

Feeding the Good Wolf-Education and a Sustainable Future

FYS 102 Course Number 13065
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According to Native American mythology, a good wolf and an evil wolf are continually fighting for the dominance of our human hearts. Which wolf we feed is up to us. How can the choices we make now, including our present patterns of consumption, the way we travel, where we live, how we think, influence our everyday world now and that of our future? How can we make sure that the “wolf” we choose to create is one that will ensure our world is the one we want to see?

In this course you will gain a sense of agency for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society. The aim is to present an ethical vision in which we as humans become more mindful of how our personal and collective actions either enhance or diminish the quality of life for humans and other living species. As you consider a career as a teacher, consider ways that what you learn will influence and impact the ideas you bring to your classroom and to your life. Course content will emphasize how principles and thematic content relate to the world you will enter as educators. Action projects will enhance and integrate your learning.

Course Objectives

1. Students will develop a sense of academic purpose with regard to gaining an understanding of the basic definitions, frameworks, concepts and schools of thought of sustainability education. This includes the interdependent notions of the “triple bottom line”: the environment, economics and social equity.
2. Students will gain an understanding of the environmental, economic and social impacts of their lifestyle choices, both now and for the future, through critical thinking, reflection and independent learning,
3. Students will develop the conceptual knowledge base of sustainability education principles and the associated impact these may have as they consider future careers in education.
4. Students will develop a sense of engagement in the CCSU community and beyond through projects designed to illustrate one of more principles of sustainability.
5. Students will become versed in concepts related to beginning a college experience including good study habits, academic honesty, familiarity with the campus media center and various campus resources.

As part of your Freshman Year Experience, we will be inviting guest speakers and holding class discussions around orienting you to the CCSU campus and all it has to offer. Part of some classes will involve discussions around study habits, academic honesty, how college differs from high school and you will become acquainted with various campus resources such as the Learning Center, Counseling and Wellness Centers and the Library.

The course is divided into 5 modules. Readings from the class text *It's All Connected: a Comprehensive Guide to Global Issues and Sustainable Solutions*. Wheeler, Wheeler and Church, Facing the Future (2005) will be assigned weekly and we will discuss readings in class. You are asked to reflect on both your reading and class discussion each week by handing in a Reflection Page, due at the beginning of class. In addition to class readings and discussions, we will host various guest speakers with expertise in the various concepts of sustainability. We will visit the CCSU media center for internet research on the many organizations and groups doing work in sustainability education. A small research and action/community service project is required, designed to engage you in hands-on, experiential learning. You will come up with your idea for your project based on class discussion. The idea is to contribute to the community while engaging in active learning. The course will be designed to maximize community building within the classroom. In addition, you will be required to attend one CCSU on campus event or campus club and report on this.

This course is experiential in nature. Your presence and your participation will help us co-create and build a community of learning. You are expected to attend each class unless you let the instructor know otherwise ahead of time. Because we value your presence in total in class, the use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited. If you wish to use a laptop for note taking, please speak with the instructor. If you have particular learning needs, please speak with the instructor.

Grading-you will create a portfolio throughout the semester which will include your Reflection Pages and class assignments. You will comment each week on your class participation, your study habits and how much time you devoted to class reading and class preparation during the week. You and the instructor will co-create your final grade. A rubric will be handed out early in the semester with guidelines as to expectations and grading.

Each module will be introduced with a series of queries. We will be co-creating some of the class content based on the questions you raise in class. The basic questions will revolve around what is it you wish to learn? The instructor reserves the right to add additional assignments throughout the semester.

Module 1-What is This Wolf All About? 9-1, 9-8, 9-15. Introductions to class and to each other. Introduction to sustainability principles and definitions. Introduction to The Earth Charter
What is college all about? Be thinking about your special area of interest and what kind of project in which you would like to engage. We will be discussing this in class.

For 9-8 pp. 1-18. Research one of the links listed in the reading and bring in information on that resource to share orally in class.

For 9-15 pp. 123-137. Which millennium goal speaks to you? Write 3-4 paragraphs to hand in. We will discuss in class next week. Pick one vocabulary term to share in class.
Guest speaker-Dr. Susan Seider, CCSU Dept. of Teacher Education.

Module 2-What's to Eat? 9-22, 9-29, 10-6. Issues of food, food safety, distribution, food security. Readings and class discussions, films, field visit, guest speakers

9-22 pp. 19-26 List all of the things you have eaten in one day. We will be analyzing where the food comes from in class. Read about a Hartford Frog Hollow neighborhood initiative at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/24/nyregion/24dinet.html>. Visit to the library/media center for in-service on research and data bases.

9-29 pp 26-35 Research one Farmers Market in the greater Hartford area online and share what you learned in class. Read “The True Cost of Cheap Food” at <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/TWG20ResurgenceMar10.pdf>. We will be having class jointly with Professor James Malley and his graduate class on sustainability and be joined by guest speaker Roger Smith of the CT Climate Coalition. Topic will be climate change.

10-6-<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/essays/we-are-what-we-eat>;
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html>

One of these class periods we will be taking a field trip to Urban Oaks Organic Farm in New Britain. We will also be viewing some films on food. (visit with Emily).

Module 3-I’m Dying of Thirst-Water and Its Impact on our Future 10-13, 10-20. Readings, in class discussions, library reserve reading, films, guest speakers

10-13 pp. 38-47; 58-62. Go to the library and find the April 2010 issue of *National Geographic* on reserve. Pick one article to read and bring into class to share. Write 3-4 paragraphs on what you learned and hand in. Sessions will be scheduled with the instructor this week, since it is midterm, to access your learning and go over the grade rubric and your portfolio. Joint class with Dr. James Malley’s graduate course with guest speaker.

10-20 For class go to http://www.yesmagazine.org/newsletters/mayjun10/subs/mayjun10_web.html?utm_source=mayjun10&utm_medium=email&utm_content=subs&utm_campaign=H_html and pick one article to read and bring into class to share. Your final project topic is due today. Someone from the Learning Resource Center will speak of the resources available and on study skills and academic honesty.

Module 4-“What’s Up With Stuff?” Are changes needed in our basic economic system? How does our present system impact issues with sustainability? **October 27th, November 3.** Online readings, films, class discussion

10-27
http://www.journalofsustainabilityeducation.org/wordpress/content/sustainability-and-economics-101-a-primer-for-elementary-educators_2010_05/. Be working on your final project. We will have a guest speaker today, Dan Olson, Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch Investment firm.

11-3 visit <http://neweconomicsinstitute.org/> and write a paragraph of something you learned by searching the web site. Share in class. Work on final project. Guest speaker- Ms. Madeline Colon from the Connecticut Office of State Treasurer.

Module 5-“It’s All About Us”. Peace, justice, democracy, human rights and sustainability. **November 10, 17th and December 1. (no class November 24th).** Readings, discussions, guest speakers. Prepare for final presentations.

November 3-pp. 62-92. Environmental Justice, Human Rights and Peace Education

November 17-pp. 92-122 View from, Colombia, International Conflicts and Solutions. Instructor will share her travels to Colombia and attendance at an international peace conference, summer 2010.

December 1- pp. 122-144 (make sure you read those Endnotes in the text!). This week we will schedule sessions with the instructor to go over your grade rubric and portfolio for the final week of class.

Final Wrap—Up and Research/Action/Community Service Presentations December 8 and Finals Week (date to be determined). Final date for hand in of portfolio will be given.