RES-ECON 499N and 499O
Implementing Sustainability and Social Responsibility in Today’s Economy
Department of Resource Economics

HONORS PROJECT SEMINAR
Commonwealth Honors College

Instructor
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Lecture: MW 2:30-3:45AM (124 Stockbridge)
Course Website: Available on Moodle

Objectives:
(1) Familiarize students with issues related to Sustainability and Social Responsibility and their impact on individuals, communities, and organizations
(2) Equip students with economic and decision-making tools to measure sustainability and assess the costs and benefits of sustainability projects
(3) Provide an environment for engaging in interdisciplinary research where students become acquainted with different perspectives and methods from fields outside their own, and recognize unique perspectives and skill sets from their own discipline(s)
(4) Develop skills in self, peer, and group assessments

Overall Guidance for Your Honors Project
For full guidance from Commonwealth Honors College on the Capstone Experience please see: https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience.

Honors Project Documentation
Your honors project must be properly documented following Commonwealth Honors College guidelines: https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone/formatting.

Your project manuscript will include:
- Title/Signature Page
- Abstract
- Project report
Accommodation Policy
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify the Honors Professor within the first two weeks of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic Honesty Policy
This is a team-based project course where you will be working in different configurations with other students throughout the course. It is expected that the work you present will be your own and that of your group. If we find that you have cheated on any element of the course, we will pursue the matter to the fullest extent possible under the procedures outlined in your Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities Handbook: http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/.

Course Text and Readings
The optional textbooks for this course are:
- Additional readings will be posted on the course website.

Other Class Policies

Use of Cell Phones. Use of cell phones is not permitted during lecture hours. Laptops may be used for taking notes; surfing the web during class hours is strongly discouraged.

Late Work. Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 5 points for every day past the deadline. Homework submitted one week after the due date will not be accepted. This policy does not apply to the Project Proposal and Project Manuscript which will not be accepted beyond the due date.
RES-ECON 499O Spring 2015

Lecture: 2:30-3:45AM (124 Stockbridge)
Course Website: Available on Moodle

Requirements:
1. Engagement in the campus discussion of sustainability and social responsibility through attending seminars and taking opportunities to meet with speakers coming to campus. The requirement is to attend 5 events, submit a short reaction essay, and give a brief oral summary of the seminar in class. ¹
2. Submission of status reports (Group)
3. Submission of project abstract to the Annual Massachusetts Statewide (AMS) Undergraduate Research Conference (Group)
4. Presentation of project at the AMS Undergraduate Research Conference (Group) and Resource Economics Honors Research Conference (tentative)
5. Submission of Project Manuscript (Group)
6. Submission of Project Experience report

Grading
The final grade for RES-ECON 499D will be calculated as follows:
Project Manuscript and Project Experience report – 60%
Project Presentation – 10%
Class Participation and Attendance – 30%

Final grades will be on a numeric scale. Students scoring 93% to 100% will receive an A, scores between 90% and 92.9% will receive an A-, 87-89.9% = B+, 83-86.9% =B, 80-82.9%=B- and so on.

Important Dates.
Feb 2 - Last day to add or drop any class with no record
Mar 2 - Last day to drop with 'W'
Mar 15-22 - Spring break
May 1 - Final Project Manuscript due

¹ A list of events will be available on the course website. In order to count toward the course requirement, you must attend a seminar posted on the course Moodle site. Subject to instructor approval, you may request that an event be added to the seminar list at least a day in advance of the event date. In addition, to obtain credit, you reaction paper should be posted on Moodle within one week after the event date.
**Lecture Topics and Tentative Schedule**

IMPORTANT: Throughout the semester our schedule will evolve depending on project needs (example, pre-testing of surveys, etc). Attendance to all class and individual group meetings during class hours is expected unless you have a valid excuse letter from the Dean of Students.

**WEEK 1:** Organizing work plan and timetable (Jan 21)

**WEEK 2:** Lecture: Designing and Implementing Surveys (Jan 26, 28)

**WEEK 3-4:** Project Implementation (Feb 2, 4, 9, 11)
Abstract for Undergraduate Research Conference due (Feb 11)
Status report due (Feb 4)
Individual group meetings with Instructor

**WEEK 5:** Lecture: Analysis of Survey Data (Feb 27(M),18)
Status report due (Feb 18)

**WEEK 6-7:** Lecture: Analysis of Survey Data (Feb 23, 25 Mar 2,4)
Status report due (Mar 4)
Individual group meetings with Instructor

**WEEK 8:** Project Implementation/Data Analysis (Mar 9,11)

**WEEK 9:** Spring Break

**Week 10-12:** Project Implementation/Writing Methodology (Mar 23, 25, 30 April 1)
Status report due (Mar 25)

**Week 13:** Lecture on Giving a Public Research Presentation, Creating a Poster Presentation, and Organizing Project Manuscript and Archivable Product (Apr 6, 8)
Status report due (Apr 8)

**Week 14-15:** Project Implementation/ Writing Results and Discussion (Apr 13,15,20(H),22(M),24)
Draft of Project Manuscript due (April 17)
Final Status report due (Apr 22)
Undergraduate Research Conference (April 24, Friday)

**Week 16:** Course wrap-up discussion of lessons learned about sustainability and social responsibility (Apr 27, April 29)
Presentation of project at the Resource Economics Honors Research Conference

**Final Project Manuscript and Archivable Product due May 1**

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2 This is a tentative schedule. Refer to the syllabus posted on Moodle for up to date class information.