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**SUS 489 Sustainability Capstone**

**Synonym Number: 17305**

**Spring 2019**

**4 credits**

**I. Course Information:**

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

*Start Date:* 01/14/19 *End Date:* 05/03/19

*Refund Date:* 01/29/19 *Withdraw Date:* 04/6/19

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

*Name:*Nathan L. Stewart *Phone (Office):*970-870-4526 (prefer email) *Fax (Office):*970-879-0485 *E-mail (Office):*nlstewart@coloradomtn.edu *Office:*Bristol Hall 107 (enter through TRIO, BR 105) *Office Hours: Mon.*12:30-2:30 PM; Tues. 11:00 AM -12:00 PM; Wed 1:00-3:00 PM; Thurs. 12:00-1:00 PM; also by appointment.

**Instructor Information:**

*Name: Tina Evans*

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

*Office Hours: Mon. 1:00-3:30 PM, Wed. 2:30-3:30 PM, Thurs. 2:00-3:30; also by appointment.*

1. **Required Course Materials:** CMC’s Steamboat Springs Campus participates in a flat rate access fee program for course materials so that 100% of students have 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 beginning the start of the semester. Pick up textbooks at the Campus Store, Steamboat Academic Center, third floor.

The following texts are required for this course:

Bentz, V. M., & Shapiro, J. J. (1998). *Mindful inquiry in social research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. 5th ed. Los Angeles: 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. **Course Description:** Provides an opportunity to reflect upon, refine, and synthesize learning over time within the major. Students complete an undergraduate thesis project for which one or more methodological approach is chosen, articulated, and applied. Students learn to effectively apply research ethics, with particular focus on ethical treatment of human and non-human subjects. Through a balance of theory and practice, students weave together interdisciplinary thought, problem-solving, and appropriate research methodologies for their research endeavor. Students share their broad mastery of learning across the curriculum through sharing research findings with a broad audience.

Topical Outline:

1. Synthesis of program learning
2. Research methodologies and methods appropriate to scholarly work in sustainability
3. Exploration of prospective research subjects
4. Research ethics, ethical treatment of research subjects, and Institutional Review Board processes
5. Peer review strategies that promote scholarly excellence among peers
6. Effective research in sustainability studies
7. Presentation of scholarly research to the class and the public
8. **Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:** Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:
9. Comprehend and apply appropriate research methodologies in a chosen research endeavor.
10. Demonstrate scholarly written and oral communication skills.
11. Constructively critique the scholarly work of peers as part of the process of research project development.
12. Share scholarly research work with a broad audience.
13. Synthesize breadth and depth of inter- and transdisciplinary learning.
14. Reflect upon acquired knowledge and its meaning to one’s life and work.
15. Articulate an understanding of sustainability as a concept and practice.
16. Conduct high quality scholarly research to support the undergraduate thesis.
17. Effectively convey research findings and conclusions in a scholarly paper through use of writing and reference conventions appropriate to the field.
18. **IDEA Objectives:** In addition to the above learning outcomes, you can be expected to achieve the following

competencies, provided 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 the campus sustainability conference, regular class assignments, a major research project, and presentation of your research work at a research symposium and in class. 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 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. 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 the last week of class.
* 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 such as work, 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.

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: Percentage Points

**Class Participation 10 100**

**NIH Human Subjects Training Certification 5 50**

**Regular Class Assignments 30 300**

**Reflective Paper on Sustainability 10 100**

**Research Project 30 300**

**Research Symposium Poster Presentation 10 100**

**Research Project Presentation in Class 5 50**

**Semester Total: 100 1000**

**Class participation: 10% 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. Your class participation grade will be based on completion of drafting work for major course assignments plus in-class workshop participation (three quarters of class participation grade) and on attendance at class meetings (one quarter of class participation grade). Class participation grades will be calculated at the end of the term and posted in Canvas.

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

**National Institutes of Health Human Subjects Research Training Certification: 5% of final grade:** You will be required to complete online certification with the NIH through which you will learn vital information about the ethical treatment of research subjects. This training is something you can list on your resume and apply in your Capstone research or in any future setting in which you undertake research (such as employment or graduate school).

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

**Regular Class Assignments, 30% of final grade:** You will be asked to complete a series of assignments, in- and outside of class, that serve as building blocks for completing the final research project and the associated required poster and in-person presentations of your research work. These building blocks are essential to the process of you developing a quality research project. Note that this developmental work, as a whole, is also of equal value, in terms of your grade, to the research project itself. Being diligent about this work will pay off in terms of the quality of your research and the grade you earn in this class. Stay on top of your work, and you’ll be very likely to do quite well in this course.

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

**Reflective Paper on Sustainability as a Concept and Practice, 10% of final grade:** You will be asked to write a reflective paper that synthesizes your understanding of sustainability as a concept and practice and the meaning of sustainability to your personal and professional life. This essay will allow you to demonstrate your synthesis of the breadth and depth of your education as a foundation for meaningful work and life and for communicating about sustainability with other professionals and the general public. Specific instructions for this essay will be provided in class and via Canvas.

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

**Research Project: 30% of final grade:** Your research project must embody a consciously chosen academic or applied 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 throughout the term.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 1-2, 5, and 8-9 and IDEA objectives 3, 8 and 9.*

**Research Symposium Poster Session at the CMC Sustainability Conference: 10% of final grade:** You will also present your research work to a public audience. This presentation will take the form of a poster presentation at the campus Sustainability Conference. Details will be provided in class.

* *Addresses learning outcome 2, and 4-5 and IDEA objective 8.*

**Research Project Presentation in Class: 5% of final grade:** You will also present your research work in class. This presentation of your work will be oral, and you will use your poster as a visual aid. You will not be asked to develop a PowerPoint slide set or other form of visual aid. Details will be provided in class.

* *Addresses learning outcomes 2 and 4-5 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.

1. Information for You as a CMC Student: You have a right to know certain information that the College is required by law to provide. Links on this page ([**https://coloradomtn.edu/your-right-to-know**](https://coloradomtn.edu/your-right-to-know)) will connect you with helpful information including disability services, complaint processes, policies and procedures, textbook information, registration, attendance and grading, graduation rates and much more. Some specific information available online is also summarized below, along with other course-specific policies and procedures:
2. 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.
3. Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required.
4. Attendance at all class meetings is expected.
5. 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.
6. Withdrawal from this Course: Students wishing to withdraw from this course must **initiate** the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.
7. **Notice of Nondiscrimination**: Colorado Mountain College does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information, or in its programs and activities, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and as provided in other applicable statutes and College policies. The College prohibits sexual and gender-based harassment, including sexual assault, and other forms of interpersonal violence. To obtain more information regarding non-discrimination policies, visit [**http://coloradomtn.edu/about-cmc/notice-of-nondiscrimination/**](http://coloradomtn.edu/about-cmc/notice-of-nondiscrimination/) or contact Lisa Doak, Title IX Coordinator, [ldoak@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:ldoak@coloradomtn.edu), 970-947-8351, or Angela Wurtsmith, Director of Human Resources, [awurtsmith@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:awurtsmith@coloradomtn.edu), 970-947-8311.
8. **Tentative Class Schedule:** 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.

**X. 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:** 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/> .
2. **Research and Writing Center (RAW):** The RAW is an excellent place for you to get help with research and writing. Professors at the RAW can help you at any stage of the research and writing process: idea generation, finding high quality sources, organizing your work, citing sources properly, and/or polishing your work. The RAW is located in the Library on the third floor of Bristol Hall. Ask about current hours there. You are strongly encouraged to use this resource for this class, and please don’t wait until the last minute to do so!