Syllabus for MSMGT 710 The Natural Environment

Course Description

Definitions of sustainability inherently incorporate a systems thinking approach. This course explores the natural environment from the Earth Systems model and represents the scientific perspective of the core curriculum for this program. As a core course, this course will also introduce intensive writing as preparation for the capstone course.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Understanding of the natural environment in terms of the Earth Systems model
- Knowledge of the scientific method and interrelated sets of natural cycles
- Ability to communicate scientific arguments related to the natural environment
- Appreciation for the role of humans on shaping the Earth's environments
- Ability to assess pertinent information and prepare a well-written appraisal of a topic

Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the textbook section of the SMGT website.

Additional required reading materials are provided in the course.

Course Requirements

As this is a 3-credit course, it is expected that you will spend a total of 9 hours each week.

Details on reading and writing expectations as well as writing rubrics are provided in the course.

Discussion Board Participation
You are required to participate in discussions in response to a topic question introduced by the instructor relevant to the assigned reading. You are expected to articulate your viewpoint and understanding of the topic based on the assigned readings and additional sources from your own research.

Topic Writing Exercises
Several topic writing exercises will be assigned at regular intervals to be submitted as a position paper. The position papers are expected to be written in the style consistent

with scientific peer-reviewed journal articles and include complete citations.
Requirements:

- *Summary:* Paragraph with 200 to 220 words, no citations or follow-up revision required. Submitted to Discussions area.
- *Abstract:* Paragraph with 300 to 330 words, includes one (1) or two (2) scientific citations. Submitted to Discussions area.
- *Position Paper:* Paper with 1000 to 1200 words and at least three (3) scientific citations that is a revision of your previous week's abstract. Incorporates information gleaned from Abstract submissions by other classmates. Submitted to Dropbox for instructor evaluation.

Final Paper
Your own summary of your "Nature Principle." It is expected to incorporate the range of interrelated topics covered during the course. This paper is also expected to be written in the style consistent with scientific peer-reviewed journal articles and include complete citations.

Quizzes
The course includes two quizzes: one covering Lessons 1-5 and a second one covering Lessons 6-10.

Final Exam
Covers material from the entire course. Students missing the Final Exam will receive no credit for the exam unless: (a) in case of illness, injury, or emergency the instructor is notified (by email) before the scheduled exam time and (b) the student makes arrangements with the instructor before the scheduled exam time to take a make-up exam. Students taking a make-up exam before the scheduled exam will receive full credit; students taking a make-up exam after the scheduled exam period will have points deducted.

Grading Policy

The final grade will be based on the following:

- Summaries (12.5%)
- Abstracts (12.5%)
- Position Papers (12.5%)
- Quizzes (12.5%)
- Final Paper (25%)
- Final Exam (25%)

Summaries	4 @ 10 points each	40 points
Abstracts	4 @ 10 points each	40 points
Position Papers	2 @ 20 points each	40 points
Quizzes	2 @ 20 points each	40 points
Final Paper	Title/Outline 10 points Final Draft 70 points	80 points
Final Exam	40 Questions @ 2 points each	80 points

92.5-100	A
89.5-92.4	A-
86.5-89.4	B+
82.5-86.4	B
79.5-82.4	B-
76.5-79.4	C+
72.5-76.4	C
69.5-72.4	C-
66.5-69.4	D+
62.5-66.4	D
59.5-62.4	D-
<59.5	F