Bemidji State University

ENVR 3730: Sustainable Communities: Local Indigenous Perspective

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

Human societies all across the globe have developed rich sets of experiences and explanations relating to the sustainable communities they live, work and play in. This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of these sustainable communities. Students will learn how these communities function, their challenges, and the critical networks that exist with the environment. This class will explore the role of Indigenous knowledge and traditional ways of learning, as well as scientific knowledge in maintaining the sustainability of a community. This is an experiential learning course -- learning through interaction, projects, and reflection. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/26/2019 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Western Science- Environmental Studies
2. Indigenous Environmental Knowledge- Indigenous Studies

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. discuss the concept of 'sustainable community' from both the Western Scientific and the Indigenous perspectives and describe the social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures that define them.
2. compare the goals, assumptions, and interconnected elements of sustainable communities from an Indigenous and Western Science perspective.
3. critique alternative explanatory systems regarding sustainable communities and recognize and articulate the value assumptions made by ourselves and others.
4. discuss the present role of Indigenous Knowledge and the traditional ways of learning in maintaining the sustainability of a local or regional community.
5. evaluate elements of sustainable communities for the purposes of 1) reducing pollution, 2) eliminating excess waste and 3) for conservation efforts.
6. develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues that affect sustainable communities.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity
1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
None noted