information on these resources.

5. POLICIES

5.1 - Respectful Behavior:

All students come to this course with varying insights, experiences, beliefs, customs, and knowledge. One important aspect of learning is critically engaging with peers with whom you might disagree. The student should be prepared to agree and to disagree with peers and with the course material, but please remember that disagreement does not warrant disrespect. Any disrespectful behavior towards peers or the instructor, including but not limited to hate speech, slander, or name calling, will not be tolerated and will be grounds for excusing the student from the course, and if necessary, further disciplinary action.

5.2 - Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is a serious offense and is not tolerated at MSU. Written work will be screened for plagiarism. Please review MSU's policy on plagiarism: <https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>.

5.3 - Accommodations:

Please inform the instructor as soon as possible if you are needing any accommodation for disability.

5.4 - Religious Holidays:

If course due dates will at any time conflict with your need to observe a religious holiday, please make arrangements with the instructor during the first week of the semester for accommodation.

6. UNITS OF STUDY

Unit One:

Weeks 1 through 4:

Introduction and Principle Concepts of Environmental Planning

- Key Concepts
- Foundations
- Introduction to Environmental Action Plans
- Planning for Sustainability

Unit Two:

Weeks 5 through 12:

Understanding Features of Environmental Planning

- Water
- Wetlands
- Shorelines
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Energy

Unit Three:

Weeks 13 through 16:

Environmental Planning Actions

- Reviewing Environmental Plans
- Presenting Environmental Plans

7. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENT DESCRIPTIONS

(All assignment rubric will be posted on D2L)

7.1 - Online Weekly Response Posts:

- One (1) weekly discussion response post (300-500 words each) - due each MONDAY (10 total)
 - Response posts will address the material from the previous week, and/or prompts provided by the instructor. These prompts will be in response to the assigned weekly readings, lectures, and classroom activities, and will assist in the application and interweaving of course concepts.

7.2 - Online weekly class reading questions:

- One (1) weekly post of two or more critical questions borne from the assigned readings for the upcoming class session. - due each WEDNESDAY (10 total)
 - Questions should be critical and insightful, and prompt peer discussion for the upcoming class session.

7.3 - Environmental Plan Development:

- Each student will develop an Environmental Plan in an assigned small group setting. The group will progress through the semester, with equal participation from each member, and will develop, present, and submit an entire draft environmental plan to be peer reviewed.
- The development of the environmental plan will be progressive throughout the semester, with component submissions at staged intervals.

7.4 - Environmental Plan Review:

- Each student will individually review one environmental plan prepared by a peer group within the course. The instructor will designate the plan to be reviewed by each student.
- Each student will also prepare a performance review of each of their group members to be submitted to the instructor.

7.5 - Presentation:

- Each student will prepare and present a formal group presentation of their environmental plan for review by their peers, instructor, and guests.