

HONR 320 – Special Topics in Honors Syllabus

This file contains two documents:

1. A blank template for syllabi for this course
2. The syllabi for the first offering of this course in SP/20



Spring 202X

HONR 320: Special Topics in Honors

[Specific Topic]

Credits: 1-3 Credit Hours
Instructors: TBA

Office Hours: TBA
Webpage: Moodle course management system
Texts: TBA

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: (Prereq: None). An interdisciplinary examination of selected themes and topics in Honors not otherwise available in the curriculum. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics. F, S, Su

DETAILED DESCRIPTION: *[description of this particular section]*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

GRADING PROCEDURES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS:

EXAM SCHEDULE:



Spring 2020

HONR 320: Special Topics in Honors

Environmental and Sustainability Communication

Credits:	3 Credit Hours
Instructors:	Dan Abel SCI2 102-D and Kearns 116B 843-349-2257
Office Hours:	As posted on office doors and by appointment
Webpage:	Moodle course management system
Texts:	McConnell, R. L. & D.C. Abel, 2013. <i>Environmental Issues: Looking Towards a Sustainable Future</i> (4 th edition). Pearson.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: (Prereq: None). An interdisciplinary examination of selected themes and topics in Honors not otherwise available in the curriculum. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics. F, S, Su

DETAILED DESCRIPTION: Issues in environmental science and sustainability can be communicated across a variety of traditional and contemporary media. In this course, you will work both independently or as part of a group to do one or more of the following: write a book, play, magazine article, blog posts, social media posts, or newspaper articles and editorials; produce a video, organize Earth Week events, or prepare an oral presentation; or produce other forms of communication about sustainability and environmental issues. The course will consist of several lectures. Most of the time, however, will be spent working independently or in small creative peer groups providing social support, mutual accountability, expanded perspectives, and increased audience awareness for your project.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objective of this course is to engage students in sustainability by giving them real world experience in communicating the science, policy and economic aspects of sustainability to other students and the public. Students work both independently or as part of a group to produce forms of communication about sustainability and environmental issues.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Enumerate and explain the major indicators of planetary environmental health and sustainability.
- Apply principles of critical thinking to analyze and explain how population growth, economic systems overconsumption of resources, industrial agriculture, energy use, land use, a culture of entertainment, etc. interact and cause the planet's sustainability problems, particularly, but not limited to, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- List and explain the various media by which environmental science and sustainability media are communicated.
- Work independently and collaboratively to communicate environmental and sustainability issues to a wide variety of audiences across one or more media.

Academic Integrity/Cheating: "Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust." Violations of the Student Code of Conduct (including but not limited to academic dishonesty – cheating and

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plagiarism) will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the course and a grade of FX. Any such violations will be dealt with in strict accordance with Coastal Carolina University guidelines. FX grades cannot be removed through the Repeat Forgiveness Policy. For information on the Code of Student Conduct, please see your Student Handbook or <http://www.coastal.edu/conduct/documents/codeofconduct.pdf>.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The ADA indicates "title II and title III entities must permit service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go." As such, service animals are permitted in lab settings at Coastal Carolina University. Emotional support animals are not permitted in lab settings unless it is approved as a classroom accommodation. Students with service animals are strongly encouraged, but not required, to inform lab instructors of the use of a service animal. This communication provides both the student and the instructor with an opportunity to discuss and plan for the safety of the service animal as well as any other safety concerns. Students and instructors should contact Accessibility & Disability Services (843-349- 2503 or <https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/>) regarding any potential accommodations or for support and assistance. If any student has a condition that impairs their ability to perform in this class, please inform me at the first class meeting.

Grading Policy:	Grades are assigned as follows:					
	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Assignments</td> <td>45 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participation</td> <td>25 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Project</td> <td>30 points</td> </tr> </table> <p>Grade Scale: >90 = A; 85 – 89 =B+; 80-84 = B; 75 – 79 = C+; 70 – 74 = C; 65 – 69 = D+; 60 -64 = D; <60 = F</p>	Assignments	45 points	Participation	25 points	Final Project
Assignments	45 points					
Participation	25 points					
Final Project	30 points					

Attendance Policy: According to CCU policy, “An instructor is permitted to impose a penalty, including the grade of F, for unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings.” At my discretion, I will offer limited make-up opportunities for missed tests, provided **(a) the absence is excused (based on university policy) and, (b) you provide me with written verification of the nature of your absence in a timely manner.**

This policy also contains the following:

Students’ Responsibilities – enrollment in a course obligates the student not only to prompt completion of all work assigned, but also to punctual and regular attendance, and to participation in whatever class discussion may occur. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of all assignments, due dates and exams. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, do not absolve the student from this responsibility.

Missed Coursework – absences, excused or unexcused, do not absolve students from the responsibility of completing all assigned work promptly. Students who miss assignments, announced quizzes or other coursework due to excused absences will be allowed to make up the work in a manner deemed appropriate by the instructor (as stated in the course syllabus). It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and make arrangements at the convenience of the instructor. The instructor is not obligated to allow a student to make up work missed due to an unexcused absence.

IF YOU MISS A CLASS, YOU ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING NOTES AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS FROM ANOTHER CLASS MEMBER (AND NOT ME).

Tentative Schedule of Lecture Topics:

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WEEK 1 (1/13): Introduction to Course

Introductions, Course Policies, Your Expectations, My Expectations, Activity: *What Are the World's Most Urgent Problems? Human Impacts?* Discussion: *What is Education For?*; Critical Thinking Activity; Discussion: *What Do You Need to Live a Reasonable Life*; Homework: David Orr Essays *What is Education for?* & *Verbicide*.

WEEK 2 (1/20): First Principles, Basic Concepts, and Tools

Monday, 1/20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – no class

Critical thinking; Principles of sustainability

WEEK 3 (1/27): Sustainability, Continued

Current events in sustainability with a focus on means and effectiveness of communication; Sustainability at CCU; Introduction to climate change and biodiversity loss.

WEEK 4 (2/3): Types of Environmental & Sustainability Communication

Current events in sustainability with a focus on means and effectiveness of communication; Overview of different ways of communicating; Great environmental films, books, articles, plays, blogs, music, etc.

WEEK 5 (2/10): Types of Environmental & Sustainability Communication, continued

Current events in sustainability with a focus on means and effectiveness of communication; Selecting your projects and groups; Working independently and collaboratively.

WEEK 6 (2/17): Environmental Issues: Looking Towards a Sustainable Future

Current events in sustainability with a focus on means and effectiveness of communication; Understanding environmental and sustainability issues using critical thinking and simple math; Continue to develop projects.

WEEK 7 (2/24): You as Author

Current events in sustainability with a focus on means and effectiveness of communication; **Principles** of effective writing; Write your own environmental issues; Continue to make progress on your projects.

WEEK 8 (3/2): You as Presenter

Current events in sustainability with a focus on means and effectiveness of communication; Principles of effective oral presentation; Watch examples of effective oral presentations; Prepare and make two oral presentations; Continue to make progress on your projects

Spring Break: 3/9 – 3/14

WEEK 9 (3/16): You as Presenter, Continued

Oral presentations, continued

WEEK 10 (3/23): Interim Project Reports and Environmental Films

Oral and written reports on individual and collaborative projects; Environmental films

WEEK 10 (3/30): Peer Review of Projects

Principles of peer reviews; review projects

WEEK 12 (4/6): Independent Work

In-class work on your projects

WEEK 13 (4/13): Your Projects

Final project presentations

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WEEK 14 (4/27): *Your Projects*

Final project presentations & wrap-up

Final Exam: (Submission of all materials and in-class written reflection): **Friday, May 1, 4:00 PM**

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