

Capstone courses that fulfill the Sustainability Minor requirement (revised 11/15/19)

[Case Studies in Environmental Problem Solving](#)

This class will involve students in monitoring the ecological impacts of backyard habitats that are near Portland parks. Students will work in teams in particular targeted neighborhoods. They will monitor some of the following: native and non-native plants, birds, and insects. They will learn about the ecology behind backyard restoration, the procedure for establishing backyard habitats, and assist as residents implement new habitats. They will develop presentations about benefits of...

[Community Greenworks](#)

This Capstone offers students an analysis of social justice; a framework that promotes successful civic engagement; and an application of these principles in community settings. Students choose from several projects that best fit interests, expertise and schedules, and complete team projects with community partners addressing a pre-determined need and promoting lasting change in the community. Projects will focus on the three areas of...

[Creative Reuse*](#)

This capstone facilitates a creative reuse afterschool art program at Arleta Elementary. Assignments and activities will include: field trips to SCRAP, Helen Gordon, The Children's Museum, and the PSU Reuse Center; reading assignments about reuse, environmental education, learning centers and teaching; facilitating after school art activities at Arleta Elementary School; and a variety of creative assignments linked to course themes.

[Educating the Community about Metro's Travel Options and Nature in Neighborhoods](#) As Portland's regional government, Metro's role includes promoting transportation choices and protecting natural areas. Working with Metro as the community partner, students will explore Metro's role in promoting regional travel options and nature in neighborhoods through a hands on project with the Travel Options and Nature in Neighborhood Programs, incorporating concepts of sustainable behavior and social marketing.

[Environmental Justice and Salmon](#)

Celilo Falls: Decolonization, Dams and Salmon in the Pacific NW In recent years, social movement organizations have increasingly strived to address the overlapping problems of environmental degradation and social inequality. Realizing that environmental problems disproportionately affect marginalized communities, these movements have attempted to address the social, political and economic root of what they frame "environmental injustice." This course will combine an analysis of the literature...

[Grant Writing for Environmental Advocacy](#)

Grant writing skills are critical to the survival of many non-profit environmental organizations. In this course you will learn grant writing skills by developing real grant proposals for Rising Tide. Rising Tide (<http://www.portlandrisingtide.org/>) is an international, all-volunteer, grassroots network of groups and individuals who organize locally, promote community-based solutions to the climate crisis and take direct action to confront the root causes of climate change. In order to write a...

[Grantwriting for Environmental Defense](#)

Environmentalism is a philosophy and social movement (come call it a revolution) involving both protection and improvement of the health of our natural environment. Environmentalism is an attempt to achieve sustainability so that both humans and the Earth thrive without compromising future generations. The movement in this country is credited as starting with Rachel Carson and her extremely popular book Silent Spring published in 1962, when in fact it was spawned in 1945 with the return of...

[Grantwriting: Environment](#)

This service-learning class uses an experiential approach: students learn to research and write compelling grant proposals by engaging in the process of writing real proposals to be used by our Community Partner in its pursuit of funding. Students in this Capstone course partner with a Portland based nonprofit organization who advocates for our natural resources, the wild, and the preservation of these special places.

[Grantwriting: Sustainability](#)

A grant is a proposal that seeks funds to solve a problem and normally is directed by a nonprofit organization [IRS 501(c)(3) designation] to a federal, state, or local government agency, a foundation, or a corporation. Each term, partners for this capstone change. You will be writing on behalf of a nonprofit that promotes or engages in sustainability in some way. Specifics about these partners and their funding needs are provided in the Course Learning Modules on the Home Page.

[Indigenous Grantwriting](#)

Grant Writing for Indigenous Sustainability In the online Capstone course Indigenous Grant Writing, students work collaboratively in teams to research and write grants, and to understand the issues of Indigenous communities. Students gain an understanding of collaborative work and the importance of equal participation from every team member. Students examine the role of nonprofit organizations in addressing social, ethical, and political issues. They also consider the role of funding and...

[Learning Gardens, Community Engagement and Sustainability](#)

In this Capstone, students will explore and participate in the concept of "community food security" through community engagement and learning gardens. Class time will focus on issues of community food security and ways to create food justice through community engagement and learning gardens.* Students will work with a variety of people and organizations partnered with the Learning Gardens Laboratory. Instruction is designed so that students will be able to practice skills needed to serve...

[Multimedia Production Team](#)

The Multimedia Production Online Capstone addresses community issues and needs by developing educational interactive online media. Continuously taught since 1999, the class has undergone adjustment to the changes in technology - from output on CD-ROMs and video, to web pages and blogs developed entirely by teams of students working completely online and working remotely, from around the world! Each term students attend the class online, and learn new skills to combine to their existing...

[Nature in the Neighborhood](#)

The Nature in the Neighborhood (NITN) project grew out of the needs expressed by PSU students who desired avenues of involvement in local environmental issues, and the needs of local resource management agencies (THPRD, METRO, Portland Parks) that lacked resources to develop inventories and surveys of natural resources in the Portland area. This summer this capstone has been redesigned to serve majors in Biology and ESR. The course content and goals will assume students have an adequate...

[Natural Food Industry](#)

Natural Food Industry and Cooperative Business Model. This Capstone investigates sustainable food systems from producer to consumer, with a focus on the business practices of food cooperatives. We will work with our community partner People's Food Cooperative on projects related to health and nutrition, farmers markets, local and equitable food distribution, food justice and ethical business practices. Class Specific Learning Goals Introduce students to the complexities and challenges of...

[Non-Profit Grantwriting Northwest Earth Institute](#)

With the intention of producing funding for support of its educational offerings in sustainability, this Capstone will partner with the Northwest Earth Institute. Utilizing best practices for grant writing, students will find and study likely funders for this organization, will prepare grant cycle files for NWEI and write submission-ready proposals based on sound research. Through the process of seeking legitimate funding for NWEI, students will learn to differentiate funding sources, process...

[Portland's Water](#)

Portland's Water: History and Challenges. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to learn about tap water and create community outreach products for the Portland Water Bureau. Our community partner for this class is the Portland Water Bureau. This class will focus on the Bull Run watershed (the source of Portland's drinking water) and the work of the Portland Water Bureau -- how they deliver our water to our taps. We will learn about the history of the water system, the...

[Promoting science inquiry in middle school classrooms: Water quality in freshwater habitats](#)

Globally, freshwater ecosystems are at risk from a number of anthropogenic stressors. One of the foremost stressors is declines in water quality. We will partner with Sherwood Middle School to promote scientific inquiry into water quality issues in the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Tualatin NWR is one of a handful of urban wildlife refuges in the nation, highlighting a unique region where urban areas intersect with natural spaces. Understanding the effects of environmental...

[Reclaiming the Commons](#) **NOT OFFERED 2019-20**

Encouraging the stewardship of our shared resources. This course will focus on the concept of "the commons" - those resources that humans share and depend on to thrive and survive. Examples of the commons include clean air and water, shared scientific knowledge, or publicly funded resources such as parks, libraries and schools. Increasingly, many aspects of the commons are controlled by the market or private interests. Students in this course will partner with the "Oregon Commons" project (...)

[Rise for the Planet](#) **NOT offered 2019-20**

This course will focus on the issue of climate change and individual steps we can take to respond to this global problem. In this course, we will explore the complexities of this issue, its impact on marginalized communities, and a variety of responses to climate change. Students in this course will be encouraged to reflect on their own identity and skills to determine a meaningful response to the issue. Our community partner for this course is 350PDX, <https://350pdx.org/>. Students will...

[Sustainable Food Systems and Educational Farms at Learning Garden's Lab Site](#) *

The time is ripe to be part of the growing sustainable food movement! This class addresses the current food issues that face urban citizens by holistically engaging students in the many layers of Portland's local food and farm culture. Students will critically analyze the state of our current food systems while being engaged in positive solutions to agricultural-related issues. The community partner and classroom is the Learning Gardens Lab, where students will gain hands-on farming...

[Sustainable Living](#)

In light of looming environmental crises, what can individuals do to change direction? In this course we collectively examine our society to determine which cultural values support, and which inhibit, sustainability. Working with established green teams and enrichment programs, students develop and facilitate sustainability activities for youth. Our partner groups, The Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) and the Center For Earth Leadership (CERL) empower individuals and organizations to...

[Sustainability Outdoors: Communicating Sustainability through the Forest](#)

Spend your summer at Tryon Creek State Park, located just 15 minutes from PSU. Learn to effectively educate for sustainability through non-formal, outdoor experiences. Students will examine current practices in education for sustainability and outdoor and environmental education. Students will then use this information to create informative, engaging programs for Nature Day Camp participants. Student learning will benefit from discussion, team work, outdoor experiences, and practical...

[Tryon Creek: Cultural And Ecological Education](#)*

Students will participate in interpretive programs facilitated within the Tryon Creek State Natural Area. It is important to ground ourselves and acknowledge the people whose land we are utilizing; the Clackamas Chinook, the Wasco-Wishram, the Willamette Tumwater, the Multnomah, and other Chinookan peoples, as well as the Tualatin Kalapuya, the Cayuse, the Molalla and other tribes and bands of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. It is important to acknowledge the original inhabitants of the...

[Water Scarcity \(online\)](#)

The project will work alongside Water4 Foundations, a non-profit that is focused on water scarcity issues. Students will address needs affecting the field of water scarcity. Students may participate in the following service-learning: Research cultural practices and country dynamics to assist NGOs transition into new markets; Research water technologies, benefits/drawbacks of each, identify best practices; and Survey water scarcity activities, map out industry trends, and...

** newly added courses as of Fall 2019*

Legacy Capstone courses that fulfill the Sustainability Minor requirement but are not currently offered

1. [Belize Environmental Studies](#)
2. [Building EcoDistricts](#)
3. [Carbon Neutrality](#)
4. [Cultural And Ecological Education](#)
5. [The Citizen Tree Project](#)
6. [Documenting Sustainable Development in the Pacific Northwest](#)
7. [Documenting Sustainable Practices](#)
8. [Empowering Portland's EcoDistricts: Tree Inventory](#)
9. [Engaging Environmental Education](#)
10. [Environmental Activism and Community Engagement in Mexico](#)
11. [Environmental Education through Native American Lenses](#)
12. [Environmental Issues In Nicaragua](#)
13. [Environmental Justice](#)
14. [The Feasibility of Interstate Water Transfer](#)
15. [Food, Democracy and Sustainability](#)
16. [Grantwriting: Bike Transportation](#)
17. [Grant Writing for Friends of Trees](#)
18. [Interpretation of Sustainability](#)
19. [Interpreting Wildlife Areas and Refuges](#)
20. [Native American Grantwriting](#)
21. [Neighborhoods and Watersheds](#)
22. [Outdoor and Environmental Education](#)
23. [Portland's Stormwater](#)
24. [Race and Sustainability](#)
25. [Reducing Toxic Air Pollution in Portland](#)
26. [Solid Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling](#)
27. [Sustainable Business in Action](#)
28. [Sustainable Cities](#)
29. [Sustainable Food Systems and Educational Farms at JEAN's Urban Educational Farm Site](#)
30. [Sustainable Rural Development in NW Argentina](#)
31. [Stormwater Pollutant Reduction through Urban Retrofits](#)
32. [Urban Agriculture and Food Systems](#)
33. [Volunteer Stream Monitoring](#)