GOALS

1. To create a project that allows development of project management skills like collaborating with a community partner and provide students with experiences that will improve their opportunities to find jobs or continue in graduate school.

2. To provide students with an opportunity to improve research-based communication skills and deepen their understanding of some aspect of environmental studies.

3. Offer opportunities to practice professional skills like networking, communication, project strategy, meeting deadlines, managing conflict, and negotiating team dynamics.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please be sure you are checking both Canvas and the schedule to make sure you are aware of all deadlines and changes in deadlines; we expect all assignments to be turned in on time, but if you need more time to turn in an assignment, please contact an instructor. Later in the semester there will be fewer readings and more time to work on group projects.

The capstone project provides students with a broad-based, interdisciplinary educational experience and allows them to integrate and synthesize the knowledge they have gained in their environmental studies major. It rejoins the cohort that has separately pursued the BA/BGS and BS tracks and places them in situations in which they address real world environmental issues focused on sustainability projects with a team approach and produce professionally meaningful analytical reports.

This semester’s focus is on the broad group of topics related to climate change, conservation and sustainability. We will be working on a variety of Capstone projects.

GTA

Nick Visalden

[nivisalden@ku.edu](mailto:nivisalden@ku.edu)

Office hours TBD

Dr. Ali Brox

[alibrox@ku.edu](mailto:alibrox@ku.edu)

Lindley 304

Office hours by appointment in person or Zoom

Dr. Kelly Kindscher

**Office**

**135A Higuchi Hall,** Kindscher@ku.edu

Phone: 864-1529;

Office hours by appointment

Capstone Project

Sustainability Projects

EVRN 615---Spring 2023

164 Ritchie Hall

Monday & Wednesday 3:00-4:15p

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EVRN 615- Capstone Project Schedule- Spring 2023 \*\*\*Subject to change\*\*\*** | | | |
|  | **Date** | **Topic** | **Due Dates** |
| Week 1 | 18-Jan | Introduction, Objectives, Expectations, Project Overview, and Group Topics |  |
|
| Week 2 | 23-Jan | KU Sustainability Plan; discuss Group Projects | Reflection 1 |
| 25-Jan | Climate Anxiety: Groups meet; Group Project Selection contact community partner and set meeting date |  |
| Week 3 | 30-Jan | Kansas Agriculture | Project Charter |
|
| 1-Feb | Career Center—Effective Resumes- Kim Mueller | Research Questions |
|
| Week 4 | 6-Feb | Howard Graham, KU Alumni Center on Networking; then; Groups meet | Resume |
| 8-Feb | Wind Energy in KS and Environmental Impacts; Talking about research questions - Progress report by groups 1 minute each |  |
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|
| Week 5 | 13-Feb | KK on Wetlands in Kansas | Institutional Scan |
| 15-Feb | Grant funding/Zadigan funds for your project | Detailed Outline |
|
| Week 6 | 20-Feb | Kansas Agriculture and its Environmental Impact | Grant assignment |
| 22-Feb | Career Center— Nailing the Interview– Natalia Plotnikov | Annotated Bib. |
| Week 7 | 27-Feb | Remediation and Mitigation in Kansas; Groups meet | Application Letter |
| 1-Mar | In-Class Abstract Exercise |  |
|
| Week 8 | 6-Mar | Panel Discussion by Environmental Consultants: Frank Norman, Sarah Soard, Clark Rein | Poster Abstract- Draft 1 |
| 8-Mar | Elevator Speeches (3 minutes each); Groups Meet | Midterm self and group evaluation |
| Week 9 | 13-Mar | Spring Break |  |
| 15-Mar | Spring Break |  |
| Week 10 | 20-Mar | Lessons and Ideas from Grad School Pros, Panel members:  Andrew Fredrick, Lauren Young, and Nick Visalden | Project Presentation- Draft 1 |
| 22-Mar | Environmental And Social Awareness Panel:  Lauren Stitch, Courtney Masterson, and Alex Kimball Williams. | Poster abstract- final draft |
| Week 11 | 27-Mar | Guest: Aubrey Streit Krug, the Land Institute and Perennial Agriculture |  |
| 29-Mar | Poster/Group Work  \*\*Research Symposium Registration (Due 4/9)\*\* | Poster-draft 1 by end of class |
| Week 12 | 3-Apr | Poster critique Session #1 |  |
| 5-Apr | Poster critique Session #2 | Poster --final draft by end of class |
|  |  | Undergraduate Research Symposium: Registration Deadline to Present: 11:59PM, Sunday, April 9 |  |
| Week 13 | 10-Apr | Group work | Reflection 2 |
|  | Undergraduate Research Symposium: Online Presentation Submission Deadline: 11:59PM, Tuesday, April 11 |  |
| 12-Apr | Bob Eye. Environmental Issues and Opportunities in Kansas | Polished first draft of report for peer review |
|  |  | Undergraduate Research Symposium (hybrid)  April 17-21, 2023 |  |
| Week 14 | 17-Apr | Group Work |  |
| 19-Apr | Scott Schulte, KU EVRN Professional Master’s degree Peer review | Project Presentation Final Draft |
| Week 15 | 24-Apr | Group Projects Presentations (location to be determined) (20 minutes each) |  |
| 26-Apr | Group Projects Presentations (location to be determined) (20 minutes each) |  |
| Week 16 | 1-May | Group Projects Presentations (location to be determined) (20 minutes each) | Reflection #3 |
| 3-May | Future work as an EVRN graduate and feedback on group projects  \*Revised (if necessary) version of Final Report due to stakeholders during finals week | Final Report |

HOW CLASS WORKS

Class time will focus variously on topics related to the theme, discussions and debates, guest speakers, presentations, panels, job- and career-oriented topics, as well as time to work with your group partners.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

No headphones are allowed during class time. Laptops or other devices may be considered appropriate at times (e.g., during group work), **however use of electronics is not acceptable during lectures or guest lectures unless stated otherwise**.

EXPECTATIONS

1) We suggest you bring physical copies or a device to access the readings or materials that appear on Canvas

2) You are expected to be on time; class will start promptly. Other than sudden illness, you should not leave the class early. If you have a pressing reason to leave early let us know in advance as a courtesy, but this should not be a regular event.

Yet, the classroom is not a prison; you are free to move anytime you want - to get a drink, stretch your legs, wake up, or use the restroom. You don’t need to ask.

3) Attendance is expected

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Writing Center

http://www.writing.ku.edu/

Students with Disabilities

<http://disability.ku.edu>

The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY).

Office of Student Affairs <https://studentaffairs.ku.edu/student-resources>

Office of Multicultural Affairs

<http://oma.ku.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services

<http://caps.ku.edu/counseling-and-psychological->services-0

Title IX Coordinator: <http://ioa.ku.edu/>

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignments:** | **Points** | **Total** |
| Participation |  | 40 |
|  |  |  |
| Individual Assignments: |  | 80 |
| Reflection #1 | 10 |  |
| Reflection #2 | 10 |  |
| Annotated Bibliography | 10 |  |
| Resume /CV | 10 |  |
| Grant assignment | 10 |  |
| Midterm evaluation | 10 |  |
| Reflection #3 | 10 |  |
| Application Letter | 10 |  |
|  | |  |
| Group Assignments: |  | 60 |
| Project Charter Due | 0 |  |
| Research Questions | 20 |  |
| Institutional Scan | 20 |  |
| Detailed Outline | 20 |  |
|  | |  |
| Project: |  | 220 |
| Abstract- Draft 1 | 20 |  |
| Abstract- Final Draft | 30 |  |
| Report- Draft 1 | 20 |  |
| Poster- Draft 1 | 30 |  |
| Poster- Final Draft | 20 |  |
| Project Presentation 1st Draft | 20 |  |
| Project Presentation | 30 |  |
| Report- Final | 50 |  |
|  | |  |
| 400 |

Spring 2023 EVRN 615