

# Sustainability-Related Courses at Portland State University



Beginning in the 2008-2009 academic year, the Institute for Sustainable Solutions has worked to identify sustainability-related courses at Portland State University. Over this time, a number of different methodologies and rating systems have been used, and while none resulted in a census of the sustainability-related courses at PSU, each provided some insight into the extent of sustainability education, and a partial list of the sustainability-related courses offered at the university.

In the following pages, you will find brief descriptions of the methodologies and rating systems used between 2008 and 2011, as well as lists of the sustainability-related courses identified by each methodology.

## 2008-2009

### Methodology:

Syllabi were requested from “best practice” teachers in sustainability, as well as from courses identified on the PSU Ecowiki as sustainability classes. These syllabi were then rated on their incorporation of sustainability concepts.

### Rating System:

"E": Explicit-- any of the following criteria are met:

- Discusses sustainability in course description
- Sustainability included in learning objectives/course goals
- Major reading focuses explicitly on sustainability
- Sustainability is explicitly included in a major assignment or major section of the course

"I+": Implicit +:

- Sustainability themes throughout the syllabus (course content, assignments, learning objectives, etc.), but not explicitly stated in a prominent way.

"I": Implicit:

- Syllabus makes connections between elements of sustainability in course description, learning objectives/course goals, major readings, assignments, but does not explicitly use the term "sustainability."

"N": No mention of sustainability:

- No implicit or explicit connection to sustainability is made in the syllabus.

### Sustainability-related Courses:

Below is a list of those courses identified as sustainability-related in 2008-2009:

Sustainability Rating	Course #	Course Name
I+	ENG 449/549	Ecocriticism
I+	GEOG 312/SCI 334U	Climate Variability
I+	GEOG 313U	Biogeography
I+	GEOG 322U	Alpine Environments
I+	GEOG 368U	United States and Canada
I+	PA 564	Leadership in Natural Resource Science and Management
I+	SCI/WS 347	Science, Gender, and Social Context
I+	UNST 421	Environmental Activism & Community Engagement in Mexico

<b>Sustainability Rating</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Name</b>
I+	GEOG 346U	World Population and Food Supply
I+	MGMT 510	Social Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship
I+	MIM 531/MGMT 510	Product Design and Stewardship
I+	Physics 375	The Earth's Atmosphere: Global Change and Human Life
I+	UNST 141A	System Earth
I+	UNST 142D	System Earth
I+	USP 312	Urban Housing and Development
I+	USP 312U	Urban Housing and Development
I+	USP 385U	History of American Cities
I+	USP 386	Portland Past and Present
I+	USP 577/677	Urban Environmental Management
I	EPFA (ELP) 410U/510	Spiritual Leadership
I	GEOG 360U	Geography of Latin America
I	GEOG 446/546	Water Resource Management
I	HST 440/540	American Environmental History I
I	PHL 310U	Environmental Ethics
I	ANTH 333	Anthropology of Food
I	EC 533	Natural Resource Economics
I	ENG 301U	Shakespearean Tragedy
I	ENG 308U	Topics: Literature and Nature
I	ESR 428/528	Urban Ecology
I	ESR 429/529	Environmental Impact Assessment
I	G 352U	Minerals in World Affairs
I	G452U/552	Geology of the Oregon Country
I	G452U/552	Geology of the Oregon Country
I	GEOG 448/548	Urban Forest
I	GEOG 453U/553	Geography of Japan
I	HST 339	The Environment and History
I	HST 339	Environment and History
I	HST 441/541	20th Century American Environmental History
I	PHL 309U	Business Ethics
I	SOC 399	Sociology of Food Inequalities and Obesity
I	UNST 143D	System Earth
I	UNST 421	Creative Reuse
I	USP 311	Introduction to Urban Planning
I	USP 457U/557	Information Cities
I	USP 595	Reshaping the Metropolis

## Fall 2010

### Methodology:

An initial review of the class schedule (a listing of all the courses offered that term) was used to identify potential sustainability courses. Syllabi for these courses were then requested and analyzed for their inclusion of sustainability concepts.

### Rating:

“F”: Sustainability focused – course concentrates on the concept of sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions, or examines an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens.

“R”: Sustainability related – course incorporates sustainability as a distinct course component or module or concentrates on a single sustainability principle or issue.

“R-”: Marginally Sustainability related – course incorporates a single sustainability principle or issue as a distinct course component or module.

“N”: No Connection to Sustainability – course does not connect to any sustainability concepts, principles, or issues in a recognizable way.

### Sustainability-related Courses:

Below is a list of those courses identified as sustainability-related in Fall 2010:

F/R/N	Title	Instructor
R	RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE	Balshem
R	CAP: LEARNING GARDENS	BlueHorse Skelton
R	WIC: UNDERSTAND INTL EXP	Brown
R	SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP	Burns
R	SPST: CIVIC LDRSHIP DEVELOPMENT	Clucas
R	SW & SOC WELFARE POL	Corcoran
R	SYSTEMS ENGR APPROACH	Eisenhauer
R	ENVIRN & ECOLOGICAL LITERACY	Rueter
R	CAP: GRANTWRITING ENV ADVOCACY	Fitzmaurice
R	DESIGN & SOCIETY	Fost
R	DESIGN & SOCIETY	Fost
R	DESIGN & SOCIETY	Fost
R	URBAN ECONOMICS	Fruits

R	SEM: ENGAGED THINKING	Gould
<b>F/R/N</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
R	ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	Gould
R	TOP:PEACECONFLICT&GLOBALZTN	Anastasiou
R	MULTICUL & URBAN ED	Henry
R	POL ECON/NONPROF ORG	Heying
R	WOMEN/ACTIVISM/SOCIAL CHG	Howell
R	ADV TOP: ROMANTCSM & HMN RGHTS	Hunt
R	GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & MGMT	Ingle
R	RACISM	Johnson
R	ETHICS AND INTERNATNL JUSTICE	Jokic
R	POPULATION & SOCIETY	Jurjveich
R	WIC: PROB INTERCULTURAL COMM	Kapoor
R	ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS	Khalil
R	LEADERSHP FOR CHANGE	Kraner
R	INTERCULTRL COMP & COMM I	Lei
R	SYSTEMS APPROACH	Lendaris
R	SOCIAL MOVEMENTS	Liebman
R	MULTICUL&URBANED	McBride
R	COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY	McDonald
R	URBAN TRANSPORT SYS	Monsere
R	CAP: ANIMAL AID GRANTWRITING	Mukobi
R	SPST: NAT AMER POLIT & ACTIVSM	Pewewardy
R	CHICANO/LATINO COMMUNITIES	River-Gusti
R	CAP: ENDING GLOBAL POVERTY	Rumer
R	CAP: VOLUNTEER STREAM MONITOR	Schmidt
R	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GIS	Shandas
R	NEGOTIATION & MEDIATION	Sitnick
R	AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES	Smith-Buani
R	SOCIAL INEQUALITY	Stepick
R	SEM: REFLECT INTERCULTRL LEARN	Stokamer
R	WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY	Tinkler
R	TOP: INTERGROUP DIALOGUE	Tint
R	CIVIC ENG: ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS	Torrey
R	ROLE OF GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS	Torrey
R-	CIVIC ENG: ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS	Torrey
R	RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE	Trinidad
R	PED AND BICYCLE PLANNING	Weigand
R	CAP: PDX CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT	Williams
R	SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SOCIAL WORK	Wolfe
R	HUMAN/NATURE	Wolk

