

**SUS 331 Cultural and Place-Based Equity**

**Synonym Number: 90360**

**Fall 2015**

**3 credits**

**I. Course Information:**

*Meeting Time and Day: Thursdays* 9:00-11:50 AM *Class Location:* Academic Building, 216

*Start Date:* 08/27/15 *End Date:* 12/10/15

*Refund Date:* 9/11/15 *Withdraw Date:* 11/15/15

# *Prerequisites:* ENV-101 and PHI-218; Minimum grade C-.

# ENV-101 and PHI-218 must be taken concurrently with this

# course if not previously successfully completed.

**Instructor Information**:

*Name: Tina Evans*

*Phone: 970-870-4517 (prefer e-mail)*

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*E-mail: tevans@coloradomtn.edu*

*Office: Bristol Hall 109 (enter through room 111)*

*Office Hours: Tues.: 10:00 AM -12:00 PM and 1:00-4:00 PM, and by appointment.*

1. **Course Description:** This course focuses on how issues of culture and place relate to sustainability. Students will learn how sustainability involves relationships between people and places. A variety of global cultures, including those of nonwestern and/or indigenous societies, are considered in order to envision diverse perspectives on sustainability. Students will explore and discuss sustainability in terms of environmental health, justice, equity, and security. The course invites critical thinking and reflection and also challenges students to analyze the situations in which they live and participate.

Topical Outline:

1. Cultural diversity and sustainability
2. Place and power
3. Indigenous ways of knowing
4. Traditional ecological knowledge
5. Environmental justice
6. Food sovereignty and water security
7. Disease and diaspora
8. War, peace, and environmental sustainability
9. **Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Through completion of this course, you should:
10. Develop a broad awareness of cultural perspectives related to sustainability.
11. Understand places as contexts for considering issues of power and equity in sustainability.
12. Explain the emergence and current initiatives of the environmental justice movement.
13. Examine their own perspectives on sustainability in light of other cultural perspectives and ways of knowing.
14. Examine conflict, war, and diaspora in relationship to environmental scarcity, security, and sustainability.
15. Formulate questions about personal, local, and global sustainability in terms of culture and place.
16. **IDEA Objectives**: In addition to the above learning outcomes, you can be expected to achieve the following competencies—provided that you participate fully in the course and complete all requirements:

Objective #8: Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

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

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

1. **Evaluation Methods and Class Management:** Your grade in this course will be determined by participation, analytical and reflective writing assignments, research, presentations regarding the material explored, 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 instructor’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 try to 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 site for our course. This is where you will find 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 alter the course material as the semester progresses. These changes will be conveyed to you in class and reflected in Canvas. Any such changes will be finalized by the date they are assigned.
* I will accept late assignments for one week following the original due date. All late assignments will be docked one full grade (10%). No assignments will be accepted following our last class meeting on December 10, 2015.
* If you need to miss a class, please notify me as soon as you are aware of this to make arrangements to get the course material and make up any missed activities. Course attendance is part of your grade, and being in class will influence your level of success in this course.
* You create your path in this life, and building a meaningful and satisfying path takes effort. Information means nothing unless you take it in, consider it within the framework of what you already know, reflect upon it, and create your own interpretation and meaning from this process. This course is designed to help you learn foundational knowledge about place and its relationships to sustainability, but it is your own efforts in this process that matter the most. Stay current with course readings and other requirements, and come to class ready to engage in stimulating discussions with your classmates.
* A note on academic honesty: plagiarism is not acceptable in this class. Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else’s work, do not cite them for their 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*.

Grade % Quality Points

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

Grades will be assessed as follows:

**Class Participation 15% of final grade**

**Yampatika Garden to Table Project Participation 10% of final grade**

**Analytical and Reflective Writing 25% of final grade**

**Analytical Paper 30% of final grade**

**Presentation of Your Analytical Paper 5% of final grade**

**Final Reflective Essay 15% of final grade**

 **Semester Total: 100%**

**Class participation: 15% of final grade:** The success of this course—for you and for 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 20% 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 attendance, preparation, and participation. Readings assigned for a particular class are to be completed *prior* to that class. As one gauge of your class participation, I will take attendance regularly. If you have questions about your participation grade, please consult with me.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and IDEA objectives 8, 10, and 11.*

**Yampatika Garden-to-Table Event Project, 10% of final grade:** You will be required to participate in a service learning experience in which you will collaborate with Yampatika staff and CMC’s Culinary Management Program’s students and faculty to prepare for and manage a Garden to Table event to be held on Wednesday, September 16. Details will be provided in class. If you cannot assist with this event, you will have an opportunity to complete an optional paper to fulfill this course requirement.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 2 and 6 and IDEA objectives 10 and 11.*

**Analytical and Reflective Writing: 25% of final grade:** For this class, you will not be taking exams. Written response questions are basically your exams for this course. All questions will be essay questions. Take these assignments seriously! Since they substitute for exams for this class, your responses are expected to demonstrate the depth of thought and the clarity that you would strive for in writing exam responses. Also know that, if you have not kept up with course readings, these questions will be difficult to answer. You will mostly draw upon course texts for writing these essays, and you will need to cite these sources in APA style.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1, 2, 4, and 6 and IDEA outcomes 8, 10, and 11.*

**Analytical Paper: 30% of final grade:** This research paper will provide you with an opportunity to explore in some depth an idea, theme, theory, or movement related to the course. This paper will be developed in stages that include developing a research question, constructing an outline, writing a rough draft, and completing a final draft.

* *Addresses learning outcome 4, 4, and 6 and IDEA outcomes 8 and 11.*

**Presentation of Your Analytical Paper: 5% of final grade:** You will also present an overview of your paper to the class near the end of the course.

* *Addresses learning outcome 2, 4, and 6 and IDEA outcomes 8 and 11.*

**Final Reflective Essay: 15% of final grade:** Near the end of the term, you will write a reflective essay relating the content of the course to the context of your own learning and life. Instructions for this essay will be provided in class and online.

* *Addresses learning outcome 2, 4, and 6 and IDEA outcomes 8 and 1.*

**Extra Credit:** I may identify in class and/or via Canvas opportunities to earn extra credit. All such opportunities will be open to all students.

**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 more information about academic misconduct can be found in the *Student Handbook*.

Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required. The instructor 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.

**Attendance and No-show Reporting:** Attendance and early engagement are important elements for your success in this course. All students who do not attend the first class(es) or meet early attendance requirements must be reported by the instructor to the Registrar’s Office. Financial aid students or students receiving Veteran’s benefits who do not attend the first class(es) or meet early attendance requirements will be dropped from the course and may not receive financial assistance ([**http://coloradomtn.edu/financial\_aid**](http://coloradomtn.edu/financial_aid)).

1. Students with Disabilities: 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 for our campus: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
2. Withdrawal from this Course:

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.

1. Grading System and Options**:**

Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. Grades will be posted to <https://webadvisor.coloradomtn.edu/> (WebAdvisor) by Thursday following the last day of classes at the end of each semester.

1. **Required Course Materials:** The following texts are required for this course:

Evans, T. L. (2012). *Occupy Education: Living and Learning Sustainability*. New York: Peter Lang. ISBN: 1433119668.

Hopkins, R. (2011). *The Transition Companion: Making Your Community More Resilient in Uncertain Times*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green. ISBN: 1603583920. (print version highly recommended over electronic)

Additional course materials will be made available via the Internet or Canvas. This material will be listed in the weekly modules within Canvas. As the 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.

**Colorado Mountain College has chosen to partner with Follett Virtual Bookstores to operate textbook services.**

The official textbook list for CMC will be available on Follett's site, [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com).  You also can easily access this site by choosing "bookstore" from the quick links on [www.coloradomtn.edu](http://www.coloradomtn.edu).  Students and other members of the campus community may sign up for the Online Textbook Store's email mailing list here [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email) to receive important messages from the CMC Online Textbook Store. Students can sell back books anytime online or in-person at Follett's CMC buyback events.  Sign up for the online store's email list at [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email) for more info on future buyback dates and times. If you have any online bookstore questions, you can email coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com or call 800-621-4088.

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

**XI. 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, e-books and art images, downloadable videos and audiobooks, career resources, and practice tests.

**Login Instructions**

Use the CMC Libraries link from Canvas course menu to access the CMC libraries web site. The link will pass authentication credentials to the server that will allow you to use online library collections. It will also take you directly to the libraries’ home page.

**Ask a Librarian**

If you need assistance with a research project, you can ask a librarian online. Select the AskAcademic chat box on the libraries’ home page, and type in your question. This service is available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also email reference@coloradomtn.edu or call the library staff at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.