

Department:

Interdisciplinary Studies

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students to diverse global perspectives and practical personal solutions related to long-term sustainability. The course focuses on the impact personal and professional decisions have on the global condition and how those decisions can support the objectives of sustainability: economic viability, environmental integrity, and social equity. Topics covered will include energy, food, land use, water, air, waste, housing, personal health, and community. Instruction will be provided by team of faculty, staff, and practitioners of sustainable living.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the concept of sustainability and explain the role of humans in creating current environmental challenges.
2. Explain the role of humans in devising and implementing sustainable solutions to environmental problems.
3. Describe the global challenges to sustainability from economic, environmental, and social perspectives.
4. Apply the concept of sustainability in critically examining social issues related to the use of natural resources.
5. Critically analyze and discuss the diversity of ethical issues raised by human interactions with the environment.
6. Describe the impact of personal decisions on local, regional, national, and global sustainability.
7. State alternatives to current practices that affect long-term sustainability.
8. Apply the principles of sustainability on a personal level.

Course Content:

- A. Global Issues
 1. Understanding Sustainability and Resources
 2. Sustainable Solutions and New Ways of Thinking
- B. Population and Carrying Capacity
 1. Population Trends Through History
 2. Ecological Footprint and Reducing Consumption
- C. Meeting Essential Human Needs

1. Food
2. Water
3. Energy
- D. Quality of Life
 1. Improving Quality of Life
 2. Personal, Community, and World Health
 3. Education and Human Rights
- E. Building Sustainability
 1. Governance
 2. Economy, Inequality, and Poverty
- F. Sustainable Solutions
 1. Local Solutions
 2. Global Solutions

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of class exercises, selected reading assignments and discussions, journal entries, research projects, class presentations, field trips, participation in campus and community service projects, and an end-of-course evaluation.

Instructional Materials:

It's All Connected: A Comprehensive Guide to Global Issues and Sustainable Solutions, Wheeler, Wheeler, and Church, www.facingthefuture.org, 2005. ISBN: 9780971100541

Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, Louv, Algonquin Books, 2006.

Additional readings will be listed on the course home page.

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

On-Campus Students: At enrollment, any on campus student may complete a form that will allow them to self-identify any disability.

Off-Campus Regional Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs with the Regional Coordinator and/or instructor, preferably prior to the first class meeting.

Online Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator. Students must provide their own programs to allow accessibility on their home computer.

Any student may also identify their disability by completing an online form located on the HCC homepage under Students Services/Resources/Disabilities. Questions should be directed to the Disabilities Coordinator.