

Indiana University
Office of Sustainability



Academic Programs and Research Clearinghouse

Final Report, Academic Year 2010-2011

Intern Elisabeth Gawthrop

Introduction

The Academic Programs and Research Clearinghouse internship was organized under the Academic Initiatives working group (AIWG) of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Board. The co-chair of the AIWG, Professor Tom Evans, mentored the internship. The internship for the 2010-2011 academic year focused on two major projects: (1) Developing an accessible, comprehensive sustainability course list for each term; and, (2) Compiling faculty research related to sustainability.

(1) Developing an accessible, comprehensive sustainability course list for each term

Though a previous list of sustainability courses was compiled in 2009, the list of over 200 courses consisted mostly of courses only broadly related to sustainability. The list was bulky, not updated by term and largely unusable/effective for students. Furthermore, many courses on the list did not comply with the guidelines defined by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in High Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS).

The AIWG identified several goals for development of the new course list. First and foremost it is intended as a mechanism to enable students to identify sustainability related courses by providing an easily searchable term within the course master database. Second, it must serve as tool to develop a coherent curriculum in sustainability formed from sustainability courses identified with the course designation. Lastly, the sustainability course designation facilitates the IU Office of Sustainability's reporting to STARS.

(2) Compiling faculty research related to sustainability

The purposes for collecting faculty research data are similar to those for the course list. The information will be summarized on a website highlighting and advertising the sustainability research being conducted on campus. Potential functions of this website include: increased faculty awareness of research in other disciplines that may foster new connections and collaborations; students finding research groups of interest to them; and, the general promotion of IU's academic initiatives in sustainability to potential students and others in higher education.

Both projects sought to further the mission of the Academic Initiatives Working Group to build an integrated program of academic research, undergraduate and graduate education, service-learning opportunities, and co-curricular and community outreach that will move Indiana University Bloomington into a position of national leadership in sustainability studies.

Organizing and Publicizing IU Sustainability Courses and Research

Revising the IU Sustainability Course List

For the compilation of courses for the spring 2011 and summer 2011 terms, potential classes were identified by examining the online schedule of classes after they had been published to the general student population. For the compilation of the fall 2011 courses, cooperation with the registrar allowed for the schedule of classes to be received a few days before its general release. The size of the fall 2011 course list, as estimated by the registrar's office, was approximately 4,770 courses. A significant amount of time was taken to review the nearly 700-page list provided by the registrar. Instructors were then contacted with a request for a syllabus of any course(s) identified as potentially relating to sustainability. Upon receipt of the syllabi, selected courses were defined as either "related to" or "focused on" sustainability according to the following definitions:

- Sustainability *focused* courses concentrate on the concept of sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions, or examine an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens. Sustainability is a consistent thread throughout each course component and most assignments are designed to help students develop a better understanding of sustainability and sustainable development.
- Sustainability *related* courses incorporate sustainability as a distinct course component or module, or concentrate on a single sustainability principle or issue.

The course lists were posted on the IUOS website by Emilie Rex. To facilitate ease of use, the design of the webpage changed slightly for the fall 2011 list. All courses were listed by department and sustainability designation at the top of the page with links embedded for each course. The links connected directly to each course's listing to provide detailed information including the course's department, course title, instructor, meeting time, course number, and course description. The webpage includes course lists for current and past academic terms. The webpage was advertised through e-mails to the sustainability listserv, student organizations via the Student Sustainability Council, and some degree program advisors. Some courses were not included on the website because they were not available for open enrollment (e.g., doctoral student seminars and the sustainability internship seminar). These courses, as well other relevant notes, are included in the course list database on the AIWG Oncourse site.

Portal for IU Sustainability Research Activities

Potential sustainability research was identified through departmental and research center webpages. Faculty members in each identified department were then asked to evaluate the list of faculty members in their department. Following this analysis, individual faculty members were contacted with a request to send information regarding their most recent projects relating to sustainability. Information desired in each summary includes: (1) the persons involved in the research; (2) the main objectives; (3) if project is completed, the main findings; and, (4) the funders of the research. A few projects have been summarized, but this work will be continued by the summer 2011 AIWG intern. A database of compiled information is stored on the AIWG Oncourse page.

Criteria defining “focused” and “related” distinctions (similar to those of the course list) were also created for research project:

- Sustainability *focused* research concentrates on the concept of sustainability, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions, or examines an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens. Advancement in the understanding and/or practice of sustainability is a central goal of the research.
- Sustainability *related* research incorporates sustainability as a distinct component of the research, or concentrates on a single sustainability principle or issue.

Products

Screen shots of the course list webpage and basic course lists for each 2011 term are shown on the following pages. The complete listings may be found at http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain/Academics/sustainability_courses_FA11.html.



Indiana University Office of Sustainability

Search

Google™ Custom Search

Categories



Resources



Quick Links

- Energy Challenge
- Intern Program
- Campus Report
- Green Teams
- E-Waste Days
- No Waste
- IMU Charette
- Get Involved
- Campus Sustainability Advisory Board
- Student Sustainability

Sustainability Courses | Fall 2011

Search other terms: [Spring 2011](#) | [Summer \(Sessions 1 & 2\) 2011](#)

[Defining related and focused courses](#) | [Full course list](#) | [Sustainability focused course list with descriptions](#) | [Sustainability related course list with descriptions](#)


Defining sustainability related and focused courses

This is a cross-campus list of courses offered in Spring 2011 related to sustainability issues. The purpose of this list is to enable students interested in sustainability topics to find relevant courses, and to promote sustainability related course offerings on campus. If you would like to have your course listed here you, or if you discover that a course listed here is already full then please contact [IUOS](#).

19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31 1

IUOS On The Web

 Find us on Facebook

 Check us out on Picasa

 Follow us on Twitter

 Join our Mailing List

IUOS Blog

[Prairie Development >>](#)

[Sustainable Systems >>](#)

[IU & Climate Change >>](#)

[Relatively Speaking >>](#)

[More Posts >>](#)

Comment Box

Full sustainability course list | [Back to top >>](#)

Courses Focused on Sustainability	Courses Related to Sustainability
<p>Anthropology E101 - Cultural Ecology E527 Environmental Anthropology</p> <p>Apparel Merchandise/Interior Design R416 – Sustainability in Product</p> <p>Biology L222 - The City as Ecosystem L350 - Environmental Biology</p> <p>Business G456 – Sustainable Enterprise</p> <p>Criminal Justice P410 - Environmental Justice</p> <p>Geography G208 - Human/Environment Interactions G411/511 – Sustainable Development Systems G442/G552 - Sustainable Energy Systems G461 - Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change</p> <p>HPER R350 – Sustainable Tourism R429/529 – Ecotourism: Administration and Management</p> <p>International Studies I203 - Global Integration and Development</p>	<p>Biology L473 – Ecology L579 – Community Ecology</p> <p>Business G202 – Corporate Social Strategy</p> <p>Collins LLC L100 - Collins Seminar, Edible Wild Plants : Fall</p> <p>Geography G110 - Intro to Human Geography G307 - Biogeography: Distribution of Life G338/528 – Intro to GIS G451 - Water Resources: Semi-arid Environments</p> <p>Geology G105 - Earth: Our Habitable Planet G116 - Our Planet and its Future</p> <p>HPER R280 - Natural History and Field Ecology R323/545 - Ecosystem Management</p> <p>International Studies I202 - Health Environment and Global Development</p> <p>Law B558 – Conservation Law Clinic B768 – Water Law B782 – Intro to Environmental Law</p>

Sustainability related course list with descriptions| [Back to top >>](#)

Search by department: | [Biology](#) | [Business](#) | [Collins LLC](#) | [Geography](#) | [Geology](#) | [HPER](#) | [International Studies](#) | [Law](#) | [Physics](#) | [Political Science](#) | [SPEA](#) |

Course Name	Course Number	Instructor	Day/time	Description
Biology >> top >>				
L473 – Ecology	1198	Phillips	TR 11:15AM- 12:30PM	Ecology is the scientific study of how organisms interact with each other and their environment, and as such ecology can be viewed as the theater within which the evolutionary play takes place. In this introductory course, students will integrate individual, population and community level processes to understand the factors which influence these interactions over different spatial and temporal scales. This course will provide an opportunity for students to learn about ecological patterns and the mechanisms that generate those patterns. In addition, the course will enable students to develop an improved understanding of ecological concepts that can provide a foundation for thinking critically about present and future environmental issues.
L579 – Community Ecology	31490	Clay	TR 2:30- 3:45PM	Communities consist of resident populations of all species (e.g. animals, plants, microbes) that coexist in the same place at the same

Spring 2011 Sustainability Course List
April 20, 2011

The following courses were selected for the spring 2011 sustainability course list. The listing contains over 50 courses spread over 19 departments in three of IU-Bloomington's 13 schools.

Courses Focused on Sustainability

Apparel Merchandise/Interior Design:

D192 – Sustainable Design

Biology:

L350 – Environmental Biology

Business:

Z255 – Sustainable Business

G456 – Sustainable Enterprise

Central Eurasian Studies:

R394 – Environmental Problems and Social Constraints in Northern and Central Eurasia

Foster LLC:

F250 – Seminar on Intl Issues: Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability

Geography:

G208 – Human/Environment Interactions

G305 – Environmental Change: Nature and Impact

G478 – Global Change, Food, and Farming Systems

History and Philosophy of Science:

X642 - History of Psychology: "The Psychology of Nature, Ecological Psychology, Environmental Psychology, and Eco-psychology"

International Studies:

I203 - Global Integration and Development

Jewish Studies:

J304 – Environmental Challenge Israel

LAMP:

L416 – Cities, Business, and Environment in East Asia

Law:

L763 – Seminar in Environmental Law

Religious Studies:

D250 – Religion, Ecology, and the Self

SPEA:

E100 – Environmental Topics: Campus Sustainability

E100/V100 - Environmental Topics: Farming the City: Global Perspectives on Urban Agriculture and Food Security

E162 – Environment and People

E400 - Topics in Environmental Studies: Stockholm to Copenhagen via Rio -Environment and Development in a Globalizing World

E422 – Urban Forest Management

V462 – Community Development

V576 – Approaches to Development

Courses Related to Sustainability

Anthropology:

E328 – Ecological Anthropology

P600 – Environmental Change through the Holocene: Human Responses to Changing Landscapes

Biology:

L570 - Seminar in Ecology and Environmental Biology

Criminal Justice:

P401 – Environmental Justice

Collins LLC:

L100 - Collins Seminar, Edible Wild Plants: Spring

Geography:

G110 - Intro to Human Geography

Geology:

G105 - Earth: Our Habitable Planet

G116 - Our Planet and its Future

HPER:

R280 - Natural History and Field Ecology

R323/545 - Ecosystem Management

International Studies

I202 - Health Environment and Global Development

Journalism:

C201: Environment in the News

Labor Studies:

L390 – Labor and Global Warming

Law:

B558 – Conservation Law Clinic

B595 – Administrative Law and Practice

B783 – International Environmental Law

SPEA:

E262 – Environmental Problems and Solutions

E272 – Intro to Environmental Sciences

E340 – Environmental Economics and Finance

E360 – Introduction to Water Resources

E363 – Environmental Management

E375 – Techniques of Environmental Science

E400/E529 - Topics in Environmental Studies: Urban Planning and Environment

E400 - Topics in Environmental Studies: Kenya Today

E400/E560 - Topics in Environmental Studies: Intro to Risk Assessment and Communication

E457 - Introduction to Conservation Biology

E476 – Environmental Law and Regulation

E527 – Applied Ecology

E534 – Restoration Ecology

V625 – Environmental Economics and Policy

V645 – Environmental Law

V669 - Economic Development, Globalization, and Entrepreneurship

Summer 2011 Sustainability Course List

April 20, 2011

The following courses were selected for the summer 2011 sustainability course list. The listing contains nine courses spread over eight departments in three of IU-Bloomington's thirteen schools.

Courses Focused on Sustainability

Apparel Merchandise/Interior Design:

D290 – Special Topics in Interior Design:
Introduction to LEED

Collins:

L230 – Collins Colloquium: Learn from Nature:
Permaculture

HPER:

R429/529 – Ecotourism: Administration and
Management

SPEA:

E162 – Environment and People

Courses Related to Sustainability

Geography:

G110 - Intro to Human Geography

Geology:

G105 - Earth: Our Habitable Planet

Russian and East European Studies:

R300 – Russian and East European Issues: Global
Environmental Problems and Solutions (Cross-
listed as SPEA-E 400, E 555, V 450 and V 550 and
REEI-R 500)

SPEA:

E400/E555 – Plants and Plant Communities

E476/V450 – Environmental Law and
Regulation

Fall 2011 Sustainability Course List
Academic Initiatives Working Group
April 20, 2011

The following courses were selected for the fall 2011 sustainability course list. The listing contains around 50 courses spread over 14 departments in five of IU-Bloomington's 13 schools.

Courses Focused on Sustainability

Anthropology:

E101 - Cultural Ecology

E527 Environmental Anthropology

Apparel Merchandise/Interior Design:

R416 - Sustainability in Product

Biology:

L222 - The City as Ecosystem

L350 - Environmental Biology

Business:

G456 - Sustainable Enterprise

Criminal Justice:

P410 - Environmental Justice

Geography:

G208 - Human/Environment Interactions

G411/511 - Sustainable Development Systems

G442/G552 - Sustainable Energy Systems

G461 - Human Dimensions of Global

Environmental Change

HPER:

R350 - Sustainable Tourism

R429/529 - Ecotourism: Administration and Management

International Studies:

I203 - Global Integration and Development

SPEA:

E162 - Environment and People

E400 - The Foundations of LEED

E400 - Environmental Sustainability

E574 - Energy Analysis and Markets

V450/462 - Community Development

V450 - Climate Change and Electricity

V515 - Sustainable Communities

V596 - Sustainable Development

Courses Related to Sustainability

Biology:

L473 - Ecology

L579 - Community Ecology

Business:

G202 - Corporate Social Strategy

Collins LLC:

L100 - Collins Seminar, Edible Wild Plants : Fall

Geography:

G110 - Intro to Human Geography

G307 - Biogeography: Distribution of Life

G338/528 - Intro to GIS

G451 - Water Resources: Semi-arid Environments

Geology:

G105 - Earth: Our Habitable Planet

G116 - Our Planet and its Future

HPER:

R280 - Natural History and Field Ecology

R323/545 - Ecosystem Management

International Studies

I202 - Health Environment and Global Development

Law:

B558 - Conservation Law Clinic

B768 - Water Law

B782 - Intro to Environmental Law

Physics:

P120 - Energy and Technology

P310/510 - Environmental Physics

Political Science:

Y313 - Environmental Policy

SPEA:

E272 - Intro to Environmental Sciences

E311 - Intro to Risk Assessment and Communication

E332/532 - Intro to Applied Ecology

E363 - Environmental Management

E400 - Biological Assessment and Criteria

E400/V450 - Leadership and Creativity in Environmental Policy

E460 - Fisheries Wildlife and Management

E476 - Environmental Law and Regulation

E528 - Forest Ecology and Management

E555 - Energy Systems Engineering

E563/V550 - Environmental Management

E710/V550/V710 - U.S. Environmental Policy

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Existing methods of data collection, though perhaps currently necessary, are inherently both time-consuming and not entirely exhaustive. It will be important to incentivize faculty participation in data collection of both courses and research in order to save time and improve data quality.
- Continue to work with the Registrar's office to explore ways to identify courses in a manner that corresponds better to students' registration timelines. Receiving the course list in advance of its publication was helpful, but as the schedule is updated right up until (and in some cases following) its general release, some appropriate courses were missed. This process concentrated a large portion of the semester's work within a few weeks. Now that the groundwork has been laid, however, future identification of courses should be expedited and the process should not be quite as time-consuming, allowing for a quicker turnaround from the release of courses to the completion of the course list.
- Work with registrar to update page frequently during registration period with number of available spots left in each course. In addition to the normal registration period, this is also pertinent throughout the summer registration period for incoming freshman. This was briefly discussed with Mike Sauer in the registrar's office, and he likely will be willing to reopen the discussion.
- Develop more effective marketing of sustainability course lists.
 - Feedback from the Student Sustainability Council indicated positive reviews of the webpage, but most representatives had not passed the list along to the rest of the members in their respective organizations. It might be instructive to send individual e-mails to student organization leaders requesting that they pass the list along.
 - Include other designations (i.e. Natural and Mathematical Sciences-N&M, Arts and Humanities-A&H, Cultural Studies-CS) in each course listing.
 - Make designation searchable on Class Search. No designations are currently searchable, and this would likely be a tool students would find useful.
 - Reach out to University Division advisors and other departmental advisors to assist in distribution of the course list.
 - Explore collaboration with Orientation Guides and First Year Experiences interns.
- The co-curricular component of the AIWG is in the process of being defined. Once goals are established for the co-curricular component, future interns will be expected to organize this AIWG project. This work will

likely promote sustainability curricular activities and enable and encourage cooperation between faculty and student groups.