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**SUS 489 Sustainability Capstone**

**Synonym Number: 02026**

**Spring 2017**

**4 credits**

**I. Course Information:**

*Meeting Times and Days:* Tuesdays 8:00-11:50 AM *Class Location:* Academic Building 216

*Start Date:* 01/17/17 *End Date:* 05/05/17

*Refund Date:* 02/01/17 *Withdraw Date:* 04/9/17

# *Prerequisites:* SUS 300 and SUS 301, minimum grade of C-

**Instructor Information:**

*Name: Nathan Stewart*

*Phone: 970-870-4562*

*E-mail: nlstewart@coloradomtn.edu*

*Office: Bristol Hall 107*

*Office Hours: Wed. 8:00-9:00 and 1:00-4:00; Thurs. 8:00-8:50 and 12:00-2:00; also by appointment*

*Name: Tina Evans*

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

*E-mail: tevans@coloradomtn.edu*

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

*Office Hours: Mon. 8:30-9:30 and 4:00-5:00; Tues.1:30-3:30; Wed. 8:30-9:30; also by appointment.*

1. **Course Description:** The capstone course offers students an opportunity to reflect upon, refine, and synthesize their learning over time within the major. Students reflect upon their collegiate experience within the context of the three Es of sustainability and produce a portfolio and a significant research project. For the research project, one or more methodological approach is chosen, articulated, and applied. As part of the learning process with regard to research methodologies, students learn to effectively apply research ethics, with particular focus on ethical treatment of human subjects. Students weave together interdisciplinary thought, demonstrating that they have achieved the learning objectives of the major, and hone their scholarly and professional skills relevant to the study and practice of sustainability.

Topical Outline:

1. Exploration of prospective research subjects and approaches relevant to sustainability.
2. Synthesis of program learning.
3. Peer-review skills to promote scholarly excellence.
4. Portfolio creation and revision.
5. Professional/scholarly identity and leadership capacity within sustainability.
6. Research proficiency within sustainability studies.
7. **Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:
8. Articulate comprehension of the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary learning.
9. Synthesize knowledge and apply skills acquired through program coursework.
10. Demonstrate refined written and oral communication skills.
11. Demonstrate understanding of the three Es of sustainability.
12. Demonstrate a significant capacity for interdisciplinary and critical inquiry and thought.
13. Comprehend and implement appropriate research methodologies in a chosen research endeavor.
14. Reflect upon acquired knowledge and its meaning to one’s life and work.
15. Constructively critique the scholarly work of peers as part of the processes of portfolio and research project development.
16. Create a portfolio that is representative of one’s scholarly/professional/voluntary/civic work relevant to sustainability.
17. **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 #3: Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions.

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

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

1. **Evaluation Methods and Class Management:** Your grade in this course will be determined by class participation, participation in special speaker events (including the campus sustainability conference), portfolio work, a research project, and participation in a research symposium. This is a highly experiential course that is heavily based on your active synthesis of work you have completed throughout your degree program. Because of the highly experiential nature of the course and because the class meets only weekly, missing classes is highly discouraged. Assigned readings should be completed **prior** to the class sessions for which they are assigned. Please try to avoid entering class late or leaving early because doing so disrupts the class. Following are some general guidelines to help you understand the structure of this course, the expectations we have of you, and what you can expect from us.

* We will be using Canvas as primary means of communication. Canvas (<https://coloradomtn.instructure.com/>) is CMC’s chosen e-learning tool that provides an online site for our course. You will find course announcements, assignments, and more posted in our Canvas course site. We will provide an overview of Canvas during the first week of class.
* All written assignments, unless otherwise specified, 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.
* We may choose to modify or 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.
* Assignments may be submitted early if need be. Please notify us if such instances occur, and ask for permission in advance of actually submitting an assignment early. We 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.
* If you need to miss a class in order to participate in a CMC-sanctioned activity, due to health reasons, or due to an emergency situation, please notify us as soon as you are aware of this to make arrangements to get the course material and make up any missed activities.
* Please do not expect us make course accommodations for you so that you may engage in personal travel (vacations, travel for concerts, etc.). If you choose to miss class for personal travel or other personal reasons, you are expected to use Canvas to keep up with course readings and assignments. Do not expect us to review with you the material you missed in class. You also will not have an opportunity to make up in-class work or participation credit.
* 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*.

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**

**Special Speaker Event Participation 5% of final grade**

**Professional Portfolio 25% of final grade**

**Portfolio Presentation 10% of final grade**

**Research Project 30% of final grade**

**Research Symposium Poster Presentation 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. We’ll be synthesizing and discussing our understanding of sustainability as a concept/practice, and we’ll be doing some exciting experiential work together that will help you transition into work or graduate studies. In class work will also comprise a significant part of your grade for class participation. You’ll have a lot to offer and to learn from your classmates through our work together. Be prepared to take charge of your learning experience because much of what you do in this course will be up to you. Make this course a useful stepping stone toward a lifetime of engagement with sustainability.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-9 and IDEA objectives 3, 8, and 9.*

**Special Speaker Event Participation, 5% of final grade:** You will be required to attend a presentation by Paul Twardock, Professor of Outdoor Studies at Alaska Pacific University, on the evening of Wednesday, January 25th. He will be discussing the relationship between adventure travel, sustainable communities, and climate change in Alaska. You will also be required to attend the campus sustainability conference speaker events on Thursday, April 20. Saturday, April 22, is Earth Day as well, so the conference will be the place to be! Details will be provided in class. Please make arrangements to attend all afternoon and evening on the 20th. Do not wait until the last minute to make your plans so that you have more trouble doing so. If there is some very pressing reason that you cannot attend one of these events, you will have an opportunity to complete an additional paper to fulfill this course requirement.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-3 and 5-6 and IDEA objectives 8-9.*

**Professional Portfolio: 25% of final grade:** You will produce a professional quality portfolio as a major component of this course. Your portfolio will call upon you to present your best work in an appropriate format to demonstrate your knowledge and skills when applying for professional work or graduate school. Your portfolio will also include a professional resume and reflective writing that synthesizes your conceptual and practical knowledge of sustainability.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-5 and 7-9, and 10 and IDEA objective 8.*

**Professional Portfolio Presentation, 10% of final grade:** You will be required to present your portfolio to the class during one of the final class meetings of the term. Presentation dates and times will be scheduled during the term. Further details will also be provided in class.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 7 and 9 and IDEA objective 8.*

**Research Project: 30% of final grade:** Your research project may take the form of an academic paper or a practical project such as grant research and writing. All research projects must include articulation of student work within a consciously chosen research tradition. Details about the form and content of your project will be provided in class and in Canvas. All projects will be developed in stages over several weeks of the term.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-6 and 8 and IDEA objectives 3, 8 and 9.*

**Research Symposium: 15% of final grade:** You will also present your research work in class and to a public audience. The public presentation of your work will take the form of a poster presentation at the campus sustainability conference. The poster sessions will take place the afternoon of Thursday, April 20. Details will be provided in class.

* *Addresses learning outcome 3 and IDEA objective 8.*

**Extra Credit:** We may identify in class and/or via Canvas opportunities for earning 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 class and via Canvas of any such changes.

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

Colorado Mountain College is committed to the prompt and equitable investigation of all sexual misconduct complaints or reports, with appropriate remediation where it has been determined that this the sexual misconduct policy has been violated. Each campus has a designated Title IX Coordinator to handle any reports of sexual misconduct.  
  
Title IX Coordinator Contact Information:

College/Employee Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Lisa Doak, AVP of Student Services  
970-947-8351; [ldoak@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:ldoak@coloradomtn.edu)

Campus Deputy Title IX Coordinator*,* Steamboat Springs Campus:  
Brian Hoza, Dean of Student Affairs  
970-870-4463; [bhoza@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:bhoza@coloradomtn.edu)

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.
3. Grading System & Options**:**Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. Grades will be posted to <https://webadvisor.coloradomtn.edu/> (WebAdvisor) by Friday following the last day of classes at the end of each semester.
4. **Required Course Materials:** The following text is required for this course:

CMC Steamboat has chosen to participate in a flat rate access fee program for course materials so that every student has all of the required textbooks the first day of class based on a library-like access model. All student textbooks and digital access codes will be provided at the start of the semester. Course texts may be picked up at the campus store (Steamboat Academic Center, third floor).

Bentz, V. M., and Shapiro, J. J. (1998). *Mindful Inquiry in Social Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

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, we may alter the readings to better address/explore a topic/area of interest/concern. Any such changes will be reflected in Canvas.

1. **Other Information:** A course schedule 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**](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 your 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](mailto:reference@coloradomtn.edu) or call the library staff at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

1. **Learning Lab and Research and Writing Center:** A great resource for you is the CMC learning lab in Bristol 146. Scheduled **tutors** are available in most curricular areas, and tutoring services can be arranged one for additional subjects. The Learning Lab staff WANTS to help you! Visit their website for further information: <http://coloradomtn.edu/campuses/steamboat_springs/tutoring/> .

The Research and Writing Center is also an excellent resource for you for this class. We will be doing a lot of writing! Please do not hesitate to use this resource! The full time faculty who staff the Center can help you with organizing your content, conducting research, articulating your ideas clearly, and more! For further information on the Center, please ask at the Library check out desk.