

Syllabus for MSMGT 710 The Natural Environment

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information about this course. The most current syllabus is available in the course.

Course Description

Definitions of sustainability inherently incorporate a systems thinking approach. This course explores the natural environment from the Earth Systems model and represents the scientific perspective of the core curriculum for this program. As a core course, this course will also introduce intensive writing as preparation for the capstone course.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Course Outcomes

- Understanding of the natural environment in terms of the Earth Systems model
- Knowledge of the scientific method and interrelated sets of natural cycles
- Ability to communicate scientific arguments related to the natural environment
- Appreciation for the role of humans on shaping the Earth's environments
- Ability to assess pertinent information and prepare a well-written appraisal of a topic

Course Requirements/Requirements

As this is a 3-credit course, it is expected that you will spend a total of 9 hours each week.

Details on reading and writing expectations as well as writing rubrics are provided in the course.

Discussion Board Participation

You are required to participate in discussions in response to a topic question introduced by the instructor relevant to the assigned reading. You are expected to articulate your viewpoint and understanding of the topic based on the assigned readings and additional sources from your own research.

Topic Writing Exercises

Several topic writing exercises will be assigned at regular intervals to be submitted as a position paper. The position papers are expected to be written in the style consistent with scientific peer-reviewed journal articles and include complete citations.

Requirements:

- *Summary*: 200 to 220 words; no citations or follow-up revision required
- *Abstract*: 300 to 330 words; one (1) or two (2) scientific citations
- *Position Paper*: 1000 to 1200 words; at least three (3) scientific citations. The position paper is a revision of the abstract and incorporates information gleaned from abstract submissions by other classmates.

Final Paper

The Final Paper will be your own summary of your "Nature Principle." It is expected to incorporate the range of interrelated topics covered during the course. The Final Paper is intended as an opportunity to summarize your Nature Principle based on what you have learned throughout this course. The paper should include material that has been obtained during this course along with your personal perspectives based on present and past experience.

The Final Paper is 80 points (4 times the value of Position Papers). A reasonable guide for the length would be 4 times the word count (4000-4800). Also, a reasonable number of references would be around 12.

Quizzes

The course includes two quizzes.

Final Exam

Covers material from the entire course. Students missing the Final Exam will receive no credit for the exam unless: (a) in case of illness, injury, or emergency the instructor is notified (by email) before the scheduled exam time and (b) the student makes arrangements with the instructor before the scheduled exam time to take a make-up exam. Students taking a make-up exam before the scheduled exam will receive full credit; students taking a make-up exam after the scheduled exam period will have points deducted.

Grading

The final grade will be based on the following:

- Summaries (12.5%)
- Abstracts (12.5%)
- Position Papers (12.5%)
- Quizzes (12.5%)
- Final Paper (25%)

- Final Exam (25%)

Summaries	4 @ 10 points each	40 points
Abstracts	4 @ 10 points each	40 points
Position Papers	2 @ 20 points each	40 points
Quizzes	2 @ 20 points each	40 points
Final Paper	Title/Outline 10 points Final Draft 70 points	80 points
Final Exam	40 Questions @ 2 points each	80 points

92.5-100	A
89.5-92.4	A-
86.5-89.4	B+
82.5-86.4	B
79.5-82.4	B-
76.5-79.4	C+
72.5-76.4	C
69.5-72.4	C-
66.5-69.4	D+
62.5-66.4	D
59.5-62.4	D-
<59.5	F