UNIV 1150: Special Topics Seminar with Learning Strategies - EarthSmart
(a course on ecologically conscious living and decision-making)

SYLLABUS | (Semester)
Days | Times | Location
2 credit hours

COURSE INFORMATION:
Instructor:
Office:
Office Hours:
Phone:
Email:

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:
Success Strategies (5th Edition) by The Student Success Center (2007)
2007-8 Auburn University Bulletin (available online at www.auburn.edu/bulletin)
2007-8 Tiger Cub (available online at www.auburn.edu/tigercub)
Planner/Calendar

SAMPLE OPTIONAL TEXTS AND MATERIALS (WILL VARY BY COURSE TOPIC):
Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond (2005)
Kill-a-Watt Electricity Usage Monitor (P3 International)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
EarthSmart is offered as a two-credit hour elective course to help first-year students make a successful transition to college life. This course provides opportunities to explore issues relevant to first-year students in a university setting through discussion, activities, reading, writing, teamwork, and community service, all of which will be centered on the theme of sustainable living and decision-making. Special emphasis will be placed on the importance of academic skills, career options, time management, personal development, and relevant social issues. The EarthSmart course also provides a general orientation to the functions, support services, and resources of the University as a whole.

Updated 3/18/2008
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Will demonstrate understanding and critical thinking skills surrounding the topic of sustainability.
- Will demonstrate awareness of the effects of personal choices on the environment.
- Will examine cultural differences and diversity among people, with emphasis on cross-cultural interaction and its impact on issues of sustainability.
- Will demonstrate application of academic and study strategies discussed in class.
- Will examine and actively explore career/professional interests.
- Will demonstrate knowledge of academic policies and procedures (AU Bulletin and Tiger Cub).
- Will demonstrate knowledge of student services and academic resources available at the University.
- Will demonstrate use of computer technology at Auburn University.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Readings as assigned
- Labs (out-of-classroom activities)
- e-Journal (Blackboard)
- FOCUS (Career Assessment)
- Experiential Learning Project
- Class participation
- Quizzes
- Exams

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class period. The student is expected to attend all classes, except in the case of a University-approved excused absence (e.g. medical cause, or other emergency as detailed in the Tiger Cub). In the case of a University-excused absence, all assignments will be due at the beginning of the next class attended. **TWO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL BE ALLOWED. EACH ADDITIONAL ABSENCE MAY RESULT IN A LETTER GRADE REDUCTION (from the final grade) PER ABSENCE.** Each instance of tardiness may count as one-half of an unexcused absence.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Any student needing special accommodations should inform the instructors and/or The Program for Students with Disabilities (1244 Haley Center, phone: 334.844.2096) as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Auburn University expects students to pursue their academic work with honesty and integrity. The Academic Honesty Code is outlined in the Tiger Cub and contains a list of those actions that are considered cheating and the possible consequences they carry. Violations of the Academic Honesty Code will NOT be tolerated in this course.
**Grading Policy:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e-Journal</td>
<td>11 entries @ 10 pts. ea.</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Learning Lab</td>
<td>4 labs @ 15 pts. ea.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning Project</td>
<td>4 reports @ 25 pts. ea.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOCUS Career Assessment</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>2 quizzes @ 15 pts. ea.</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>45 pts.</td>
<td>11.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>45 pts.</td>
<td>11.25</td>
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**E-Journal Policies:**

You will complete 11 (eleven) e-Journal entries. Each entry must be submitted BEFORE 8:30am on its respective date due. E-Journal submissions are to be posted online in Blackboard, and are electronically time-stamped upon receipt. No late submissions will be accepted.

Each submission must be no shorter than 500 words in length, and must fully address the assigned topic and/or question(s). There are no specific formatting requirements for the e-Journal submissions. Quoting or borrowing from other sources is strongly discouraged; if you do, however, do so sparingly and cite the source appropriately. Submissions will receive full credit provided that they meet the criteria above. Failure to meet any one or more of the above criteria will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment.

You are encouraged to be candid in your e-Journal entries, but it is requested that you refrain from the use of inappropriate or offensive content or language in your submissions. A warning will be issued for the first offense, and subsequent offenses will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for each offending submission.

**Experimental Learning Lab Policies:**

You will receive a list of suggested lab experiences. You will complete 4 (four) learning labs and present the appropriate proof at the beginning of class on the established due dates. You may select any of the lab experiences on the list provided to you or, with the pre-approval of the instructor, complete a lab experience that you suggest. Since the list is not exclusive, you are encouraged to propose alternatives. Half-credit will be given for lab experience proof or essays submitted between the original due date and the next class meeting. A grade of 0 (zero) will be assigned for submissions made after the start of the next class meeting following the due date.
**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT:**

You will complete an in-depth, investigative project that will introduce you to basic research and reporting techniques. During the course of the project, you will be required to submit or present information to the instructor and/or class at four different times. Due dates are noted on the class schedule as “Experiential Learning Project Reports.” The specific material required for each of the four project reports will be outlined separately from this syllabus once topics have been assigned/selected.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION POLICIES:**

Learning cannot take place if the learner is not present. Therefore, the student must come to class on time and be prepared to contribute to the classroom learning experience. It is important to recognize that one should share his/her thoughts and ideas in a thoughtful and respectful way. In order for this to be a positive learning experience for everyone, it is imperative that everyone arrives with an open mind and prepared to engage in classroom discussions and group activities.

Reading assignments may occasionally be made from the course textbook or other ancillary media. If such an assignment is made, it is expected that the student will be prepared to discuss the reading assignment in class.

**EXAMS AND QUIZZES:**

Two exams will be given in this class, and they will be administered on Blackboard. Exams will cover assigned readings, class discussions, and guest presentations, and are cumulative in nature. Two quizzes will be given in this class, and may be unannounced.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS, MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS, AND EXTRA CREDIT POLICIES:**

Late work will be evaluated according to the policies established in this syllabus for the particular assignment. Arrangements for make-up assignments and exams must be made in advance unless due to emergency, and will be subject to the policies as outlined in the Tiger Cub and this syllabus. No make-up work will be accepted for unexcused absences.

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

One opportunity for extra credit exists in this course: If you provide proof of voter registration in either Lee County, Alabama or your home county, you will receive 1 (one) percentage point of credit toward your final grade.

*The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the course of the semester. If a change is made, appropriate notice will be given in class.*
### UNIV 1100: First-Year Seminar - EarthSmart

#### SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 8:30 am - 9:20 am | Teague Hall 003

Revised 18 March 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topics/Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introductions, Review Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review Syllabus, Blackboard Overview: Lab Experiences, e-Journals, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2      |      | Note Taking  
DUE: e-Journal 1 |
|        |      | Sustainability  
DUE: Read and Take Notes on Sustainability Article |
| 3      |      | Sustainability As a New World Initiative: Lindy Biggs  
DUE: Lab 1 (Ecological Footprint) |
|        |      | Time Management  
DUE: e-Journal 2 |
| 4      |      | Experiential Learning Projects  
DUE: e-Journal 3 |
|        |      | USC's West Quad  
DUE: Read Articles, Lab 2 |
| 5      |      | Sustainable Farming and Eating: Food Production and Consumption  
DUE: Read Articles, e-Journal 4 |
|        |      | Food Production and Consumption (continued)  
DUE: Read Articles |
| 6      |      | Study Skills  
DUE: e-Journal 5 |
|        |      | Sustainable Economics: The Energy Star Myth  
DUE: Lab 3 |
| 7      |      | Sustainable Economics: The Energy Star Myth (continued)  
DUE: e-Journal 6 |
|        |      | Sustainable Transportation: Matt Williams  
DUE: EXAM 1 |
| 8      |      | Sustainable Urban Planning  
DUE: Experiential Learning Project Report 1 |
|        |      | Recycling, Reduction, Reuse: Donny Addison  
DUE: e-Journal 7 |

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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9      |      | Politics, Viewpoints, Current Events  
DUE: Read Articles |
|        |      | Sustainable Population Growth and Reduction: Norbert Lechner  
DUE: Lab 4 |
| 10     |      | Careers, Choosing Your Major: Jay Skipworth  
DUE: FOCUS Online Activity |
|        |      | Sustainable Construction: The Gorrie Center: Natasha McCurry  
DUE: Read Articles |
| 11     |      | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK |
| 12     |      | Sustainable Shopping: Bricks or Clicks  
DUE: Read Articles, Experiential Learning Project Report 2  
Bricks or Clicks Presentations |
| 13     |      | Energy to Power our Lives: The AU Solar Home: Sushil Bhavnani  
DUE: e-Journal 8  
*Kilowatt Ours*  
DUE: e-Journal 9 |
| 14     |      | Careers in Sustainability  
DUE: e-Journal 10, Experiential Learning Project Report 3 |
|        |      | Diversity |
| 15     |      | Silviculture: Ed Loewenstein  
DUE: e-Journal 11 |
|        |      | Experiential Learning Project In-Class Presentations  
DUE: Experiential Learning Project Report 4 |
| 16     |      | Experiential Learning Project In-Class Presentations |
|        |      | Goal Setting for the Environment |
| 17     |      | Eco-Taboo, Wrap-Up  
DUE: e-Journal 12  
DUE BY 10:00pm: EXAM 2 |

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