

Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, The University of Winnipeg
Critical Environmental Issues: Campus Sustainability (ENV-4614/3-001)
Winter 2016, Monday, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, 3M52

Instructor

Dr. Alan Diduck, 2RCO55, 786-9777, a.diduck@uwinnipeg.ca

Office hours: Thursday, 2:30 - 5:00 pm, or contact me by phone or email for an appointment

Course focus

This course examines current issues in environmental studies and environmental science. The content varies from year to year. This year the course involves students completing a project on campus sustainability. Project topics will stem from UW's sustainability plan and will be developed in consultation with the Campus Sustainability Office.

Course material

Reading list

The required readings are noted in the course outline below. Further readings on current topics and short case studies may be assigned during the course. These materials, feedback on assignments, and other relevant items will be circulated via email to your University of Winnipeg email address:

Name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca.

Evaluation

Class participation: 15%

Active participation enriches the learning environment by: opening the classroom to different ideas, knowledge claims and values; providing students with an opportunity to practice speaking and advocacy skills; and enhancing participants' listening abilities. The evaluation criteria and weights for class participation are:

- attendance — 25%
- coherent and lucid commentary — 25%
- depth of knowledge and understanding — 25%
- being respectful of others in the class — 25%

Written project work plan: 15%

A detailed project work plan is due in class on February 8, 2016. The plan should include the purpose and objectives of your project, an estimate of the tools, methods and information sources you will employ to complete the project, a consultation plan if necessary, and a detailed timeline with milestones. The evaluation criteria and weights for the work plan are:

- focus on the assigned task — 20%
- logical structure and organization — 20%
- clear description and explanation — 25%
- depth of knowledge and understanding — 25%
- good spelling, punctuation and syntax — 5%
- suitable formatting and referencing — 5%

Panel session at UWinnipeg's Grass Routes Sustainability Festival: 15%

You are required to make a 10-minute oral presentation on March 14, 2016 as part of a panel session at UWinnipeg's Grass Routes Sustainability Festival. Your presentation should provide a status report on your project, explaining: your purpose and objectives; the tools, methods and information sources you used or will use; consultation methods and results, if relevant; your project's preliminary results (i.e., your product, output or outcome) if feasible; your preliminary conclusions, if feasible; and, if relevant, possible next steps for building on your project. The evaluation criteria and weights for the presentation are:

- care and thoroughness in preparation — 10%
- focus on the assigned task — 20%
- logical structure and organization — 20%
- clear description and explanation — 25%
- engaging and appropriate style — 15%
- direct and concise answers to questions — 10%

Draft project: 25%

A draft project is due in class on March 28, 2016. The specific content and format will depend on the nature of the project, but it is expected that most projects will: explain your purpose and objectives; explain the tools, methods and information sources you used; summarize your consultation methods and results, if relevant; convey your key results; offer concluding comments; and, if relevant, identify feasible next steps. The evaluation criteria and weights for the draft project are:

- focus on the assigned task — 20%
- logical structure and organization — 20%
- clear description and explanation — 25%
- depth of knowledge and understanding — 25%
- care and thoroughness in presentation — 10%

Final project: 15%

The final project is due on April 10, 2016. The final project will consist of a revised version of the draft project, incorporating suggestions and responding to comments made by the instructor. The evaluation criteria and weights for the final project are the same as those for the draft project.

Oral project presentation: 15%

You are required to make a 20-minute oral presentation in class on April 4, 2016. The presentation should include 5 minutes for questions from the audience. Your talk should explain: your purpose and objectives; the tools, methods and information sources you used; consultation methods and results, if relevant; your project's results, i.e., your product, output or outcome; your concluding comments; and, if relevant, feasible next steps for building on your project. The evaluation criteria and weights for the presentation are:

- focus on the assigned task — 20%
- logical structure and organization — 20%
- clear description and explanation — 25%
- engaging and appropriate style — 15%
- effective visual aids — 10%
- direct and concise answers to questions — 10%

Electronic copies of written assignments are required. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day up to five days, and I will not accept assignments after five days past the due date.

Grade equivalents

Grade equivalents are as follows:

A+ ($90 \leq x$); A ($85 \leq x < 90$); A- ($80 \leq x < 85$); B+ ($75 \leq x < 80$); B ($70 \leq x < 75$); C+ ($65 \leq x < 70$); C ($58 \leq x < 65$); D ($50 \leq x < 58$); F ($x < 50$)

These cut-offs are tentative guidelines that the course instructor will follow. However, unofficial grades based on these tentative guidelines do not necessarily correspond to the official final grades awarded by the University administration. The cut-offs may be adjusted at the request of the Departmental Review Committee or the University Senate.

Course outline

The outline could be revised during the term as warranted by the development of current issues and class progress.

1. Jan 11, 2016: Introduction; Course requirements; The North American and Canadian contexts

Wright, Tarah and Horst, Naomi (2013) Exploring the ambiguity: What faculty leaders really think of sustainability in higher education. International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education 14(2) 209-227.

Beveridge, Dan, McKenzie, Marcia, Vaughter, Philip and Wright, Tarah (2015) Sustainability in Canadian post-secondary institutions: The interrelationships among sustainability initiatives and geographic and institutional characteristics. International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education 16(5) 611-638.

Swearingen White, Stacey (2014) Campus sustainability plans in the United States: Where, what, and how to evaluate? International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education 15(2) 228-241.

2. Jan 18, 2016: Institutional context; Project planning (aspirations, expectations and options)

UWinnipeg Board of Regents' Sustainability Policy (and related aspect-specific policies): <http://uwinnipeg.ca/sustainability/what-we-are-doing/policy-governance.html>

UWinnipeg Sustainability Strategy 2012-2016:

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/sustainability/docs/policies/sustainability-strategy.pdf>

UWinnipeg Climate Action Plan: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/sustainability/docs/cap-2012-16.pdf>

UWinnipeg Annual Sustainability Report for 2014-15: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/sustainability/docs/fy-sus-reports/fy2014-uw-sus-report.pdf>

3. Jan 25, 2016: Institutional context 2; Project planning (options, work plan)

UWinnipeg Campus Sustainability Office (About, Alternative Transportation on Campus, What We Are Doing, What You Can Do, Campus Sustainability Council): <http://uwinnipeg.ca/sustainability/index.html>

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainable Campus Index 2015: http://www.aashe.org/files/aashe_2015_sustainable_campus_index.pdf

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) 2014 STARS Annual Review: http://www.aashe.org/files/documents/STARS/stars_annual_review_2014.pdf; <https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-winnipeg-mb/report/2015-03-03/>

Lang, Tim (2015) Campus sustainability initiatives and performance: Do they correlate? International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education 16(4) 474-490.

4. Feb 1, 2016: Institutional context 3; Campus tour; Project planning (work plan)
Canada Green Building Council 2014 Annual Report:
http://www.cagbc.org/cagbcdocs/aboutcagbc/CaGBC_15_Annual%20Report_Layout_English_72DPI_Web.pdf
 5. Feb 8, 2016: Written project work plans due; Informal presentations and discussion of project work plans; Ongoing project work
- Feb 15-19, 2016: Reading Week, no classes
6. Feb 22, 2016: University-community context 1; Updates and feedback on work to date; Ongoing project work
UWinnipeg Community Learning Policy Paper: <https://ww2.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filessystem-action/pdfs/admin/uwinnipeg-and-community-learning.pdf>
UWinnipeg Community Learning Policy: <https://ww2.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filessystem-action/pdfs/admin/policies/community-learning-policy.pdf>
 7. Feb 29, 2016: University-community context 2; Campus tour; Updates and feedback on work to date; Ongoing project work
UWinnipeg Community Learning Programs and Services (Global Welcome Centre, Innovative Learning Centre, Model School, Opportunity Fund, Inner City Junior Wesmen, UNITED Health and RecPlex, Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre, Partnerships):
<https://ww2.uwinnipeg.ca/index/community-programs>
 8. Mar 7, 2016: Updates and feedback on work to date; Panel preparation
 9. Mar 14, 2016: Panel session at UWinnipeg's Grass Routes Sustainability Festival
 10. Mar 21 4, 2016: Updates and feedback on work to date; Ongoing project work
 11. Mar 28, 2016: Draft projects due; Discussion of draft projects; Ongoing project work
 12. April 4, 2016: Oral project presentations; Course wrap up

Academic regulations and policies

Carefully review the Academic Regulations and Policies section of the 2015-16 Course Calendar:

<https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>

Please pay particular attention to sections eight, nine and ten, dealing respectively with academic misconduct, Senate appeals, and grade appeals. Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.

Voluntary withdrawal

Please refer to the 2015-16 Calendar for voluntary withdrawal procedures. You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an "F" on your transcript and experience loss of tuition credit. The deadline date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is March 1, 2016.

Services for students with disabilities

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>

Scent-free environment

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).