



I. Course Information:

Meeting Times and Days: M & W 10:00 – 11:20 AM
Start Date: 01/14/13
Refund Date: 01/30/13

Class Location: Bristol Hall 135
End Date: 05/01/13
Withdraw Date: 04/07/13

Prerequisite: Requires college-level reading. Students must take this course concurrently with ENV-101, MAT-120 (or higher), and ENG-122 if they have not successfully completed these courses with a minimum grade of C- prior to enrollment.

Instructor Information:

Name: Tina Evans
Phone: 970-870-4517 (prefer e-mail)
Fax: 970-879-0485
E-mail: tevans@coloradomtn.edu
Office: Bristol Hall 109 (enter through room 111)
Office Hours: Mon: 12:30-4:00 PM,
Tues: 10:00-11:00 AM and 4:00-5:30 PM,
and by appointment.

- II. Course Description:** This course explores the history and evolution of the sustainability movement. An examination of key developments, definitions, and principles provides a platform for students to evaluate sustainability as a critical paradigm shift. Issues such as human population growth, carrying capacity, global warming, and complex systems theory are discussed while innovative perspectives such as ecological design, biomimicry, and adaptive management are analyzed and applied.

Topical Outline

1. Key developments in sustainability.
2. Evolution from environmentalism to sustainability movement.
3. Definitions and models of sustainability.
4. Key principles such as limits to growth, carrying capacity, and interdependence.
5. Sustainability indicators and assessment models.
6. Ecological design principles.
7. Biomimicry, permaculture, and ecological restoration.
8. Complex systems thinking and social dynamics.
9. Adaptive management.
10. Resilience in socio-ecological systems.

- III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Students will be exposed to the foundations of sustainable thinking and what this means. Upon completion of this course, the student should demonstrate knowledge and/ or skill in the following areas:

1. Understand the history of the sustainability movement including key events, documents, and people.
2. Examine sustainability as an emergent social movement and discourse.
3. Evaluate definitions and models of sustainability.
4. Explain core principles of sustainability and apply principles toward a variety of settings and scales.
5. Recognize multiple tools and strategies to promote sustainability initiatives.
6. Develop skills in applied systems thinking.
7. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of a diversity of sustainability initiatives.

V. **IDEA Objectives**

IDEA objective #2: Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.

IDEA Objective #4: Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.

IDEA objective #9: Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.

IDEA Objective #10: Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.

IDEA Objective #11: Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

VI. Evaluation Methods and Class Management: Your grade in this course will be determined by participation, various individual and small group assignments, research, presentations on research findings, and a final reflection regarding the course material and class. Class participation and involvement in the discussions are part of your grade. Participation consists of a variety of ways of engaging as well as being both present and aware during class. Your education depends on both your professor's creation of a learning environment and your engagement with the course experience. You are required to read the assigned readings **prior** to each class session and be prepared to discuss relevant ideas and concepts in class. Please avoid entering class late or leaving early because doing so disrupts the class. Here are some general guidelines to help you understand the structure of this course, the expectations I have of you, and what you can expect from me.

- ✧ We will be using the following online tool as primary means of communication:
 - Canvas (<https://coloradomtn.instructure.com/>) CMC's chosen e-learning tool will provide an online homepage for our course. This is where you will find a course calendar, course announcements, assignments, and more. I will provide an overview of Canvas during the first week of class.
- ✧ All written assignments must be turned in via Canvas, which means they must be word processed!
- ✧ Your CMC e-mail address is considered to be an official means of contacting you about this course. Therefore, you are expected to check your CMC e-mail regularly.
- ✧ I may choose to modify or alter the course material as the semester progresses. These changes will be announced in class and reflected in Canvas. Any such changes will be finalized by the date they are assigned.
- ✧ Assignments may be submitted early if need be. Please notify me if you need to hand in work early and ask for permission in advance of actually submitting an assignment early. I will accept late assignments for one week following the due date. You will be assessed 10% reduction in grade for a late assignment. No assignments will be accepted following our last class meeting, 5/1/13.
- ✧ We all have complex lives and you may need to miss classes. If you need to miss a class, please notify me as soon as you are aware of your need to be absent. Please use Canvas to keep abreast of course assignments, and contact me if you have questions about what you miss. Course attendance is part of your grade, and being here will reflect in how well you succeed in this course as many of our assignments stem from class discussions.
- ✧ You create your path in this life, and building a meaningful and satisfying path takes effort. Information means nothing unless you take it in, reflect upon it, and create your own interpretation and connections from doing this work. This course is designed for you to learn foundational knowledge about sustainability.
- ✧ And finally, just a quick note on academic honesty: plagiarism is not acceptable in this class. Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's work, do not cite the source of the work, and claim such work as your own. Plagiarism is considered academic misconduct and will be treated as such as defined in the "Academic Policies and Requirements" section of the *Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook*.

Grades will be assessed as follows:

Class Participation	10 % of final grade
Ecological Footprint & Discussion	5% of final grade
Jordana DeZeeuw Spencer Session	5% of final grade
Lee Ball Session	5% of final grade
Energy Saving in Schools Project	10% of final grade
Historical Event Assignment	10% of final grade
Food or Energy System Leverage Points	15% of final grade
Research Project & Presentation	25% of final grade
Biomimicry Presentation	5% of final grade
Final Analytical/Reflective Paper	10% of final grade
Semester Total:	100%

<u>Grade</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	93.5%-100%	4.0
A-	89.5%-93.4%	3.7
B+	86.5%-89.4%	3.3
B	82.5%-86.4%	3.0
B-	79.5%-82.4%	2.7
C+	76.5%-79.4%	2.3
C	72.5%-76.4%	2.0
C-	69.5%-72.4%	1.7
D+	66.5%-69.4%	1.3
D	62.5%-66.4%	1.0
D-	59.5%-62.4%	0.7
F	below 59.5%	0.0

Class participation, 10% of final grade: The success of this course—for you and your classmates—depends largely on your commitment to attending, preparing for, and participating in class. Readings will be assigned for each class—do them! If you don't, you'll be lost in class, and class discussions will suffer markedly, impacting the learning of others as well. Also, since class participation is worth 10% of your final grade, your grade will suffer if you continually lag behind in or don't complete readings, if you skip classes, or if you neglect to participate. That said, you will not necessarily be graded on the *quantity* of your participation. Having a great amount of poor quality, uninformed participation is not beneficial to you or to the class and will not result in a high grade for participation. Readings assigned for a particular class are to be completed *prior* to that class. As one gauge of your class participation, I will be taking attendance regularly.

- *Addresses learning outcomes 1-3 and 5-7 and IDEA objective 2.*

Jordana Dezeeuw Spencer Session Participation, 5% of final grade: You will be required to attend Dr. Spencer's public presentation and discussion with students. These events will take place on the evening of Wed., March 27. Details will be provided in class. If you cannot attend these events, you will have an opportunity to complete an optional paper to fulfill this course requirement.

- *Addresses learning outcomes 4 and 5 and IDEA objectives 2 and 10.*

Lee Ball Session Participation, 5% of final grade: You will be required to attend Dr. Ball's public presentation to be held on an evening in late February. Details will be provided in class. If you cannot attend this event, you will have an opportunity to complete an optional paper to fulfill this course requirement.

- *Addresses learning outcomes 3-6 and IDEA objectives 2 and 4.*

Take Charge Energy Challenge Project in Local Schools in collaboration with Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, 10 % of final grade: You will work with students in local schools to educate them on how to save energy in their classrooms. Each class will be taking part in a competition to see which can save the most energy by modifying their energy use habits while at school. The competition will take place from January 28 to February 15, and you will educate the students before the competition begins. This will be a fun project that will reach many young people and likely also influence their families at home. Details on your participation will be provided in class and on Canvas.

- *Addresses learning outcomes 4 and 5 and IDEA objective 4.*

Ecological footprint calculation and in-class discussion, 5% of final grade: You will be required to calculate your personal ecological footprint using an online tool for doing so. As part of this assignment, you will also be required to discuss this exercise in class.

- *Addresses learning outcome 5 and IDEA objective 9.*

Written analysis of a historical event in the sustainability movement, 15% of final grade: This assignment is an essay. Sources used in completing this essay must be cited in APA style.

- *Addresses learning outcomes 1 and 2 and IDEA objective 2.*

Written analysis of the energy system and leverage points for making it more sustainable, 15% of final grade: This assignment is an essay. Sources used in completing this essay must be cited in APA style.

- *Addresses learning outcomes 3 and 6 and IDEA objective 11.*

Biomimicry research and informal class presentation, 5% of final grade: This assignment calls for Internet and/or library research outside of class. An informal in-class presentation is also required.

- *Addresses learning outcome 5 and IDEA objective 9.*

Research project and presentation, 25% of final grade: This assignment represents an opportunity for you to explore in some depth an area of interest relevant to the course and to share what you have learned with the class. You will produce a professional quality presentation, share that presentation in class, and reference all of your sources in APA style.

- *Addresses learning outcome 7 and IDEA objective 9.*

Final analytical/reflection paper, 15% of final grade: This assignment is an analytical/reflective essay. Details on content and approach will be discussed in class.

- *Addresses IDEA objective 10.*

Extra Credit: I may identify in class and/or via Canvas opportunities for earning extra credit. Details about how extra credit earned may improve your grade will be made available when any extra credit opportunities are announced. All opportunities will be open to all students.

VII. Grading System

Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. You will receive a grade report for current semester courses at the end of each term. This grade report is mailed to your permanent mailing address. Reports are mailed approximately two weeks after the end of the academic term.

VIII. Required Course Materials: The following text is required for this course:

Homer-Dixon, Thomas. *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization*. Washington, DC: Island, 2006. ISBN: 1-59726-065-7.

Additional course materials will be made available via the Internet or Canvas. This material will be listed in the weekly modules within Canvas. As our course progresses, I may alter the readings to better address/explore a topic/area of interest/concern. Any such changes will be reflected in Canvas at least one class period prior to the originally assigned date and students will be notified during class of any such changes.

IX. Other Information: A course outline is available in Canvas. This outline is tentative and many be modified during the semester as needed. You will be notified of any changes both in Canvas and in class.

IX. Virtual Library Information: <http://coloradomtn.edu/library>

The Virtual Library has its doors open 24/7, providing access to thousands of online journals and newspapers, books, and art images, downloadable videos and audio books, and career resources and practice tests.

Virtual Library Help Desk

If you need help with the Virtual Library, email reference@coloradomtn.edu, or call us at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

NOTICE: A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the "Academic Policies and Requirements" section of the *Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook* will, at a minimum, receive a "zero" for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to turnitin.com (or another anti-plagiarism program) at the instructor's discretion. "Academic Expectations," the "Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Process," and additional information about academic misconduct can be found in the *Student Handbook*.

- Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) as well as other readings, lectures, labs, and assignments.
- The instructors may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester as the learning environment requires. Students will be notified in writing of changes.
- Attendance at all class meetings is expected.
- If you have a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and feel you may need classroom accommodations based on the impact of your disability, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator on your campus.
 - Alpine and Vail-Eagle Valley Campuses: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
- Students wishing to withdraw from this course must INITIATE the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.
- This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.

No-show reporting and financial aid: You must attend your first day of class so that the instructor may complete a "no-show" report. If you do not attend class or notify your instructor of a valid reason of why you cannot be there, you will be reported as a no-show and dropped from the course. The resultant loss in credit hours may cause a reduction and/or cancellation of your financial aid award. Neither financial aid awards nor class reinstatement can occur after this point without significant documented extenuating circumstances. If you have questions or concerns about this please contact your campus financial aid specialist (http://coloradomtn.edu/financial_aid).